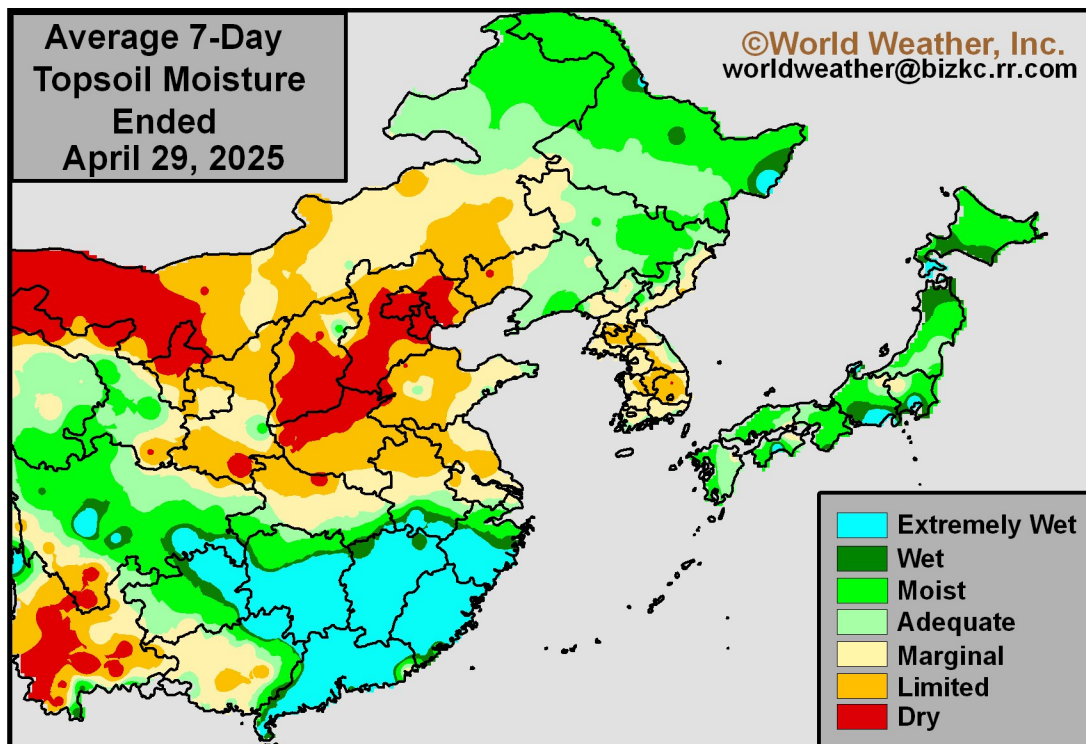


North China Plain Dryness Becoming More Significant

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 30 (World Weather Inc.) – Dryness has become more notable in the North China Plain and Yellow River Basin as well as in areas as far to the north as Inner Mongolia and southward to the northern Yangtze River Basin. Rainfall was quite limited in these areas during the past week and temperatures were warm enough to accelerate drying rates. Unirrigated winter wheat development conditions may be deteriorating, although a large portion of the crop is irrigated. The dryness may have a bigger impact on spring and summer crop planting and establishment, although it is still early in the season leaving plenty of time for change. At least another week to ten days of drier and warmer weather is slated and the environment will further deteriorate for both dryland winter wheat and summer crop planting. In the meantime, areas south of the Yangtze River will remain quite wet and Yunnan remains dry.

