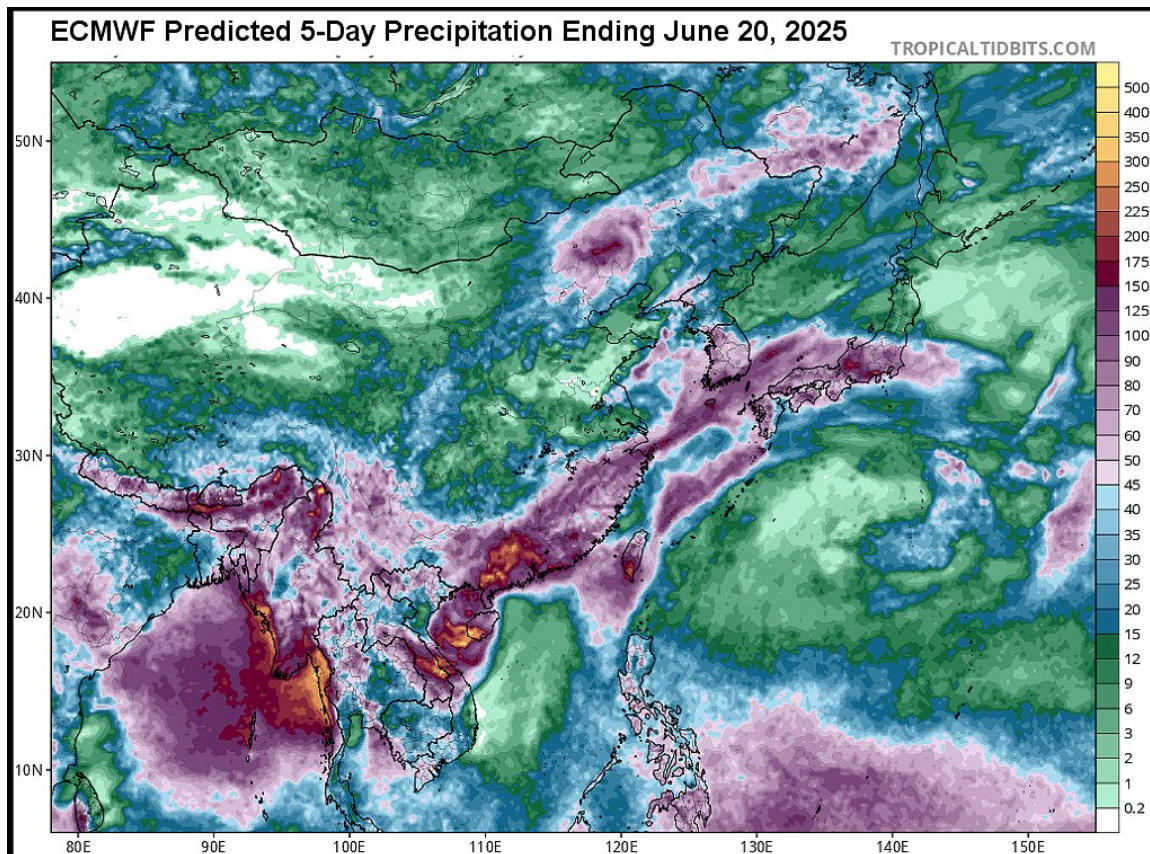


China Drought To Be Eased Next Week

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, June 12 (World Weather Inc.) – Several of China's main production areas will experience adverse weather conditions in the coming week. Dryness will prevail for the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin despite opportunities for spotty rain. Resulting rainfall will be too light to impact long-term soil conditions and the ground will remain too dry for aggressive growth. Concern over future crop production will increase without a break in the pattern. However, a number of medium range computer forecast models have suggested wetter weather June 20-26 and **World Weather, Inc.'s Trend Model has suggested greater rain will evolve in these areas during the summer all of which are hinting at better crop development soon.** In the meantime, Tropical Storm Wutip will bring heavy rain to portions of southern China over the weekend resulting in flooding that may damage some rice, corn, and sugarcane. Weather conditions in the Yangtze River Basin and northeastern provinces will continue to be well mixed.

