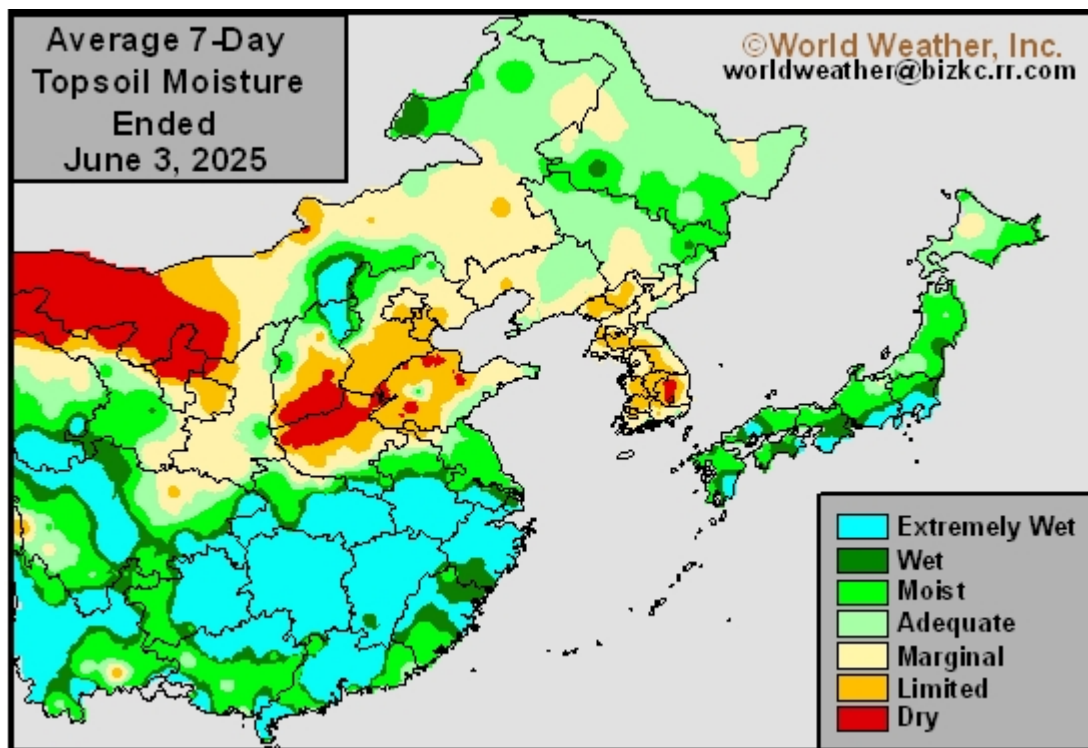


China Dryness Expands Back to North China Plain, Korea

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, June 3 (World Weather Inc.) – *Some relief to dryness occurred in Hebei and Shandong, China during mid-May this year, but net drying over the past two weeks has returned dryness to the region and expanded it farther to the east into the Korean Peninsula. Another week of drying is likely from the central Yellow River Basin into the North China Plain and Korea making the potential rain event next week more important.* In the meantime, areas near and south of the Yangtze River will see a good mix of rain and sunshine during the coming week while far northern China receives enough rain to maintain relatively good planting and establishment.

Rain fell in most of eastern China at one time or another during the past week except from the central and lower Yellow River Basin area into the Korean Peninsula where little to no precipitation fell. The dry conditions exacerbated dryness in unirrigated central Yellow River Basin crop areas while reducing topsoil moisture sufficiently in areas to the east to increase crop moisture stress.

