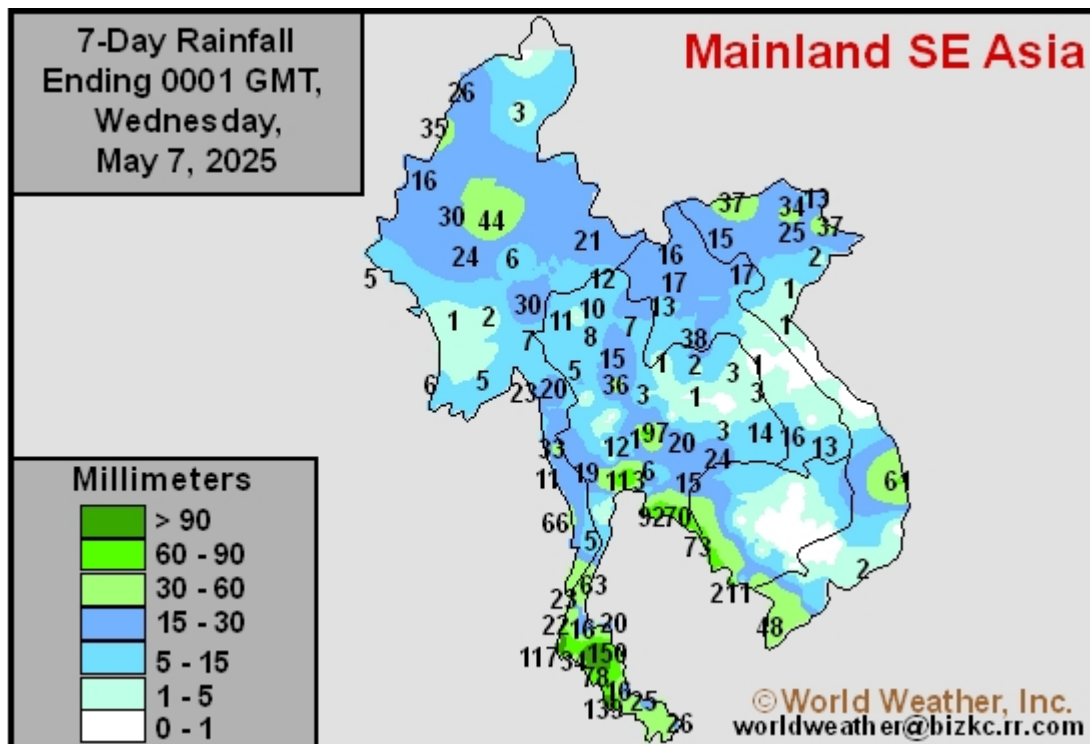


Mainland SE Asia Rain To Bolster Crop Development Potential

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, May 7 (World Weather Inc.) – Moisture shortages prevail in portions of mainland Southeast Asia despite spotty rainfall during the past week. Early-season planting prospects for the rice, corn, and other crops remain less than ideal because of dryness and the need for rain remains high. *Some of the sugarcane produced across Thailand is also not developing well following a very dry finish to the rainy season last year. The region will experience more frequent and significant rain through the middle of next week as the beginning of monsoon season approaches. This surge of precipitation will bolster soil moisture and improve planting and establishment conditions in much of mainland Southeast Asia. Prospects for the rice, corn, sugarcane, and other crops will improve across the region.*

Southern Thailand and a few locations along the Cambodia and southern Vietnam coastlines received the greatest amount of rain in mainland Southeast Asia during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning range from 0.63 to 4.45 inches with local amounts up to 5.90 inches in peninsular Thailand. Other locations in mainland Southeast Asia received 0.28 to 1.46 inches of rain with local amounts up to 3.82 inches in central Thailand and central Vietnam. A few locations in eastern Thailand and north-central Vietnam also received little to no rain.



Many areas in southern Vietnam and eastern Cambodia into Laos were drier or much drier than usual in recent weeks. These areas received 25-80% of normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending May 5. Other locations in mainland southeast Asia received near to above normal rainfall during this time.

