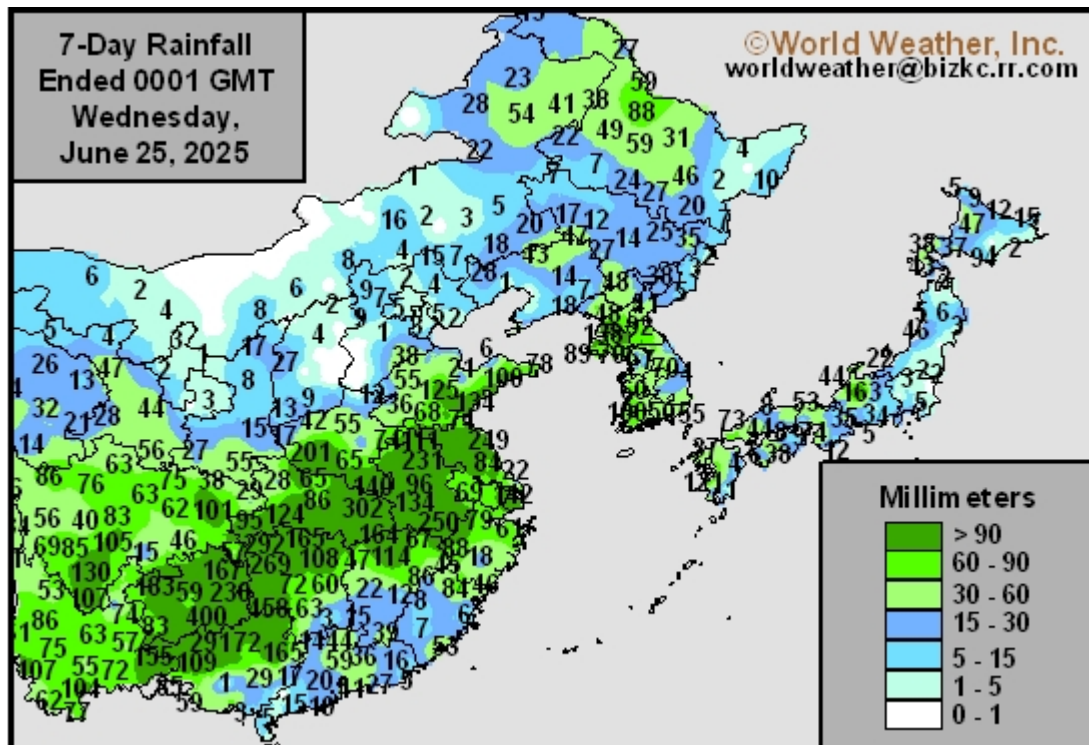


China's Drought Relief To Expand Into North Yellow River Basin

By Andrew Owen

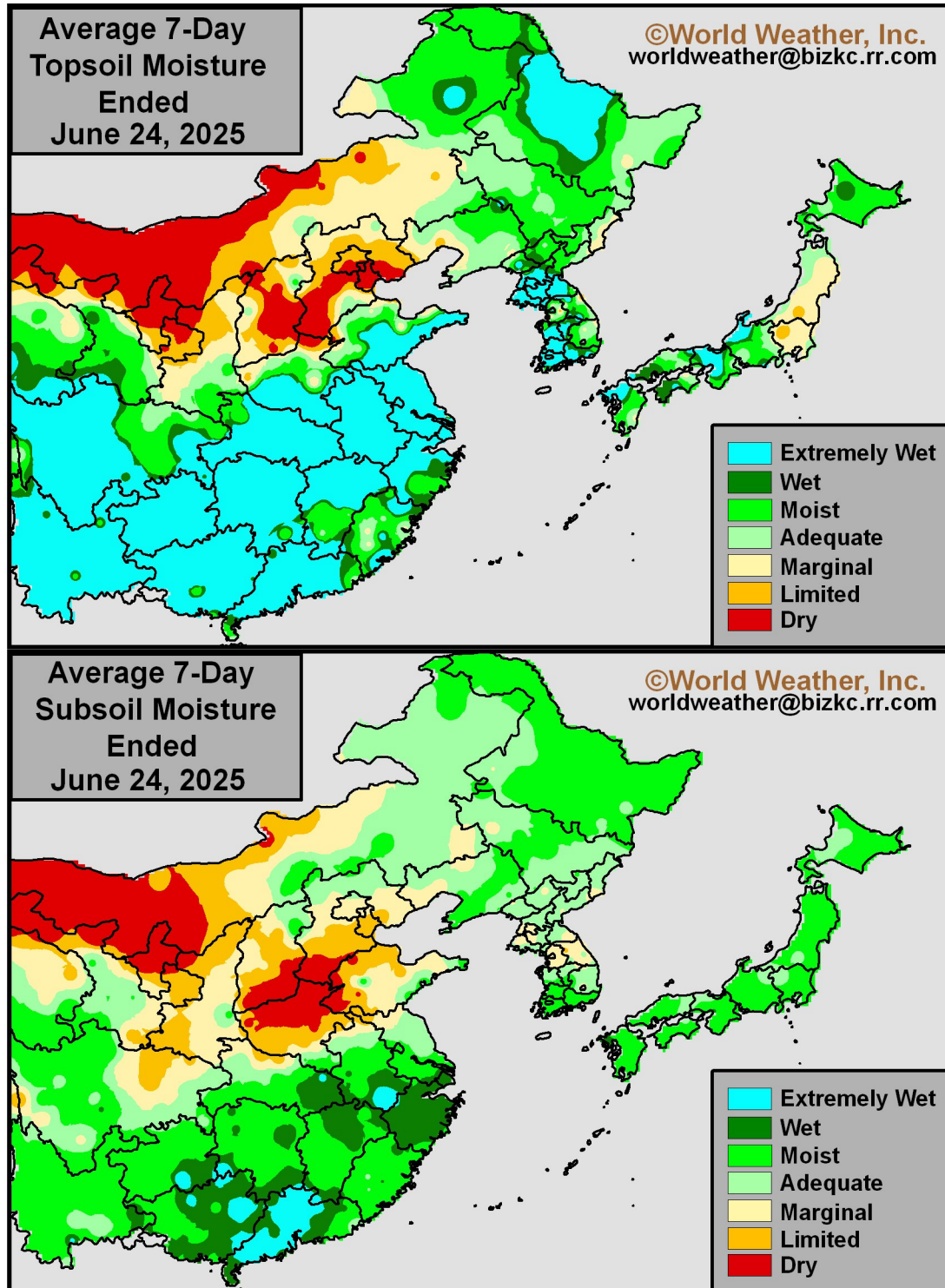
Kansas City, June 24 (World Weather Inc.) – *Drought in east-central China was a threat to crops during the spring. Rain fell substantially earlier this month in Henan and Shandong resulting in a significant reduction in the area of dryness; however, areas near and north of the Yellow River were still too dry. Rain coming in the next seven to ten days will bring relief to the remaining dry region in China ending most of the concern over drought and improving crop and field conditions.* Other production areas will receive enough rain through the middle of next week to maintain a relatively good environment for the crops produced this time of year.

Rainfall varied significantly across the main production areas in China during the past week. Guizhou and northern Guangxi through western and northern Hunan, Hubei, southern Henan, and northern Jiangxi into Anhui, Jiangxi, and southern and eastern Shandong reported anywhere from 3.50 to 11.89 inches of rain with local amounts up to 18.00 inches in Guizhou and northern Guangxi for the seven-day period ending this morning. Yunnan, Sichuan, Zhejiang, northern Fujian, and northern and central Heilongjiang received 1.81 to 5.12 inches of rain. Guangdong, southern Fujian, central and southern Jiangxi, southern Hunan, southern Guangxi, southern Shaanxi, other areas in Henan and Shandong, Liaoning, Jilin, southern Heilongjiang, and northeastern Inner Mongolia received 0.50 to 2.32 inches of moisture. A few locations in Shanxi, northern Shaanxi, Hebei, and central Inner Mongolia received 0.24 to 1.50 inches of rain, though several fields were dry.