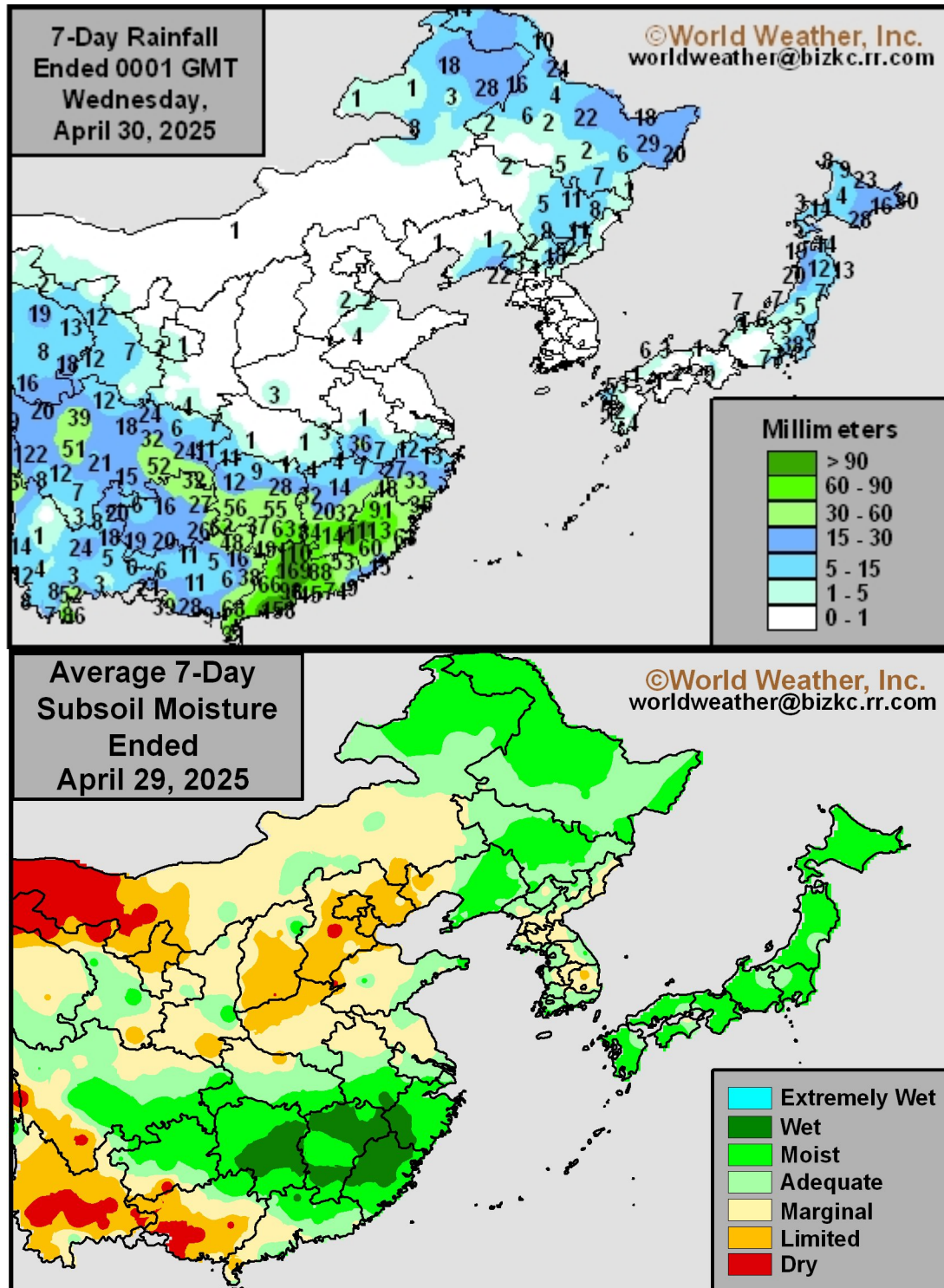


Little to no rain fell during the past week from the central and western parts of Inner Mongolia southward through the North China Plain and Yellow River Basin to areas just north of the Yangtze River. Temperatures were also warmer than usual at times in China during the past week with highest readings in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit from southern China and the Yangtze River Basin into the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin. That was one of the larger contributing factors to the accelerated moisture loss. Milder weather with greater rain occurred in other areas especially in the northeastern provinces where highest temperatures were limited to the 60s and 70s.