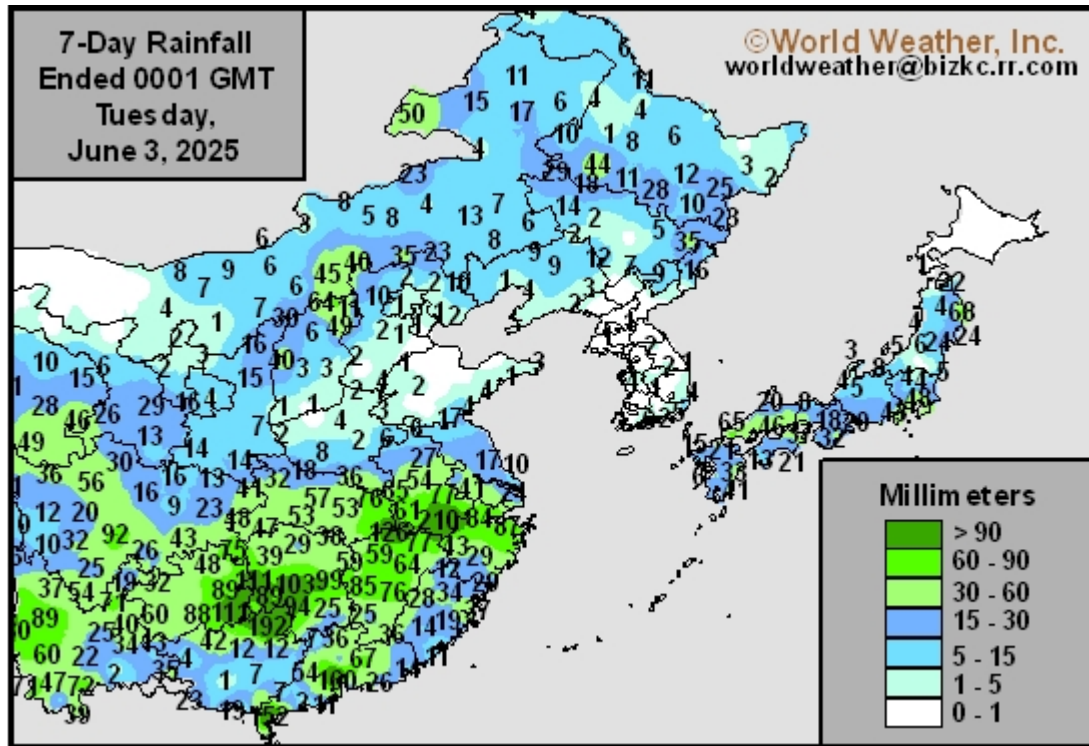


Topsoil moisture was rated short to very short across most of the area from the middle Yellow River Basin through much of Shandong and southern and eastern Hebei to North and South Korea. Topsoil moisture also declined in the Northeast Provinces, although it was still rated marginally adequate to slightly in most areas. A few locations in northeastern China still had adequate soil moisture with more rain coming to part of the region soon the level of concern over dryness is low.

Other areas in China were more favorably moist and rain fell most significantly during the past week from Hunan, eastern Guizhou, and northern Guangxi into Jiangxi,

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southern Anhui, and portions of Guangdong received 1.14 to 5.00 inches of rain with local amounts up to 8.27 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning. Yunnan, Sichuan, Hubei, Fujian, Zhejiang, central Anhui, and southern Jiangsu received 0.63 to 3.62 inches of rain. Southern Guangxi, northern sections of Anhui and Jiangsu, southern Henan, northern and western Shanxi, and portions of Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang, and southeastern Jilin received 0.20 to 1.77 inches of rain with local amounts up to 2.56 inches.



Soil moisture near and south of the Yangtze River was rated adequate to excessive with a few areas of local flooding suspected. Most areas in China have had and continue to have sufficient moisture to support normal crop development; however, a little less rain may soon be needed near and south of the Yangtze River Basin while some timely rain occurs in the northeast where recent drier weather has diminished topsoil moisture in some areas.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

