

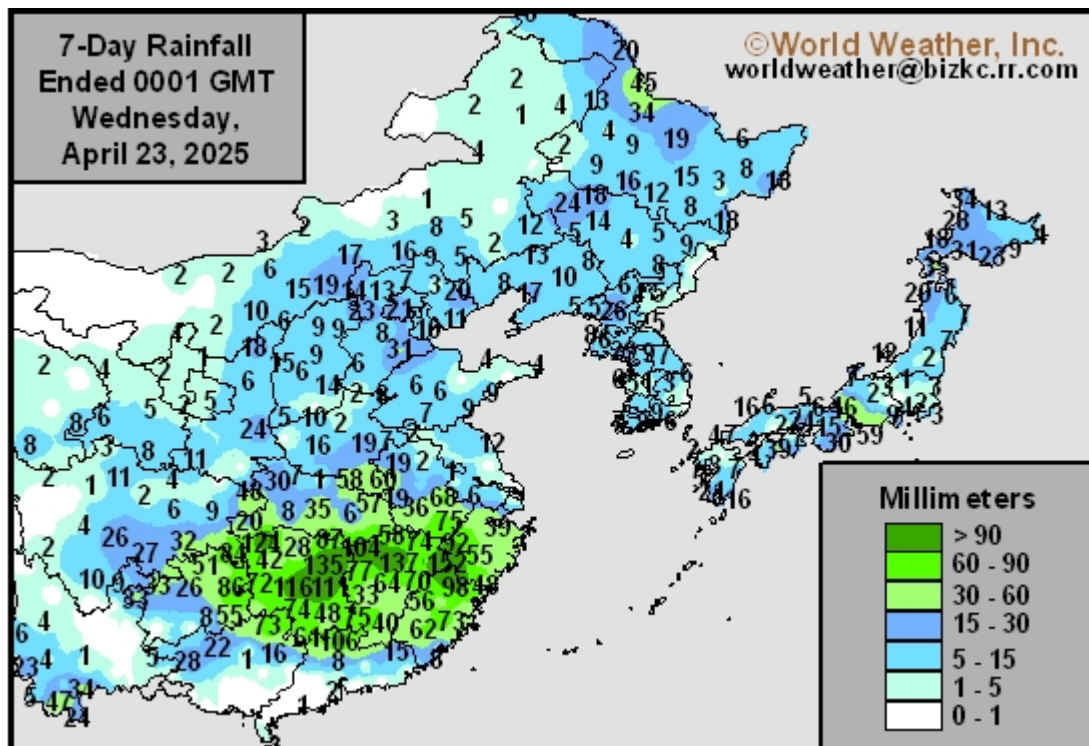
East-Central China In Growing Need Of Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 23 (World Weather Inc.) – Drought and abnormally dry conditions are prevalent in portions of far southern China, the North China Plain, and central Yellow River Basin. These areas have trended drier or much drier than normal in recent weeks with periods of drier weather also occurring earlier in the year. The need for rain remains high in order to improve planting and general development conditions, although the growing season is still quite young leaving plenty of time for improvement.

Other areas in China received more significant precipitation in recent weeks and the moisture profile is more favorable. Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will have several opportunities for rain through the middle of next week. The rain will alleviate some of the dryness, but not enough rain will occur in the driest areas to completely fix the moisture deficits. Drier-than-normal weather will prevail for much of east-central China. The ground will continue to dry down and the need for significant rain will remain high heading into May.