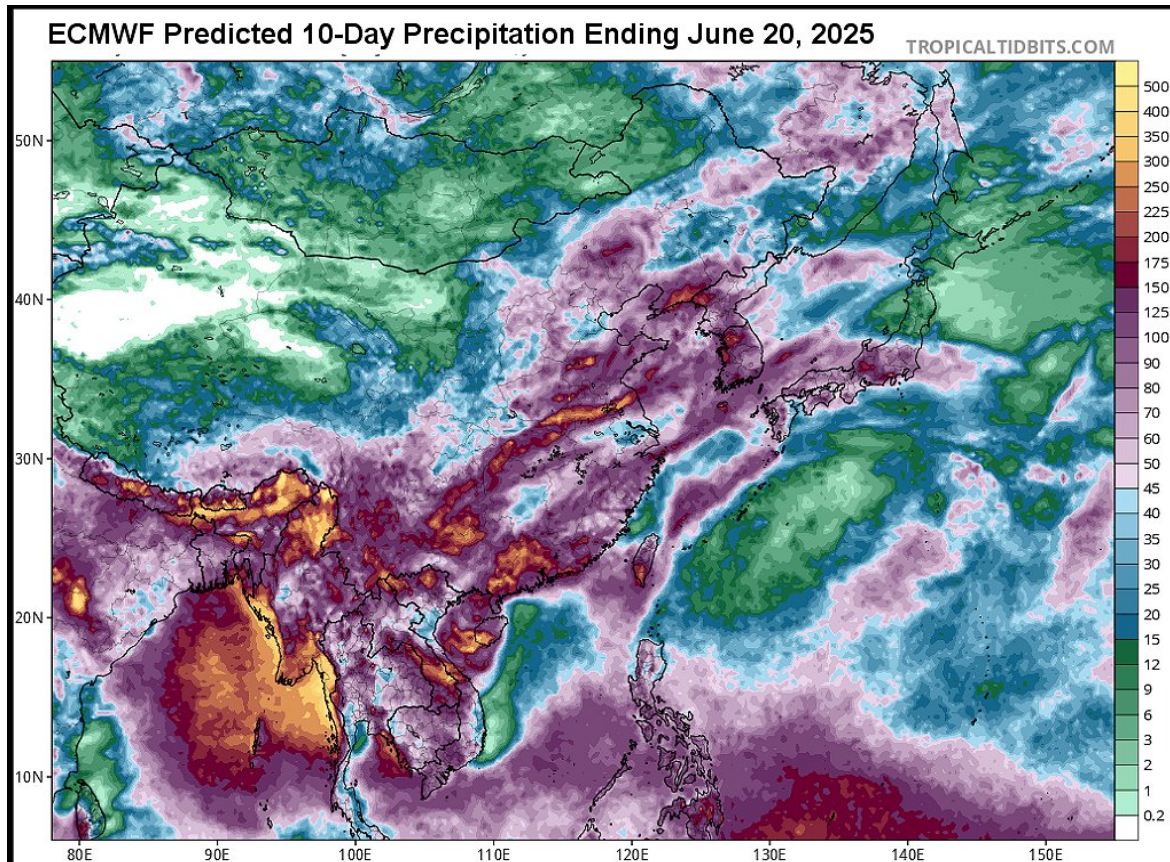


Rain has eluded the central Yellow River Basin and North China Plain often during the past few months. That has resulted in below to well below normal precipitation and the evolution of drought. Drought has become a threat to east-central parts of the nation and rain must evolve soon to protect production potentials during the next few months. Totally dry weather did not occur throughout the Yellow River Basin over the past week, but with temperatures in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit, what little rain fell was lost to evaporation in a relatively short period of time. Rain totals did reach 0.88 inch in a part of

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Shandong, but most other areas from Hebei and Henan to Shaanxi and northwestern Liaoning failed to get any significant rain and that allowed drought conditions to continue compounding during the week.

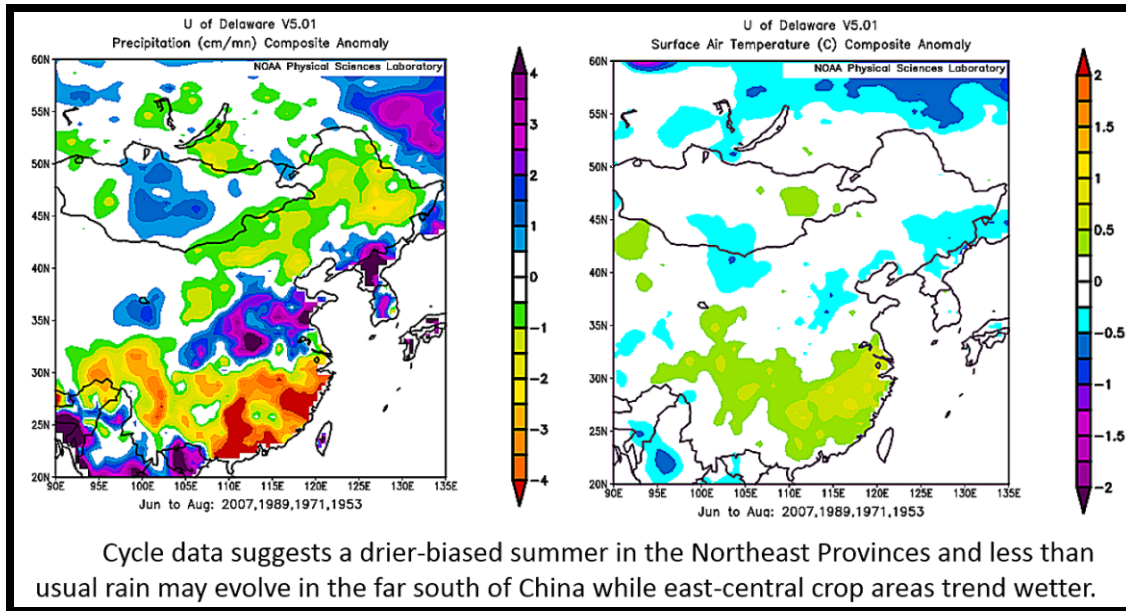
Much of the rain that is predicted to fall across the Yellow River Basin and North China Plain through Tuesday is unlikely to be more than 0.60 inch. Such amounts will not be enough to counter evaporation with daily high temperatures continuing in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit. That will translate into additional drying and the persistence of drought through the forecast period; however, great changes are expected to follow with significant rain expected Wednesday through Friday of next week.



