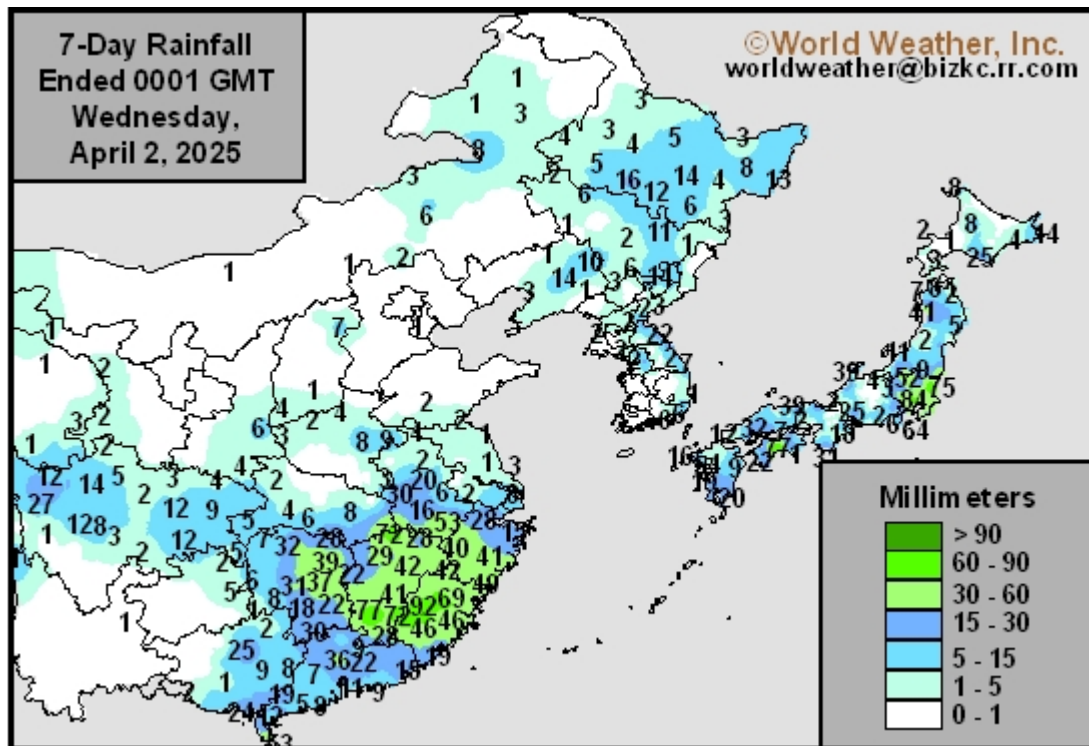


Southern China, North China Plain In Need Of More Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 2 (World Weather Inc.) – Eastern China has been experiencing below normal precipitation recently and some areas have dried out more than others. The far southernmost part of the nation from Yunnan to Guangxi and Guangdong have reported well below normal precipitation and soil moisture is rated a little too poorly to support rice, early season corn or normal sugarcane development. Areas north of the Yangtze River have also been quite dry, although irrigation is broadly used in winter wheat areas. Dryness in northern rapeseed areas, however, is a growing concern and significant rain will be needed soon to protect production potentials. Drought has recently been declared by the China Meteorological Agency in various areas and the prospects for rain are unchanging for the next two weeks. Dryness may threaten many crops and spring planting if left unchecked.

