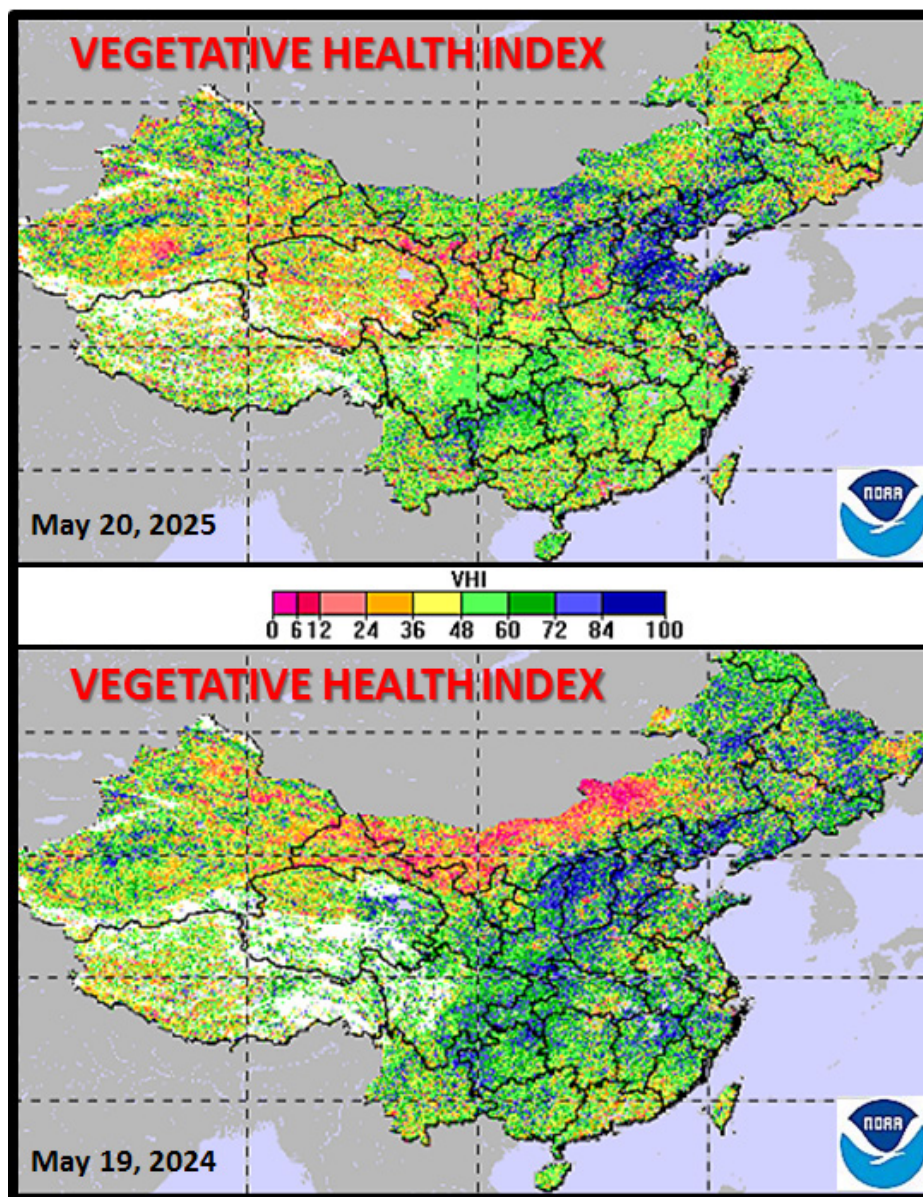


North China Plain Will Continue To Dry Down

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, May 28 (World Weather Inc.) – Despite some spotty rain during the past week, dryness prevails for a large portion of China's North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin. Much of the rain that fell was either lost to evaporation or too light to impact long-term soil conditions. Precipitation will remain limited for at least another ten days with temperatures gradually rising above normal. The ground will remain too dry or become that way to support unirrigated spring and summer crop emergence, and establishment. Winter wheat will be sped to maturity with quick harvesting to follow.

