

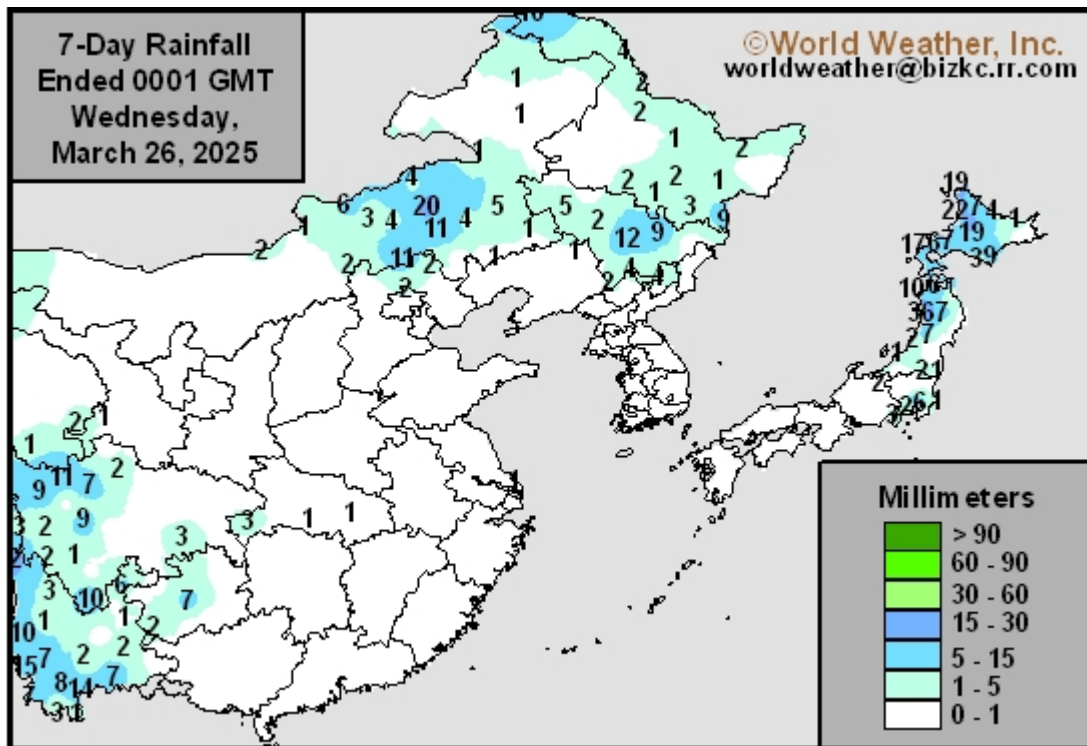
# China's Crop Region In Growing Need Of Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 26 (World Weather Inc.) – Precipitation was limited for a large section of China's main agricultural production areas during the past week leading to some net drying for most areas. The Yangtze River Basin still had enough moisture to support new winter rapeseed growth while the North China Plain became a little more notably dry. Moisture shortages are also ongoing in southern China, where early rice and corn are being planted while sugarcane development increases. Additional drying over the next week to ten days north of the Yangtze River will further deplete soil moisture and could lead to greater crop stress later in April if rain does not evolve soon. Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will see a good mix of rain and sunshine through the middle of next week that will help ease some of the dryness, although Yunnan and bordering areas will remain dry.

Several areas in Inner Mongolia, Jilin, and Heilongjiang saw periods of light and erratic precipitation during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from trace amounts to 0.47 inch with a local amount of 0.79 inch in central Inner Mongolia. Yunnan and a few locations in Sichuan and Guizhou also received 0.12 to 0.55 inch of rain. The remaining production areas in China were dry or mostly dry.

Periods of warmer weather in recent days also increased soil temperatures enough to bring most winter crops out of dormancy. Some extreme highs in east-central and southeastern China this week reached the 80s and lower 90s Fahrenheit.