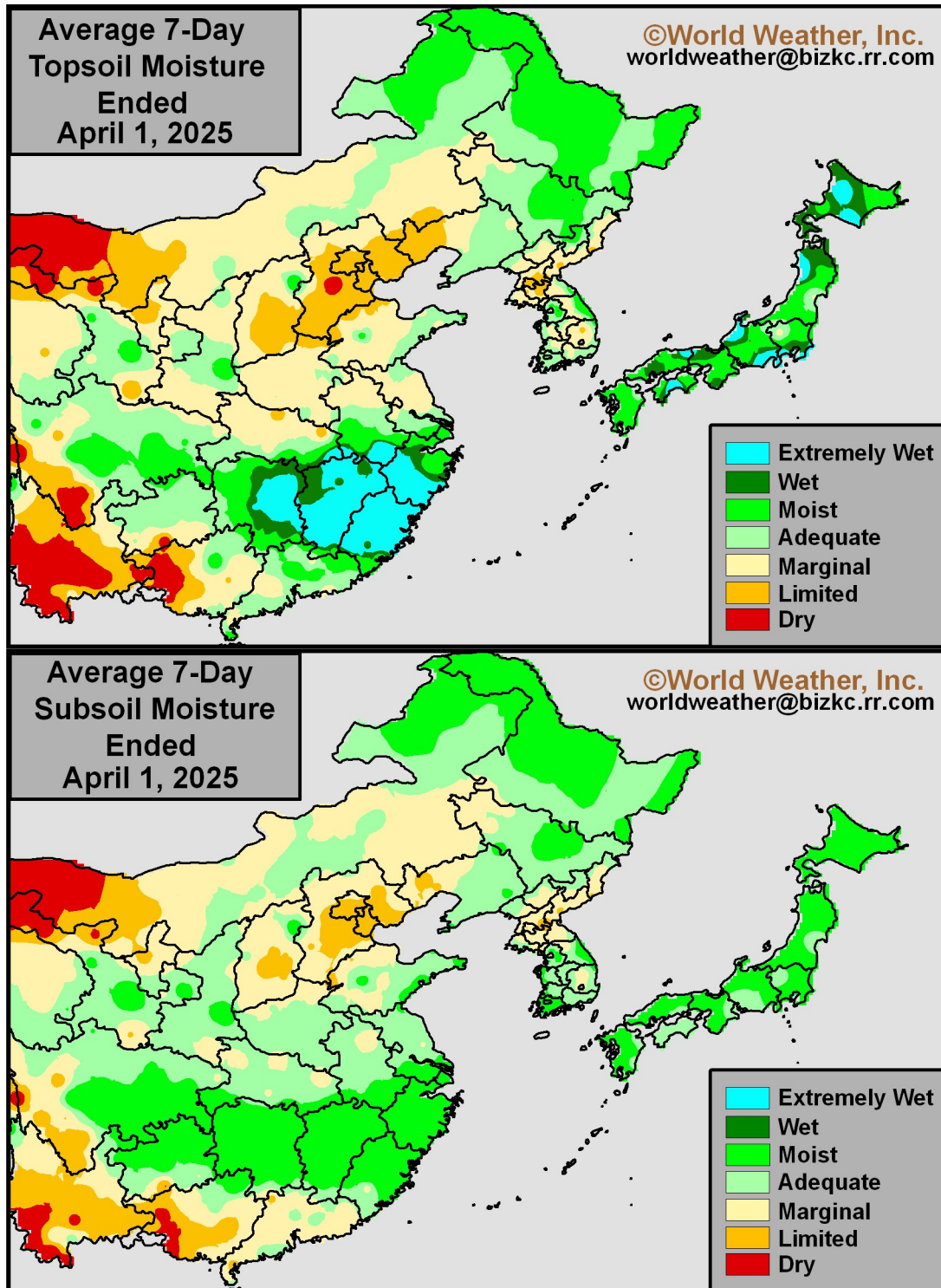
Precipitation varied across the main production areas in China during the past week. Fujian, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, southern Anhui, and the eastern two-thirds of Hunan received the most significant rain with totals ranging from 0.59 to 3.62 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning. Guangdong, eastern Guangxi, and central Anhui received 0.32 to 1.42 inches of rain. Sichuan, western Hunan, southern Hubei, southern Jiangsu, eastern Liaoning, southern Jilin, and central and southern Heilongjiang received 0.20 to 0.62 inch of moisture. Pockets in Henan, Shaanxi, Shanxi, and Inner Mongolia received up to 0.35 inch of moisture. The remaining locations received little to no precipitation.



Yunnan and western Guangxi continue to have short to critically short soil moisture due to the lack of rain and warm weather in recent weeks. Many areas in Hebei, Shanxi, and