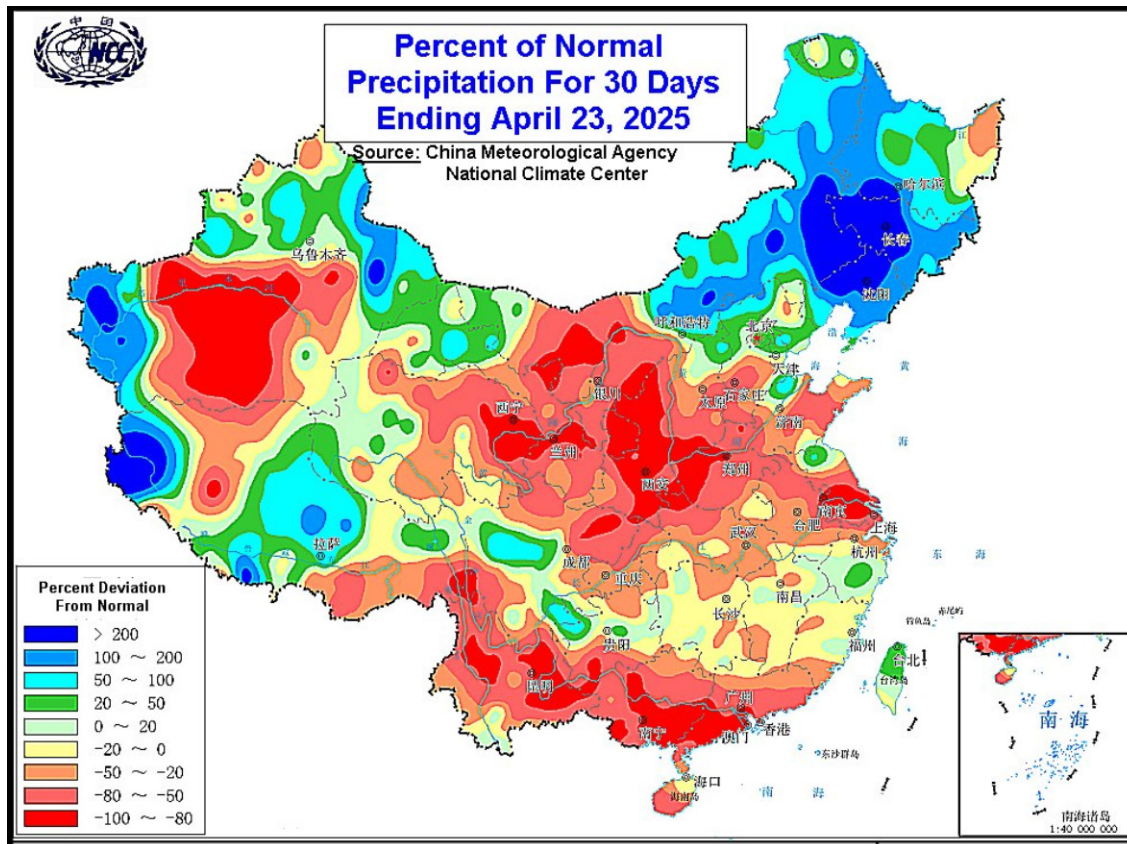
Fujian, Zhejiang, and southern Anhui into Jiangxi, Hunan, eastern Guizhou, northern sections of Guangxi and Guangdong, and portions of Hubei and southern Henan received the most significant rain in China during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 1.18 to nearly 6.00 inches. Portions of Yunnan, western Guangxi, Sichuan, western Guizhou, and Heilongjiang received 0.35 to 1.89 inches of moisture. Shaanxi, Shanxi, Hebei, other areas in Henan and Anhui, Jiangsu, Shandong, Liaoning, Jilin, and portions of Inner Mongolia received 0.20 to 1.22 inches of moisture. The remaining production areas in southern China received little or no rain.



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Northeast China was the only agricultural region that was wetter than usual during the past 30 days ending April 23. Most other locations received near to below normal precipitation. Portions of southern China, the North China Plain, and central Yellow River Basin received less than 20% of normal precipitation during this time.

Drought or abnormally dry conditions were prevalent in much of southwestern China and a large section of the North China Plain, central Yellow River Basin, and northern sections of the Yangtze River Basin. Other locations in China were generally drought-free.