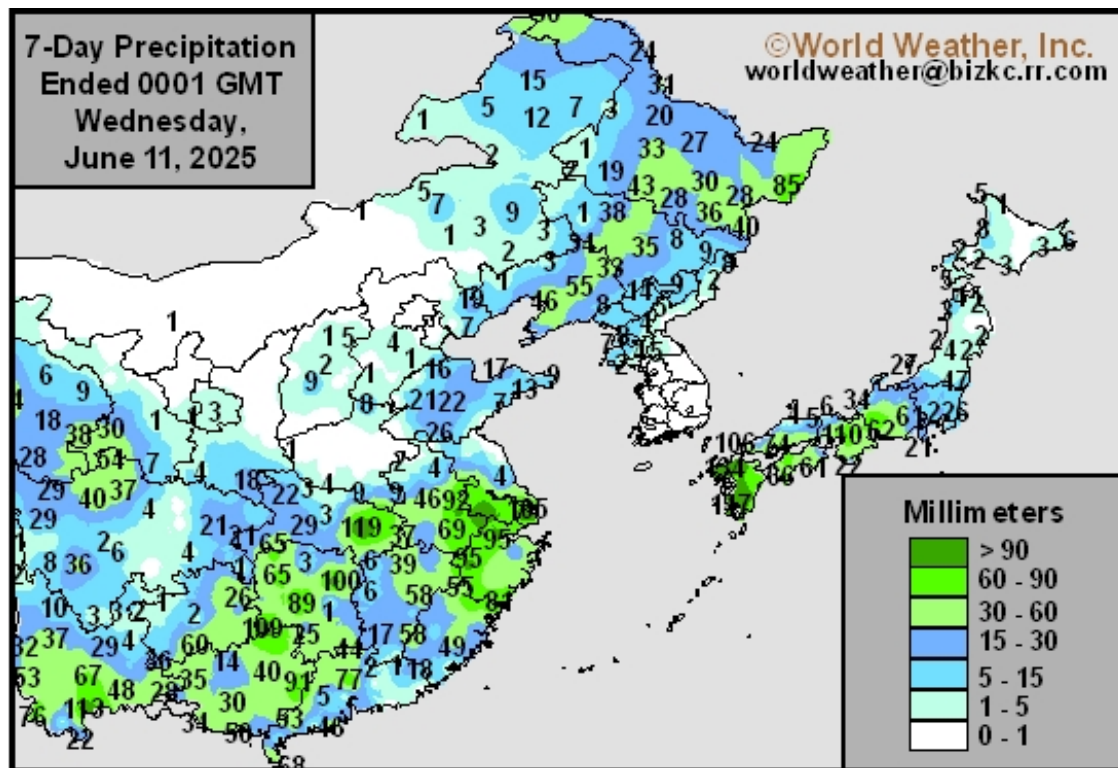
Waves of rain are predicted to evolve during the middle to latter part of next week and continue into the following weekend. Most computer forecast models have been predicting this for a while and the change will be a boon to China grain and oilseed production as well as improving rice, cotton and a few other crops.

The change in weather fits well with the World Weather, Inc.'s Trend Model forecast suggesting June through August rainfall would be better than usual in the Yellow River Basin and some neighboring areas. That model also suggested a little less than usual summertime rain may impact the northeastern provinces of China, although the moisture deficits predicted are not exorbitant. No serious summer drought is expected in eastern China, although some below normal precipitation in the northeast could induce a little crop stress at times. In the meantime, there should be alternating periods of rain and sunshine in east-central China supporting a better crop outlook than that of the recent past weeks.