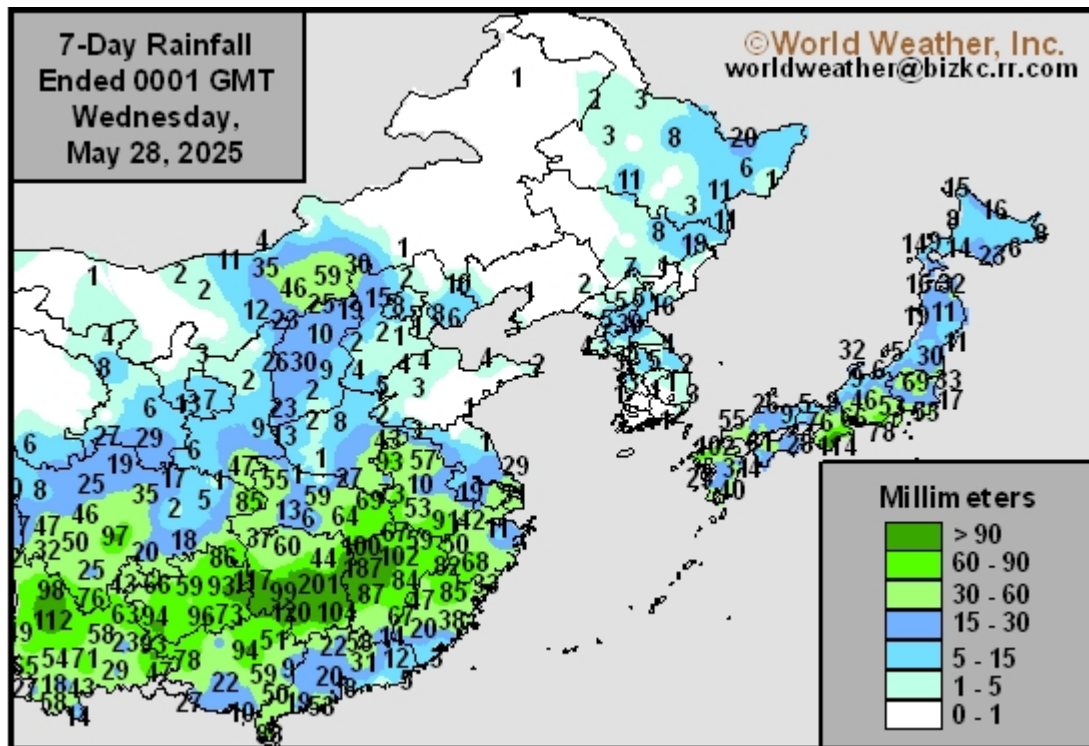
Areas near and south of the Yangtze River, along with Northeast China, will otherwise see a good mix of rain and sunshine through the middle of next week resulting in a relatively favorable environment for planting and general development.



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The Vegetative Health Index for China is reflecting the more stressful weather that has evolved recently; however the situation has not yet reached a critical point. Rain that fell in Shandong, Hebei and some immediate neighboring areas during the week ending May 20 induced some short term improvements in crop conditions especially in Shandong and Hebei. This more recent past week (ending May 28) brought dry weather back to Shandong and Hebei while some rain briefly brought some relief to Shaanxi, Shanxi, Henana and neighboring.

The greatest rain reported for the seven day period ending today was in Yunnan and portions of Sichuan through Guangxi, Guizhou, and portions of Hubei into Hunan, Jiangxi, Fujian, Zhejiang, and portions of Anhui where 0.75 to 5.00 inches resulted with local amounts approaching 8.00 inches in Hunan and Jiangxi. Guangdong, southern Jiangsu, southeastern Henan, and portions of Shaanxi, Shanxi, and central Inner Mongolia received 0.35 to 2.32 inches of moisture. A few locations in Hebei, Heilongjiang, and southern Jilin received 0.12 to 0.79 inch of rain while little to no rain fell elsewhere east of Tibet.