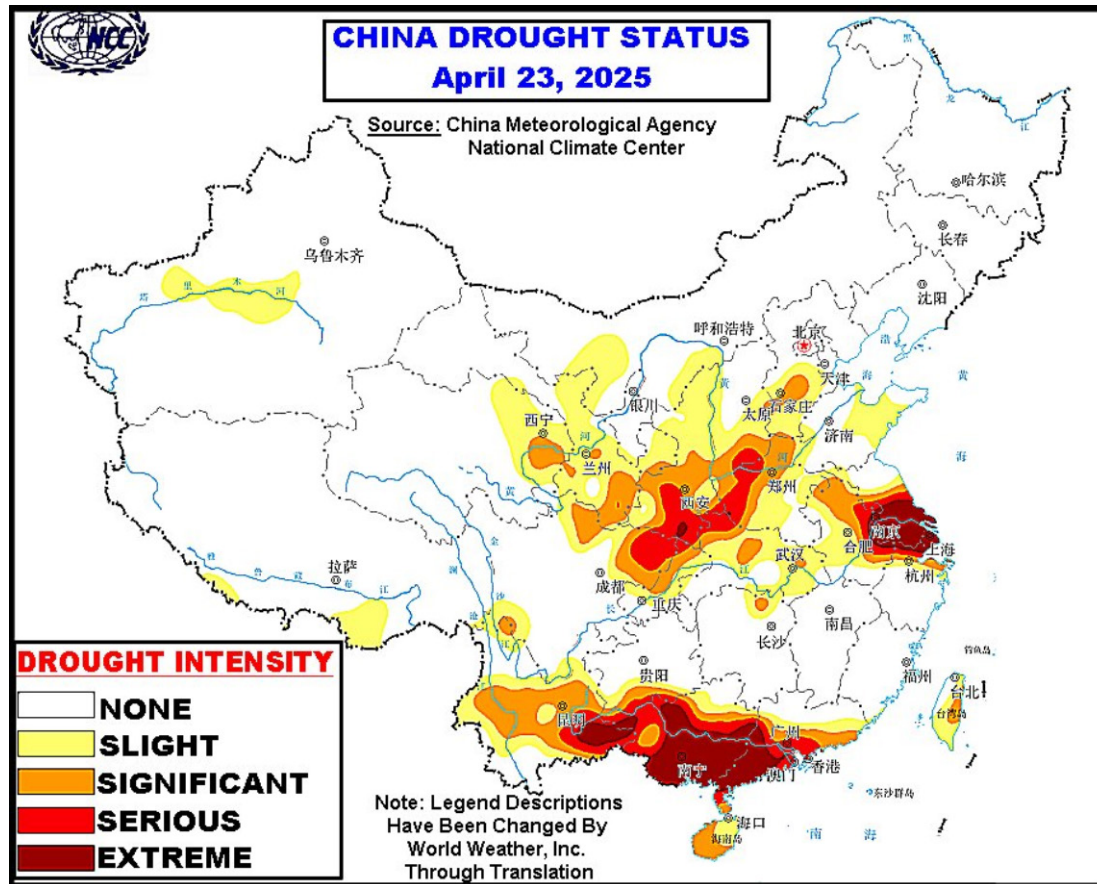
Ongoing dryness in portions of southern China have likely impacted planting rates of rice, corn, and other crops produced this time of year. Establishment and development conditions may have occurred unevenly or poorly as well. The need for abundant rain is high in order to improve late-season planting and general development. Production may be impacted if the drier than usual weather persists.

The Yangtze River Basin generally has enough moisture to promote good establishment and general development for the rice, corn, and other crops produced this time of year. Winter rapeseed harvesting has likely occurred between rain events as well, though some minor delays were possible in areas that received the greatest amount of rain in recent weeks.

Dryness has likely impacted early-season planting conditions and winter wheat growth in unirrigated areas of the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin. There is still time for better rainfall to improve planting prospects and wheat growth. However, another week or two of drier weather may impact production potentials for wheat and could

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have an influence on planted acreage for the summer grain, oilseeds, and cotton. Early-season planting prospects for Northeast China are otherwise favorable. There is still plenty of time for improved rainfall in east-central China for summer crops since the planting season is just beginning.



Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will have several opportunities for rain through the middle of next week. Some of the most widespread and significant rain will occur through Saturday. Fujian, Zhejiang, Guangdong, Guangxi, and portions of Jiangxi and Hunan will receive 1.50 to 5.00 inches of rain with locally greater amounts by next Wednesday morning. Other locations will receive 0.50 to 3.00 inches of rain with drier pockets in Yunnan, northern Hubei, and southern fringes of Anhui and Jiangsu. Southern China and the Yangtze River Basin will again see a mix of rain and sunshine May 1 – 7.