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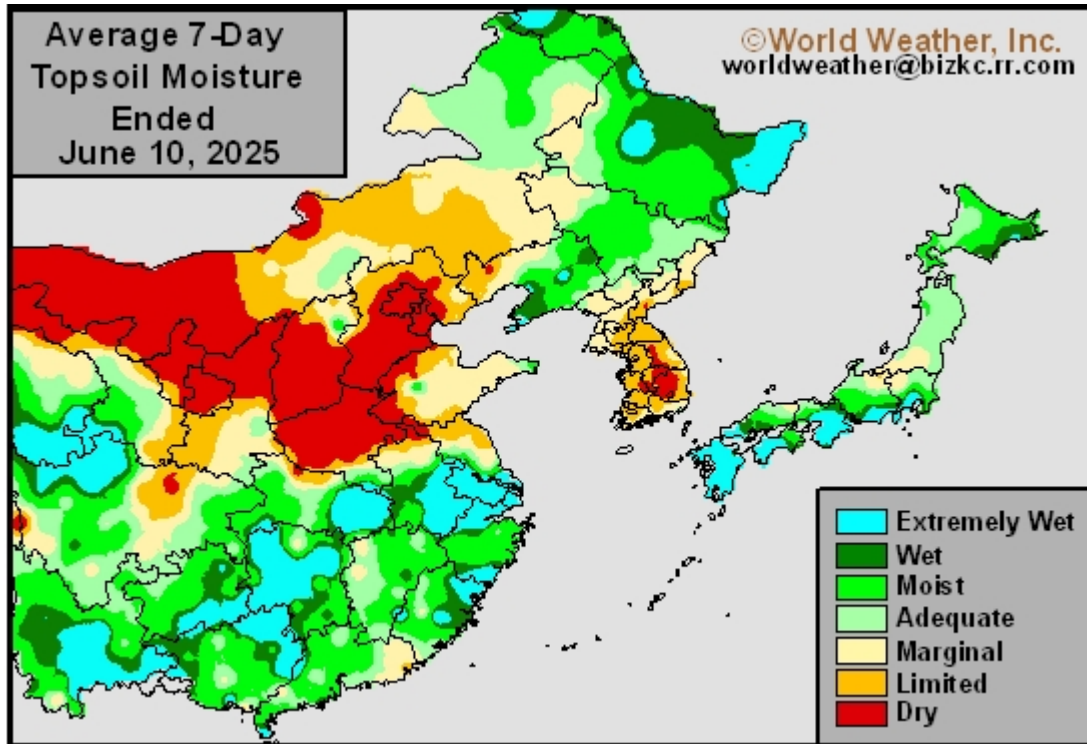


In the meantime, rainfall varied across other parts of China during the past week. Yunnan, Guangxi, Guangdong, and eastern and southern Guizhou into Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Fujian, Zhejiang, and southern sections of Anhui and Jiangsu received 0.67 to 4.69 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending June 11. Liaoning, central and southern Jilin, and much of Heilongjiang received 0.32 to 2.17 inches of rain.



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Severe moisture shortages prevailed for a large section of the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin this week. The periods of rain that occurred in recent days were too light to significantly improve long-term soil conditions. Several areas in central Inner Mongolia also dried down during the past week while other areas in China had adequate to excessive topsoil moisture.



Tropical Storm Wutip recently evolved in the South China Sea. The disturbance will track near and into Hainan, China later today and Friday before entering southwestern China Saturday. Wutip will then track east-northeasterly across southern China over the weekend along a frontal boundary. The disturbance will bring heavy rain to portions of southern China and neighboring areas in Jiangxi and Zhejiang. Southern China will also receive rain ahead of Tropical Storm Wutip today and Friday and again toward the middle of next week. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 2.00 to 6.00 inches with local amounts of 10.00 inches or more from Guangdong and Guangxi into Jiangxi, Fujian, Zhejiang, and southern fringes of Hunan. Yunnan will receive 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain with drier pockets.

Flooding will be a significant concern for much of southern China and portions of Jiangxi and Zhejiang over the weekend as Tropical Storm Wutip advances over the region. The ground will already be saturated and the additional rain could generate severe flooding for some. Damage to rice, corn, sugarcane, and general infrastructure is likely.

Other areas in the Yangtze River Basin into the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin will have a few opportunities for spotty rain during the coming week. Much of the precipitation will occur today into Saturday with the passage of a frontal boundary. A few light showers will also be possible toward the middle of next week.

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Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.10 to 1.00 inch with local amounts of 1.50 inches or more in Shanxi, Hebei, northern Shaanxi, and Hubei.

The Yangtze River Basin will have enough moisture to maintain aggressive growth during the coming week despite many areas only receiving light amounts of rain.

Northern China will have several opportunities for rain during the coming week. Disturbances will frequently pass across the region that will help promote erratic rainfall on a near daily basis. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches with locally greater amounts in Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang. The environment will remain favorable for aggressive grain and oilseed development. Late season planting and general fieldwork may advance slowly during the wetter periods.

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