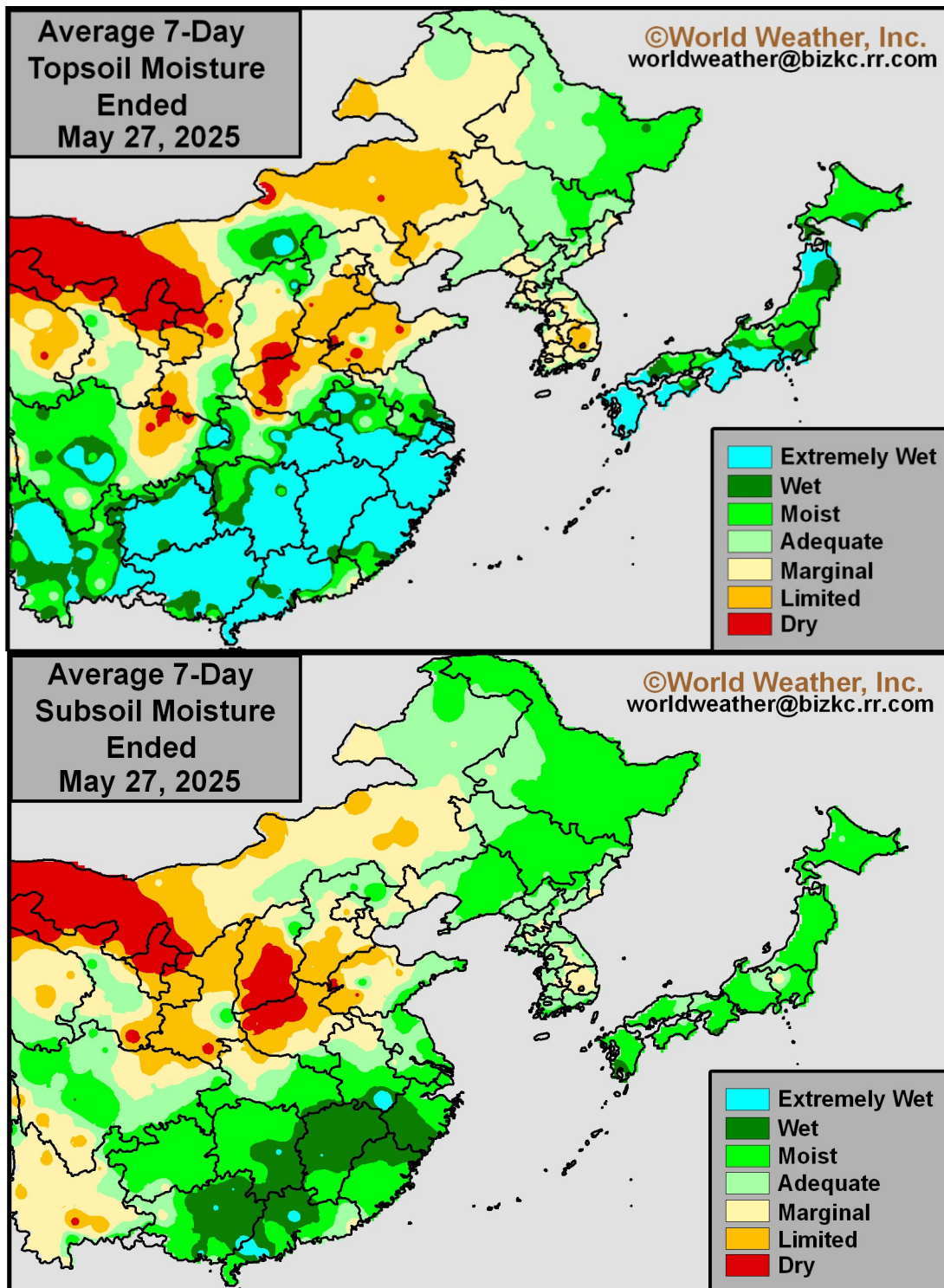


Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in much of southern China and the Yangtze River Basin. Localized flooding was possible in areas that received the greatest amount of rain; though, precipitation was spread out enough to limit severe flooding. Crop and structural damage were suspected of being minimal. [Soil moisture is rated short to very short in much of the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin into portions of Inner Mongolia.](#) Northeast China has adequate to marginally adequate moisture.

[Ongoing dryness in unirrigated areas of the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin continues to promote less than favorable germination, emergence and establishment conditions for coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, rice and other crops. There is still time for improved rainfall prior to the end of the planting season which comes later](#)