Guangdong, Fujian, and southern sections of Jiangxi and Hunan received some of the greatest rainfall during the seven-day period ending this morning with 1.93 to 4.45 inches of rain resulting. Local rain totals to 6.65 inches were also noted. Zhejiang, southern

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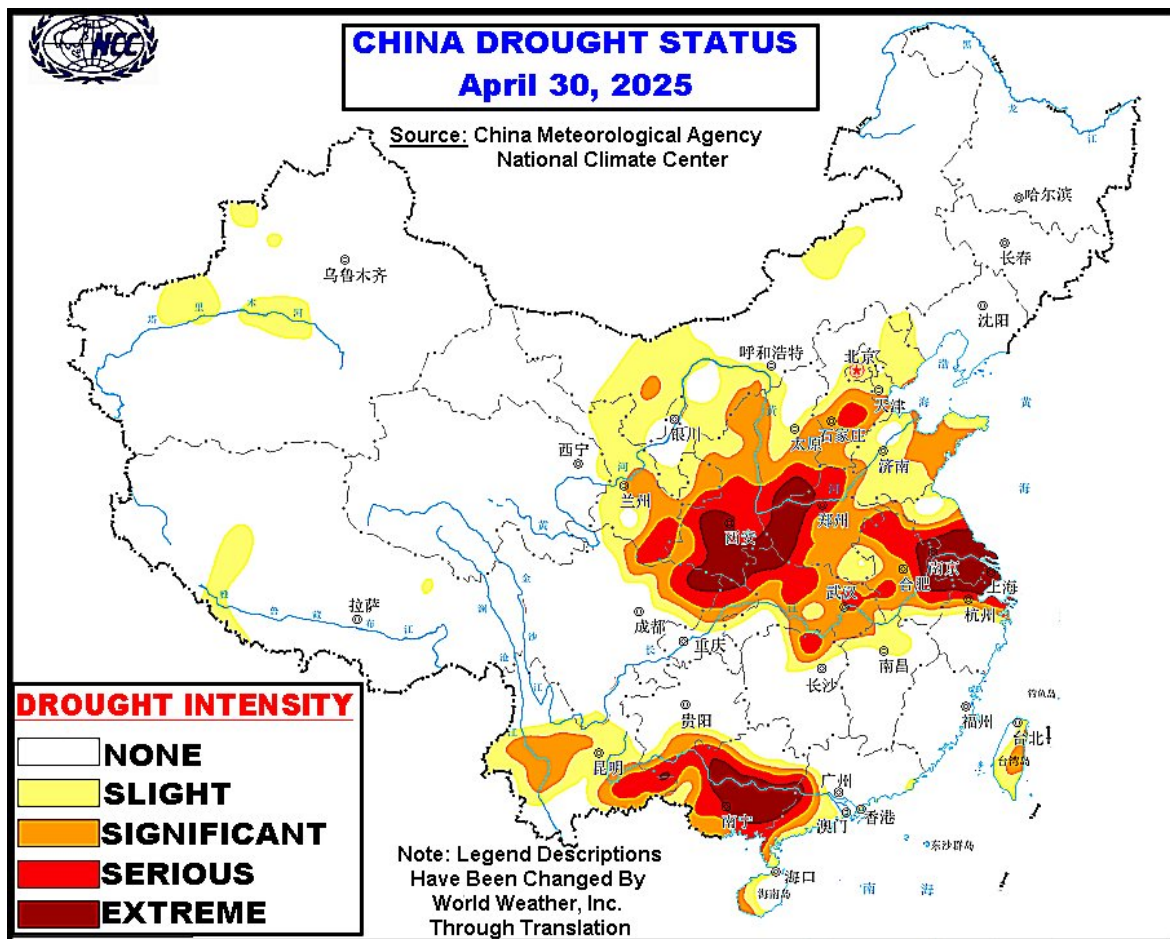
Anhui, northern sections of Jiangxi and Hunan, Guizhou, Sichuan, and portions of Yunnan and Guangxi received 0.43 to 2.44 inches of rain. Rainfall in Heilongjiang and northeastern Inner Mongolia ranged from 0.24 to 1.14 inches while southern Jilin and pockets in Liaoning received up to 0.43 inch of moisture.