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Despite many areas receiving above normal rainfall in April and early this month, moisture shortages were ongoing for a large section of mainland Southeast Asia. Only peninsular Thailand and a few locations in central and south-central Thailand, western

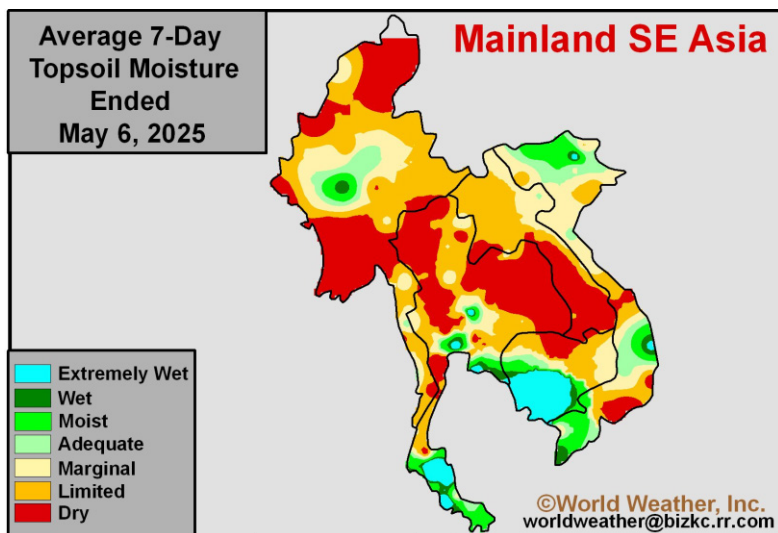
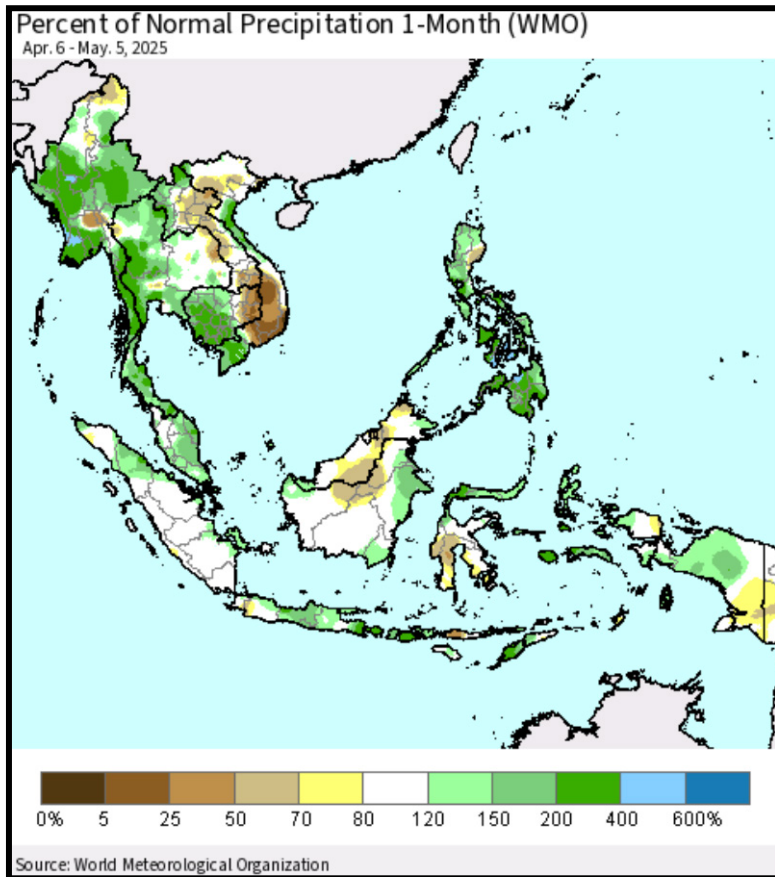
Cambodia and a few areas in both Vietnam and Myanmar had adequate or excessive amounts of moisture in the topsoil.

Rice and corn, among other crops, are normally planted this time of year in mainland Southeast Asia as the monsoon season approaches. Early-season planting conditions remain less than ideal due to the lack of moisture in the topsoil. There is still plenty of time for rain to improve planting and establishment conditions across the region.

However, the driest locations need abundant rainfall to completely fix the moisture deficits and support ideal crop prospects.

Mainland Southeast Asia will have several opportunities for pre-monsoonal rain through the middle of next week. Light rain will initially be scattered across the region today and Thursday. More widespread and significant rain will occur Friday and this weekend. Additional rain is expected Monday and Tuesday as well.

Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches in much of mainland Southeast Asia. Local rain



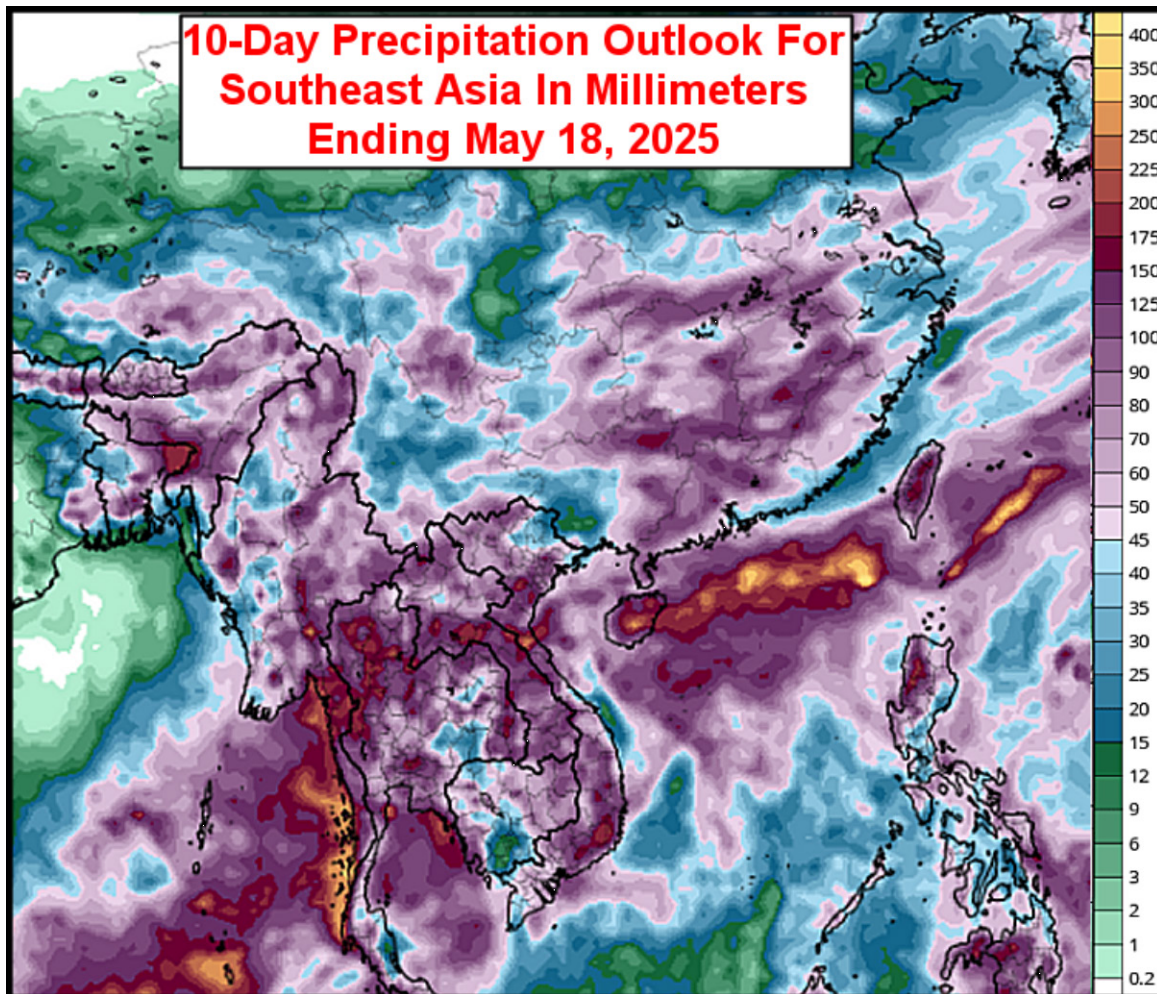
totals of 6.00 inches or more will also be possible, most notably in Thailand, southern Laos, and central Vietnam. Waves of rain will persist for much of the region May 15 – 21.

The frequent rain pattern for mainland Southeast Asia during the coming week will slowly bolster soil moisture across the region. Germination and establishment conditions

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will gradually improve across the region. Producers will likely plant aggressively between the rain events as well.

Sugarcane will benefit greatly from the coming rain. The end of last year's wet season came early for some production areas and the heat that followed dried out the crop significantly hurting some of the production. Weather since then has been a little more normal, but there is still a big need for significant precipitation to get the new crop off to a better start. Conditions for sugarcane should improve greatly if the forecast for significant rain verifies and there is little reason to doubt the outlook.



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