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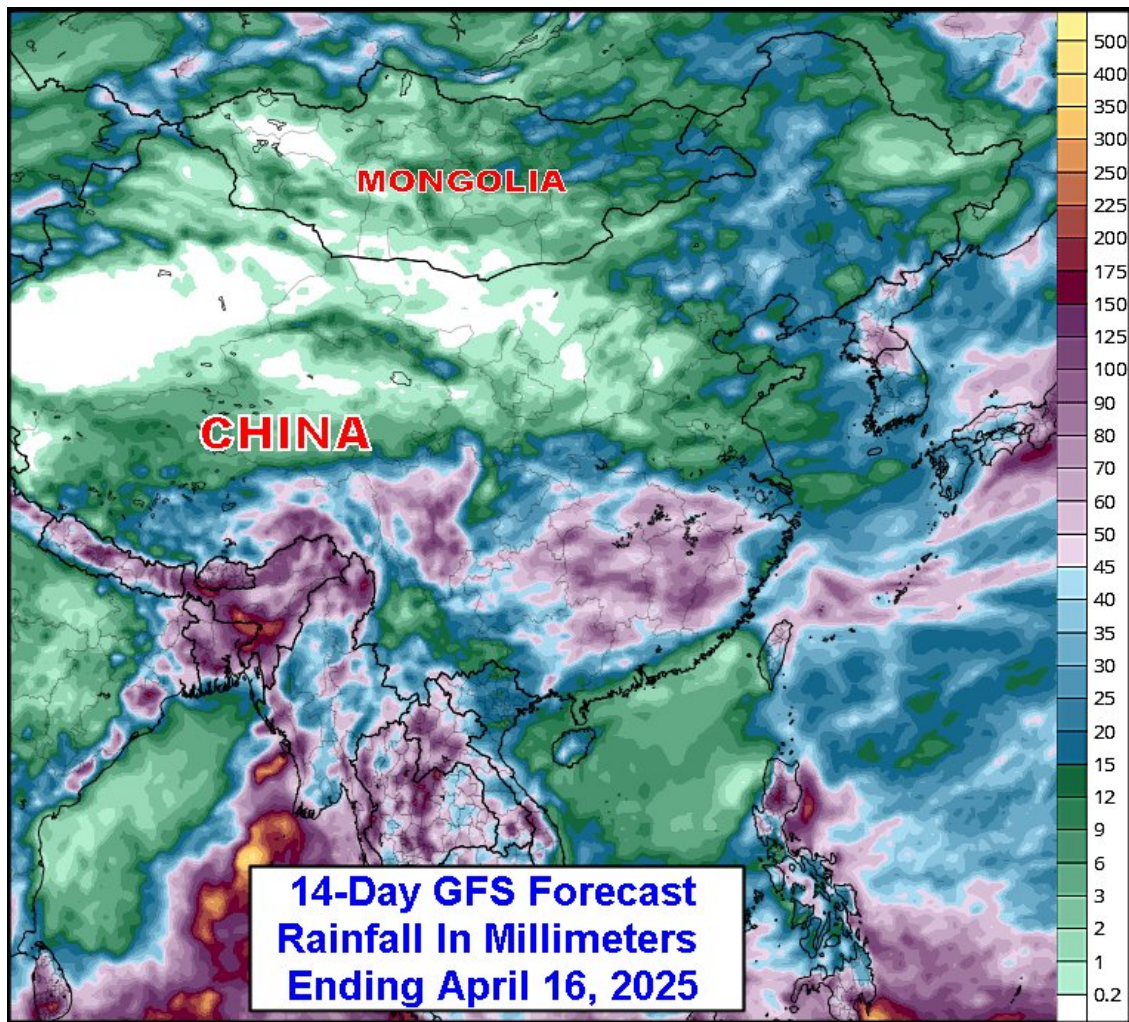
northern sections of Shandong and Henan also have short to very short moisture with areas near and immediately south of the Yangtze River have adequate to surplus soil moisture. Soil moisture in most other areas varies from adequate to slightly short with the northeastern provinces in the best shape.



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Planting and establishment conditions in Yunnan and western Guangxi for rice and corn, along with sugarcane development, remain less than favorable. Fujian received enough rain to support relatively good conditions in recent weeks and Guangdong also has some moisture to support short-term development. However, much more rain is needed to completely fix the moisture deficits and support ideal long-term crop prospects. Planting may be advancing slowly in the driest locations.

The Yangtze River Basin has enough moisture to support good winter rapeseed development, although recent net drying in northern parts of the production region may lead to a little crop stress as rainfall remains restricted and temperatures rise above normal during the next ten days to two weeks. Early-season planting prospects are favorable as well, although timely rain will be needed soon. Rapeseed is reproducing filling and maturing with some early harvesting expected to expand in coming weeks. Northern rapeseed production areas may require a little more timely rainfall this month to ensure the best production while southern areas are plenty moisture and poised to yield well.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Southern China, North China Plain In Need Of More Rain