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Top and subsoil moisture are rated short to very short in the dry areas noted above while rated adequate to excessive in much of the Yangtze River Basin and southeastern China. Northeast China has adequate soil moisture favoring spring and summer crop planting where soil temperatures are warm enough to support germination.

Concern is rising for the ongoing drying trend in the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin. Several locations are too dry to support favorable late-season winter wheat growth, although the vast irrigation that supports winter crops should minimize the negative impact of ongoing dryness. A good shot of rain would be welcome in the near future and would not only benefit winter crops, but also improve planting and emergence conditions for unirrigated spring and summer crops. Planting normally persists through late-May and early-June leaving plenty of time for better rainfall.



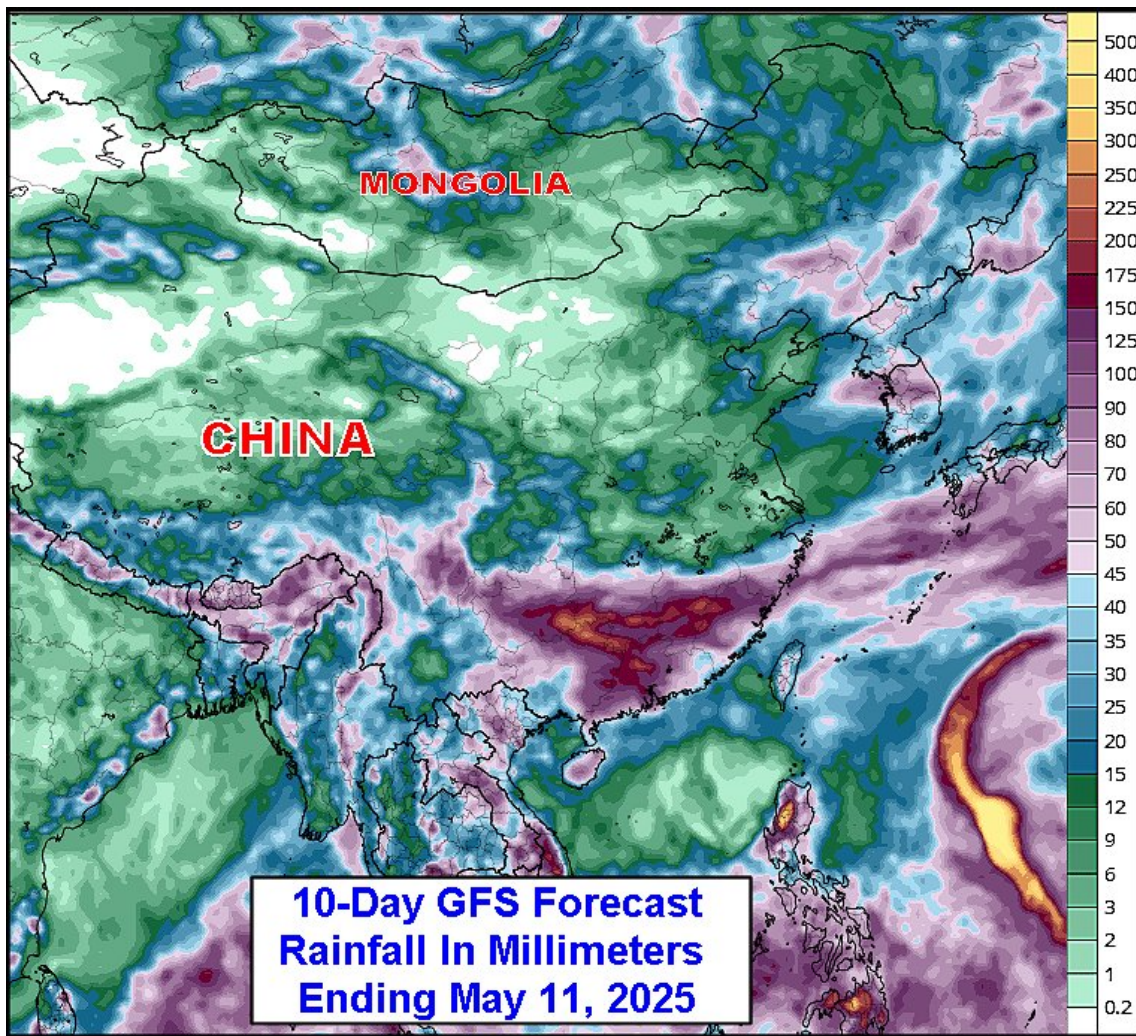
WEATHER OUTLOOK

Drier-than-usual conditions will prevail across the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin through the middle of next week. The main production areas will either be dry or not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Daytime highs will often surge into the 70s and 80s with pockets warming to the 90s. There is potential for some spotty rainfall May 8-14 as disturbances track near or into the region; however, resulting rainfall will be too light to significantly improve the moisture profile.

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Aggressive drying will continue for the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin for at least the next seven to ten days. The lack of moisture and warm weather in unirrigated fields may cause some of the wheat to mature early, reducing yield potentials. Irrigated crops should not be seriously impacted. Planting and establishment conditions for the summer crops will also deteriorate, leaving the need for significant rain high heading into the second half of May.

Winter rapeseed harvesting likely advanced around the periods of rain in the Yangtze River Basin during the past week. Yields are suspected of being good due to timely rain over the growing season. Rice, corn, and sugarcane conditions may otherwise vary across southern China and the Yangtze River Basin. Dryness remains a concern in Yunnan, Guangxi, and neighboring areas despite some spotty rain. Crops may be developing unevenly or poorly in the driest locations.



Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will have several opportunities for rain through the middle of next week. A frontal boundary will promote the first round of rain today. Light and erratic rain will occur in a few locations Thursday and Friday before more widespread rain returns over the weekend and the first part of next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 1.50 to 4.00 inches and local amounts of 6.00

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inches or more in Fujian, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Hunan, and neighboring locations. Other locations in southern China and the Yangtze River Basin will receive 0.50 to 3.00 inches of rain with portions of Hubei, southern fringes of Anhui and Jiangsu, and Yunnan only receiving 0.10 to 0.50 inch of moisture. Temperatures will be near normal with daytime highs often peaking in the 80s and 90s. However, pockets will only warm to the 70s during periods of more significant rain. Southern China and the Yangtze River Basin will again see a mix of rain and sunshine May 8-14.

Winter rapeseed harvesting will continue around the periods of rain through the middle of next week in much of the Yangtze River Basin. Rice, corn, and sugarcane development conditions will either improve or remain favorable near and south of the Yangtze River; however, Yunnan and Guangxi will not receive enough rain to completely fix the moisture deficits and additional rain will be needed.

Planting in **Northeast China** usually begins in May. Early-season planting prospects are relatively favorable across the region due to timely precipitation over the winter and earlier this spring.

Northeast China will receive varying amounts of precipitation through the middle of next week. Precipitation will often be scattered across the region as disturbances advance near or into the region. Some of the most significant precipitation will occur today. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches in Liaoning, central and southern Jilin, and southern Heilongjiang. Other locations will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of moisture and locally greater amounts. Temperatures will be near normal with daytime highs often reaching the 50s and 60s. However, portions of northern Heilongjiang and northeastern Inner Mongolia will only warm to the 30s and 40s at times. The region will again have several opportunities for erratic precipitation May 8-14.

Additional precipitation in Northeast China in the coming weeks will help keep soil moisture at adequate levels. Early-season planting may be sluggish in the wettest fields, though most producers should be able to begin planting between precipitation events.

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