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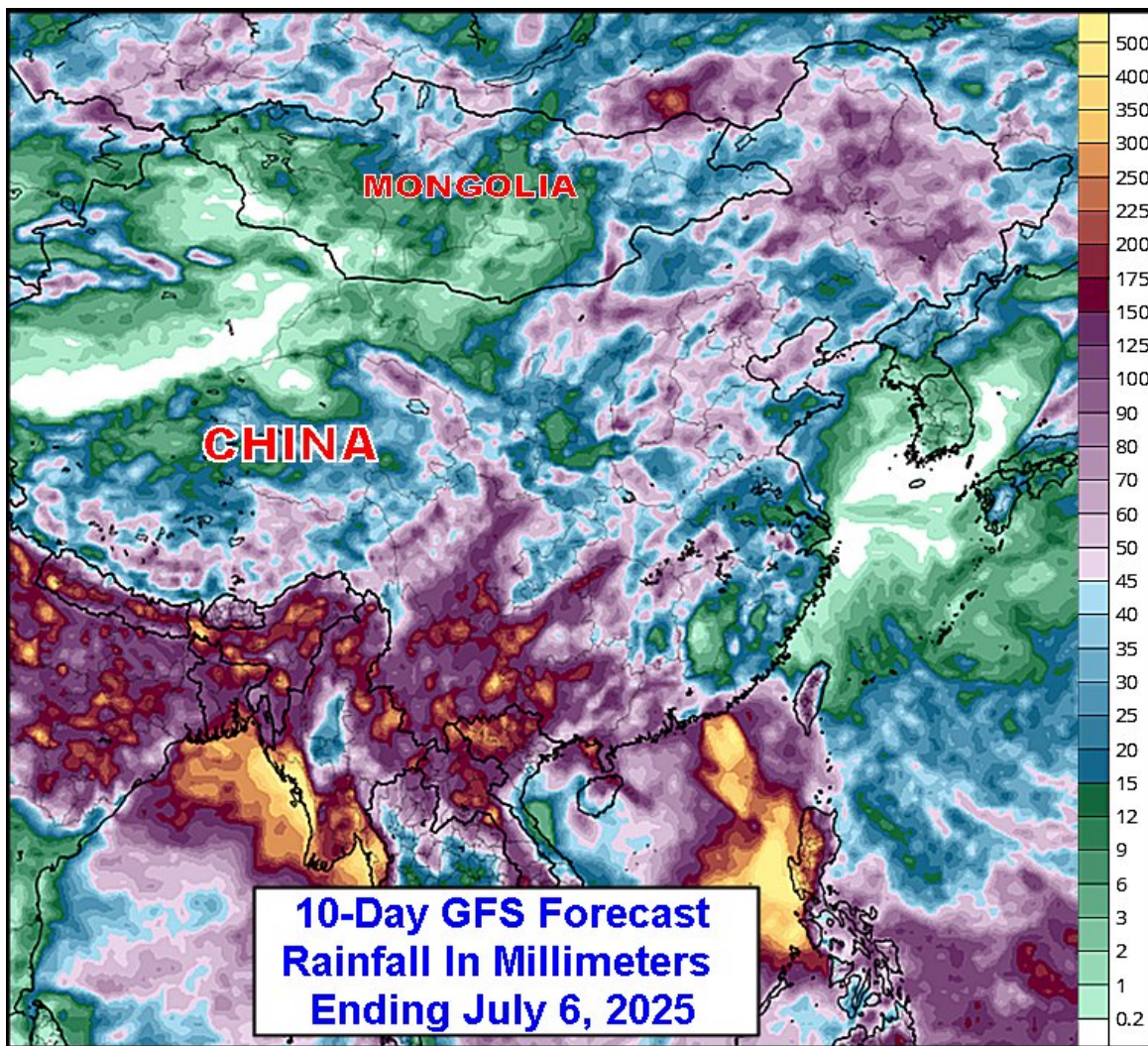
Soil moisture remains short to critically short for Shanxi, Hebei, central Inner Mongolia, and northern Shaanxi despite some spotty rain during the past week. Other locations have adequate to excessive topsoil moisture. Flooding was noted in Guizhou and was likely in northern Guangxi in areas that reported the greatest amount of rain. Damage to rice, corn, sugarcane, and other crops was suspected, though not confirmed.



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Ongoing dryness for portions of the central Yellow River Basin, Hebei, and central Inner Mongolia continue to promote less than favorable to poor conditions for unirrigated corn, millet, sorghum, soybeans, sunseed, spring wheat, and other crops. There is still time for rain that will improve development conditions and limit production losses due to dryness. However, another week or two of drier weather will raise concern over the potential for significant production losses.

The remaining production areas in China have ample moisture to support aggressive growth. Flooding in Guizhou, Guangxi, and neighboring locations may have marginally reduced production potentials in recent days. Overall crop conditions remain relatively favorable elsewhere.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

A series of disturbances will make their way across China through the middle of next week. These disturbances will help promote rain across the main production areas on a near daily basis. **Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou, Guangxi, and portions of Hunan and Hubei**

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will see some of the most frequent and significant rain. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 2.00 to 6.00 inches with local amounts of 9.00 inches or more. Other locations **near and south of the Yangtze River into the North China Plain, central Yellow River Basin, and northern China will** receive 0.75 to 3.00 inches of rain with locally greater amounts. Alternating periods of rain and sunshine will prevail for much of China July 3 – 9, though rain totals may trend a little lower compared to the first week of the outlook.

Waves of rain will slowly bolster soil moisture for Shanxi, Hebei, central Inner Mongolia, and northern Shaanxi during the next week to ten days. The environment will slowly improve for crops grown in these areas. Other locations in the North China Plain, central Yellow River Basin, and Northeast China will have ample moisture to maintain favorable crop conditions.

Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will receive enough rain to remain saturated through at least the middle of next week. Flash flooding will remain a concern for Guizhou and northern Guangxi into neighboring areas of Yunnan, Sichuan, and Hubei. Minor crop and structural damage will be possible and production potentials may be reduced marginally. Crop development conditions will remain favorable for the remaining locations.

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