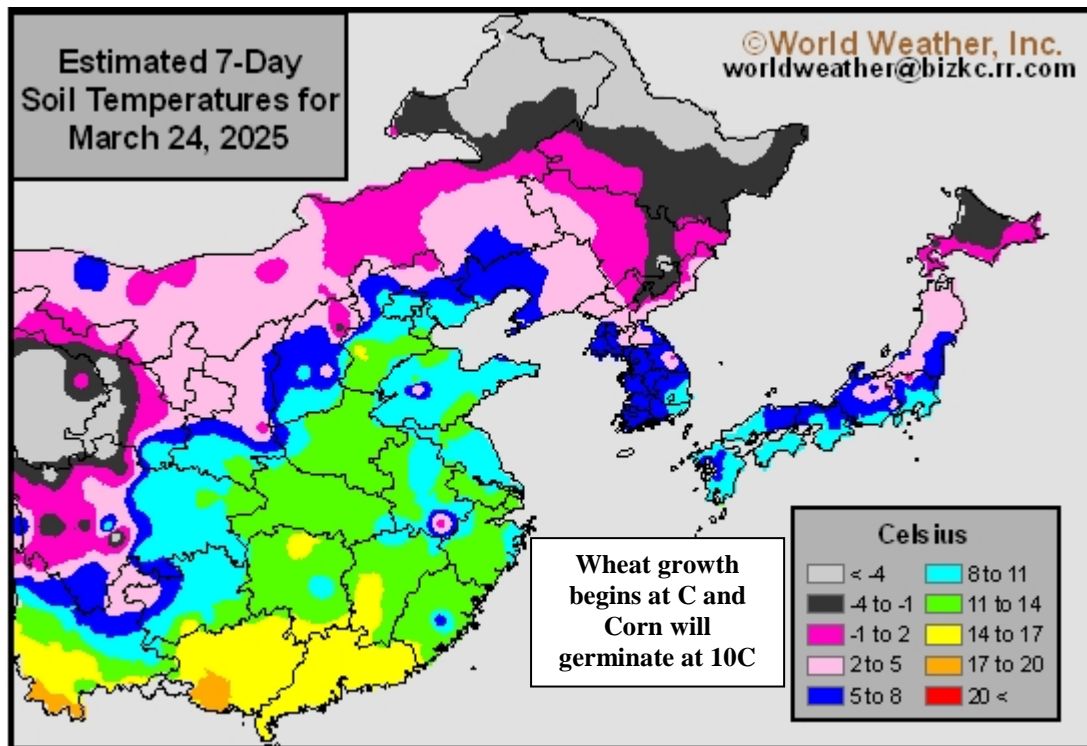
Soil moisture remains short to very short in portions of Yunnan, Guangxi, and Guangdong due to the lack of rain in recent weeks combined with periods of warmer than

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normal weather. Many areas in the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin also have a shortage of moisture in the topsoil while subsoil moisture remains at adequate levels. The remaining production areas in China have adequate or marginally adequate moisture.

**Far Southern China** remains too dry to support ideal planting conditions for rice and corn. Sugarcane development may also be uneven or poor due to the lack of moisture. The situation will be closely monitored since any prolonged persistence in the dryness could lead to reduced area planted and possible lower yields, but it is much too early to make that a big concern.

**The Yangtze River Basin** generally has enough moisture to support new winter rapeseed growth despite the lack of rain during the past week. *The need for timely rain is otherwise growing in the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin.* Many areas are becoming too dry for ideal early season wheat growth, although the area is largely irrigated. Early-season planting of the summer coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops may also get off to a sluggish start if dryness persists in the coming weeks.



## WEATHER OUTLOOK

**Areas near and south of the Yangtze River** will see a mix of rain and sunshine through the middle of next week. A disturbance will initially generate erratic rainfall today before more widespread rain occurs Thursday into this weekend. Light showers will linger in a few locations Monday and Tuesday. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.50 to 3.00 inches in Fujian, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Hunan, eastern Sichuan, and northern sections of Guangxi and Guangdong. Other locations will receive 0.25 to 1.50 inches of rain, though portions of Yunnan and western Guangxi will receive little or no rain.

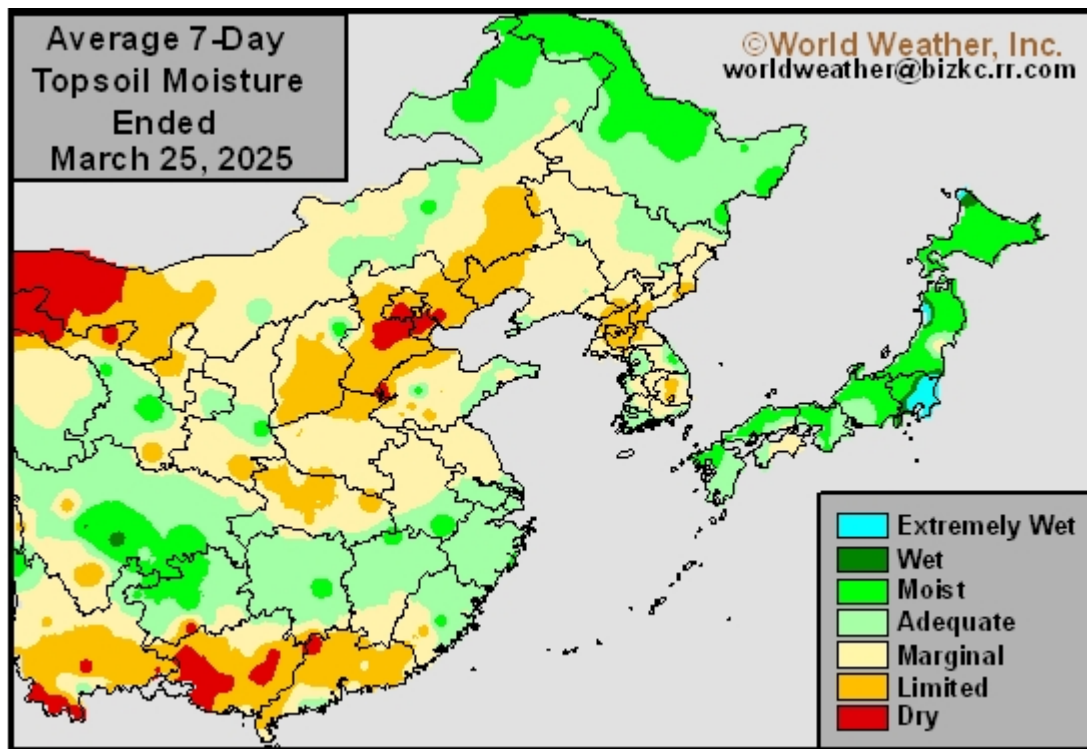
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Alternating periods of rain and sunshine will persist for southern China and the Yangtze River Basin April 3 – 9.