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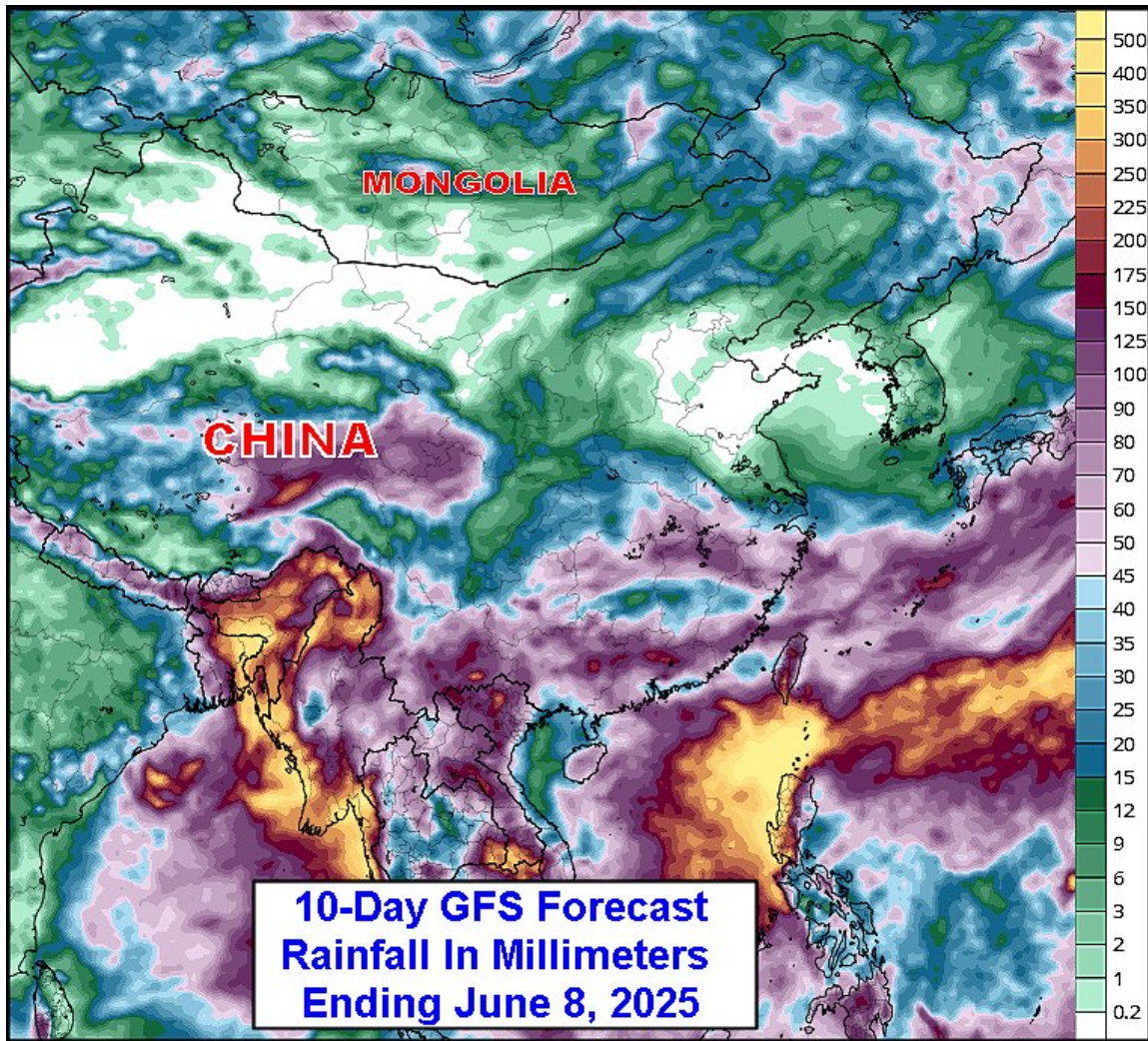
in June, but time is running down since the next ten days will be dry biased and warm.



Areas near and south of the Yangtze River have ample moisture to support new growth for the rice, corn, sugarcane, and other crops produced this time of year. Precipitation in recent weeks either improved or completely erased the drought that evolved

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earlier this year in southwestern China. Planting and establishment conditions have also remained relatively good in northern China despite several areas drying down somewhat during the past week. As long as timely rain occurs in the coming weeks, production potentials will remain favorable.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Drier-than-usual weather will prevail for the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin through the end of next week and possibly into the following weekend.

Scattered showers will still evolve from Shaanxi and Henan into northern Anhui and immediate neighboring locations Thursday and Friday of this week with the passage of a disturbance. Another disturbance tracking near the region will promote light rain over the weekend. Portions of Shaanxi, Henan, northern Anhui, and neighboring locations will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain with local amounts of 2.00 inches or more in southern Henan by next Wednesday morning. Other production areas will either miss out on much of the rain or not receive enough to counter evaporation. Below normal precipitation will prevail June 5-11 as well.

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Daytime temperatures through the middle of next week will often reach the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit; though, many areas in Shaanxi, Shanxi, and Henan will only warm to the 70s Thursday through this weekend. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will be most common during the June 5-11 period.

The rain that occurs in Henan, Shaanxi, and northern Anhui will be welcome during the next few days. Crop development conditions may improve for the short-term, but much more rain will be needed for ideal long-term crop conditions. The remaining locations in the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin will otherwise dry down significantly in the coming two weeks. The environment will remain less than favorable to poor for new growth.

Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will have several opportunities for rain through the middle of next week. A band of rain will advance over southern China today. Disturbances will continue to promote waves of rain Thursday into early next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches with local amounts of 6.00 inches or slightly more in Guangxi, Guangdong, and immediate neighboring areas. The Yangtze River Basin and southern China will have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall June 5 – 11, though rain totals will generally be lower compared to the first week of the outlook.

Rainfall will be spread out enough to limit severe flooding for much of southern China and the Yangtze River Basin through the middle of next week. Any flooding that does occur will not promote significant crop or structural damage. Rice, corn, and sugarcane development conditions will otherwise remain favorable.

Northern China will see a good mix of rain and sunshine through the middle of next week. After a brief period of drier weather today, disturbances will generate erratic rainfall on a frequent basis Thursday into the first part of next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with locally greater amounts in Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang. The region will again have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall June 5 – 11.

Planting and general fieldwork will advance around the periods of rain in northern China in the coming weeks. The rain will be enough to support mostly good establishment and early-season development.

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