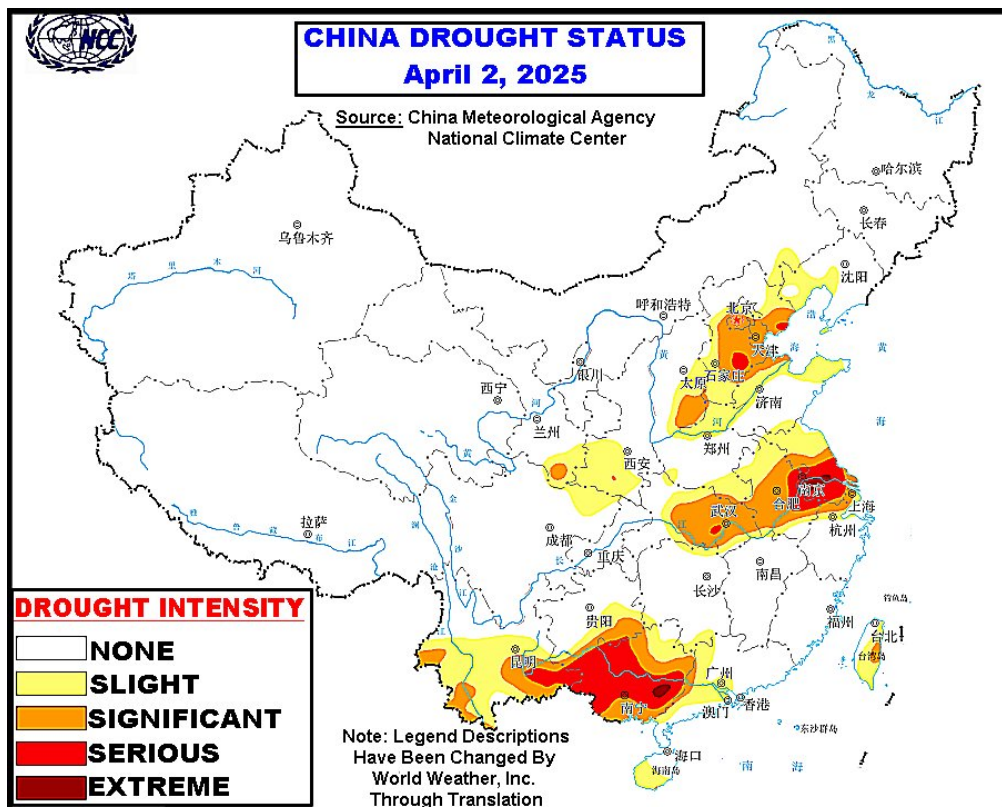
The North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin continue to dry down despite some spotty rainfall during the past week. The need for timely rain is increasing to support favorable dryland winter wheat growth and early-season summer coarse grain, oilseed, and cotton planting. *Continued dryness may slow or delay early-season planting.*

Areas south of the Yangtze River will see a mix of erratic rainfall and dry weather through the middle of next week. Other than a few isolated showers, these areas will initially trend dry today. More widespread rain will evolve Thursday and continue through this weekend. Only a few light showers are expected early next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches. However, many areas in Yunnan and coastal Guangdong will only receive 0.10 to 0.50 inch of rain.

Areas near and immediately north of the Yangtze River into the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin *will trend dry or mostly dry through the middle of next week.* **Northeast China** will see periods of spotty precipitation with totals ranging from 0.10 to 0.75 inch by next Wednesday morning. Local rain totals up to 1.50 inches will also be possible in southern sections of Jilin and Heilongjiang.

Waves of rain are slated for areas south of the Yangtze River April 10-16. Rain potentials will be a little higher compared to the first week of the outlook. Areas north of the Yangtze River into the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin will remain drier than usual during this time. Northeast China will again see a mix of spotty precipitation and sunshine.

Southern China will receive enough rain to keep soil moisture near current levels through the middle of next week. Yunnan and western Guangxi will remain too dry to support ideal planting, establishment, and general development. The need for rain will increase significantly later this month.



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In the **Yangtze River Basin**, most locations immediately south of the Yangtze River will receive enough rain to support good late-season winter rapeseed development and planting of rice and corn. Maturation and harvesting of rapeseed may otherwise advance slowly during the wettest periods. Rapeseed maturation and harvest conditions will be more favorable for areas immediately north of the Yangtze River due to the lack of abundant rain. The need for rain may otherwise increase later this month for summer crops.

The **North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin** will continue to dry down in coming weeks. Winter wheat development may be sluggish in the driest fields. The need for significant rain will increase during the second half of April. Planting of the summer grains and oilseeds in Northeast China usually begins in May.

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