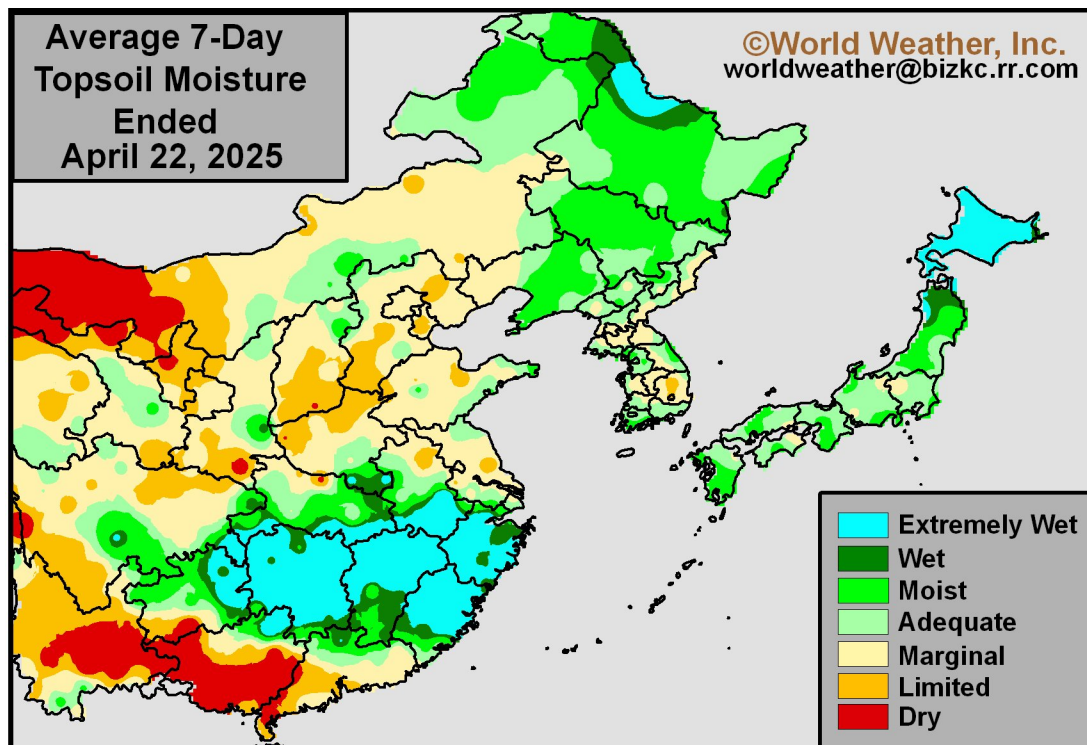
Rainfall in southern China will be enough to bolster soil moisture in the coming days. The driest areas will not receive enough rain to completely fix the moisture deficits and additional rain will be needed. Crop establishment and development conditions should still improve. Harvesting of the winter rapeseed will also advance around the rain; although, there is some concern of lower crop quality in southern production areas where conditions will be wettest.

Drier-than-normal weather will prevail in the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin through at least the middle of next week. Any rain that occurs will be lost to evaporation. Temperatures will also trend near to above normal with daytime highs often reaching the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit. The environment will promote aggressive drying.

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There is potential for some erratic rainfall May 1-7, though not enough rain will fall to reverse the drying trend. Planting prospects and winter wheat development conditions will further deteriorate.

Northern China will receive varying amounts of precipitation through the middle of next week. Central Inner Mongolia and Liaoning will receive little to no precipitation. Other locations in Northeast China will receive erratic precipitation on a frequent basis. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.50 to 3.00 inches with drier pockets in Jilin. Portions of northern Heilongjiang and northeastern Inner Mongolia will also see 2 to 6 inches of snow accumulate. The region will again have opportunities for precipitation May 1-7. Early-season planting prospects will remain relatively favorable across northern China, even in areas that miss out on the precipitation.



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