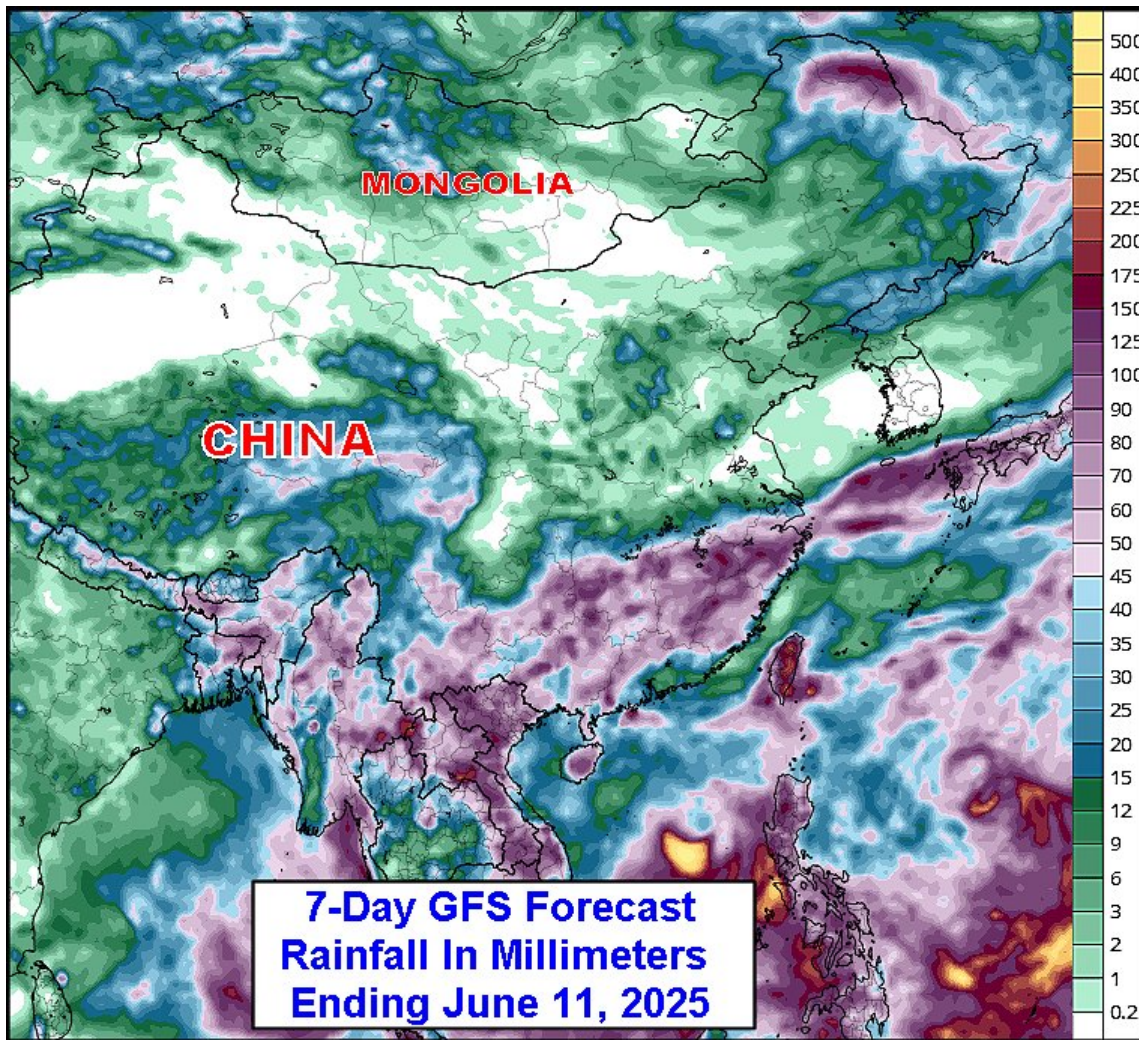
The North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin *will remain drier than usual during the coming week. Other than a few isolated showers, the region will be mostly dry through Friday. Disturbances will then generate erratic rainfall over the weekend and early next week that may improve topsoil moisture to a few areas, but most of the region will remain dry biased.* Portions of Shandong, Henan, and immediate neighboring areas will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain with local amounts of 1.50 inches by next Tuesday morning. Other locations will either miss out on the rain completely or not receive enough to counter evaporation.

Temperatures will be near to above normal with daytime highs often reaching the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit. However, portions of the central Yellow River Basin will only

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warm to the 70s over the weekend and early next week. Precipitation potentials will increase June 11-17, though resulting rainfall will be too light to completely fix the moisture deficits.

The environment will remain less than favorable to poor for the coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops planted and grown this time of year in the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin. The potential for rain during the second week of the outlook may marginally improve short-term establishment and development conditions, though much more rain will be needed for ideal crop conditions. Concern for production impacts due to the ongoing dryness will prevail, although there is still sufficient time for big improvements in crop conditions and production potentials.



Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will see a good mix of rain and sunshine during the coming week. Light rain will initially be scattered across a few locations today and Wednesday. More widespread rain will then occur on a daily basis Thursday into early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.75 to 4.00 inches with local amounts of 6.00 inches or slightly more in Guangxi, Guangdong, Jiangxi, and immediate neighboring areas. The region will then see a mix of

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rain and sunshine June 11-17. *There is potential for a tropical disturbance will impact the precipitation pattern during this time and a close monitoring of the situation is warranted.*

Rainfall will be spread out enough to limit severe flooding in much of southern China and the Yangtze River Basin during the coming week. Rice, corn, and sugarcane development conditions will remain relatively good outside the wettest pockets.

Northern China will have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall during the coming week. Two disturbances will initially generate erratic rainfall on a daily basis through Friday. Another system will continue to promote spotty rain over the weekend and early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts of 3.00 inches or more in Heilongjiang, northeastern Inner Mongolia, and southern Jilin. Other locations will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain. Temperatures will be near normal with daytime highs reaching the 60s and 70s most often. Pockets in Liaoning and Jilin will often warm to the 80s as well. The region will again see a mix of rain and sunshine June 11 – 17 with temperatures trending near normal.

Waves of rain will maintain a good environment for establishment and early-season growth for much of northern China in the coming weeks. Planting of the grains and oilseeds should also advance swiftly around the periods of rain.

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