Temperatures will trend near or slightly below normal for areas near and south of the Yangtze River through the middle of next week before more seasonable temperatures evolve April 3 – 9.

The waves of rain and generally warm daytime temperatures will support a relatively good environment for winter rapeseed growth in the southern Yangtze River Basin while northern areas experience some net drying. Planting, establishment, and development conditions may improve marginally for areas that receive the greatest amount of rain in southern China. However, the region as a whole will remain too dry for ideal conditions and the need for abundant rainfall will remain high later in April.

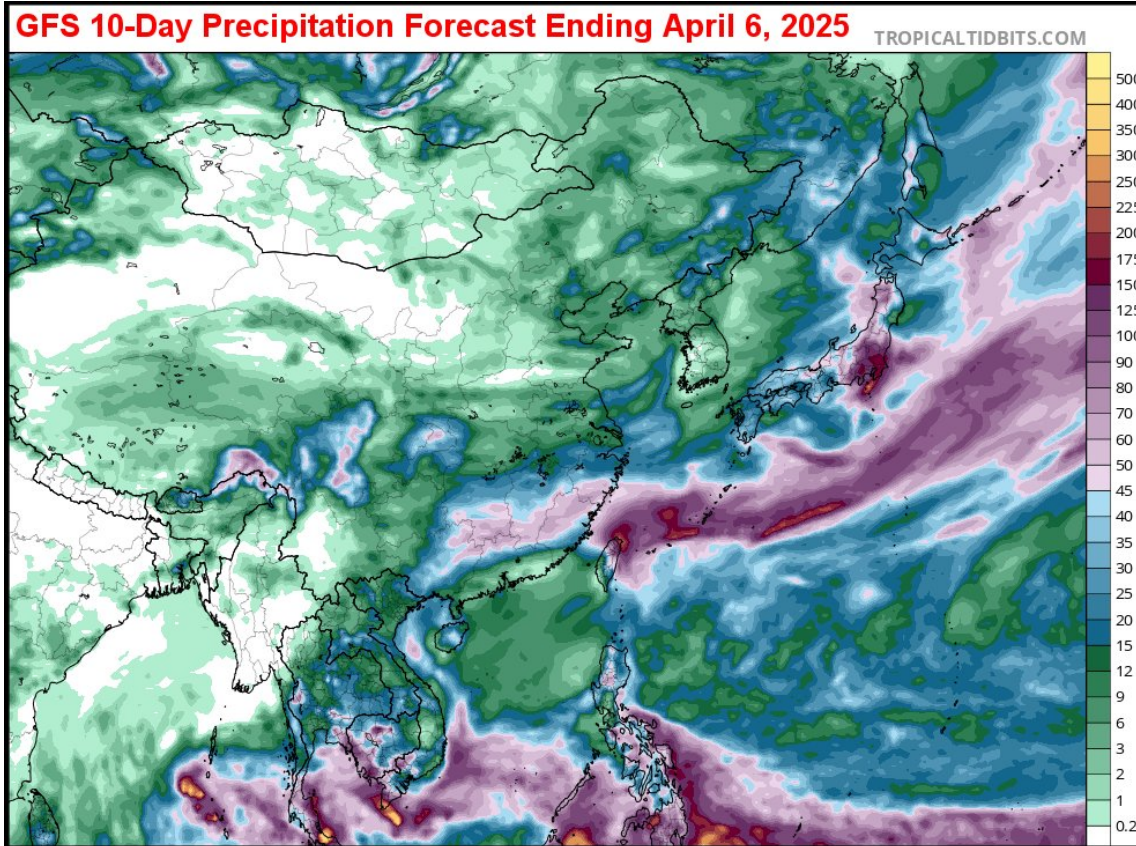
The North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin will trend drier than normal through the middle of next week. Most locations will either be dry or not receive enough precipitation to counter evaporation. Drier than usual conditions will prevail April 3-9. Winter wheat development conditions may deteriorate as the ground continues to firm, although much of the crop is irrigated the water supply should be sufficient to support crops until general rain evolves. Unirrigated crops will need significant moisture later in April to spur on more normal growth and development.



Northern China will have a few opportunities for precipitation through the middle of next week and again April 3-9. Portions of central Inner Mongolia and Liaoning will not receive enough precipitation to counter evaporation. Other locations in Northeast China will receive enough rain and snow to keep soil moisture at adequate levels. Planting in Northeast China usually begins in May.



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