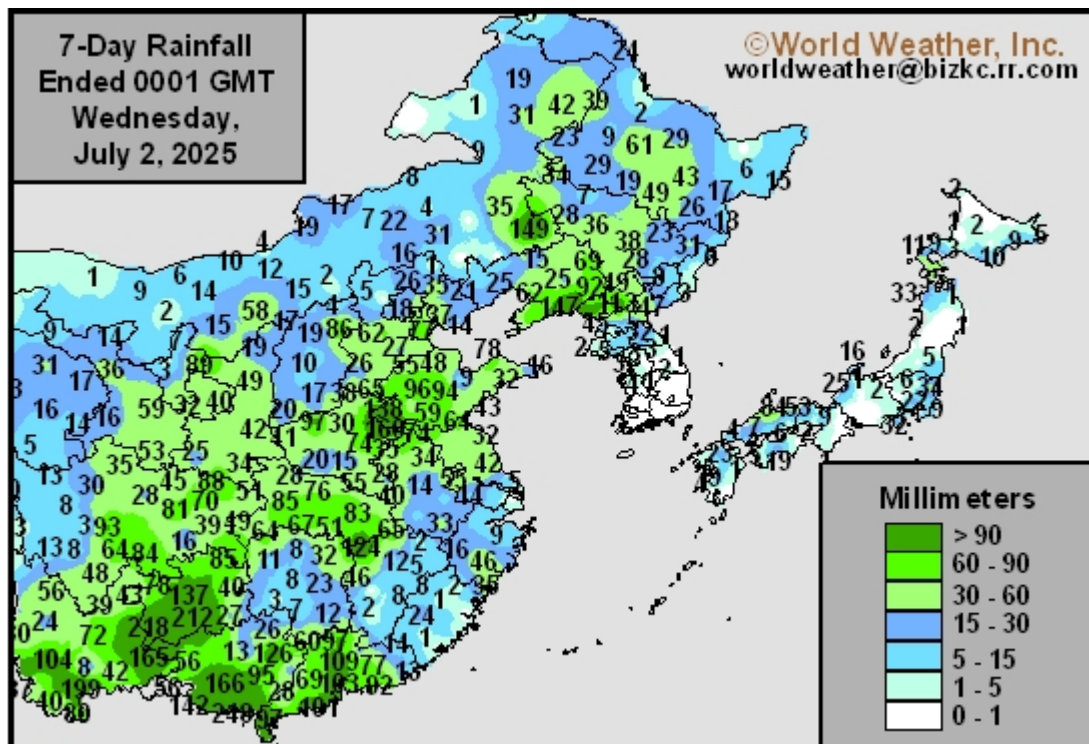


China Drought Shrinking Away; More Relief Likely

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, July 2 (World Weather Inc.) – [Recent rainfall for portions of the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin continued to chip away at the drought that evolved earlier this year. The environment improved somewhat for coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops; however, resulting rainfall was too light to completely fix some of the dryness and more rain is needed.](#) The driest areas will have several more opportunities for rain through the middle of next week and the moisture profile will further improve. In the meantime, many areas in east-central and southeastern China will dry down through the middle of next week. No major production impacts are expected as long as rain returns in mid-July.

Rainfall varied across the main production areas in China during the past week. Yunnan, Guangxi, Guangdong, and Guizhou received 1.50 to 6.50 inches of rain with local amounts up to 8.58 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning. Hubei, Sichuan, northern Jiangxi, Shaanxi, Henan, Anhui, Jiangsu, Shandong, southern Hebei, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, and portions of eastern Inner Mongolia received 0.50 to 3.50 inches of rain with local amounts up to 6.30 inches. Fujian, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Hunan, Shanxi, and central Inner Mongolia received 0.32 to 1.81 inches of rain with pockets that were dry or mostly dry.



China's main production areas generally received near to above normal rainfall in June. Only Fujian and neighboring areas in Jiangxi and eastern Guangdong were drier than usual with several locations only receiving 25-70% of normal rainfall. Pockets in the North

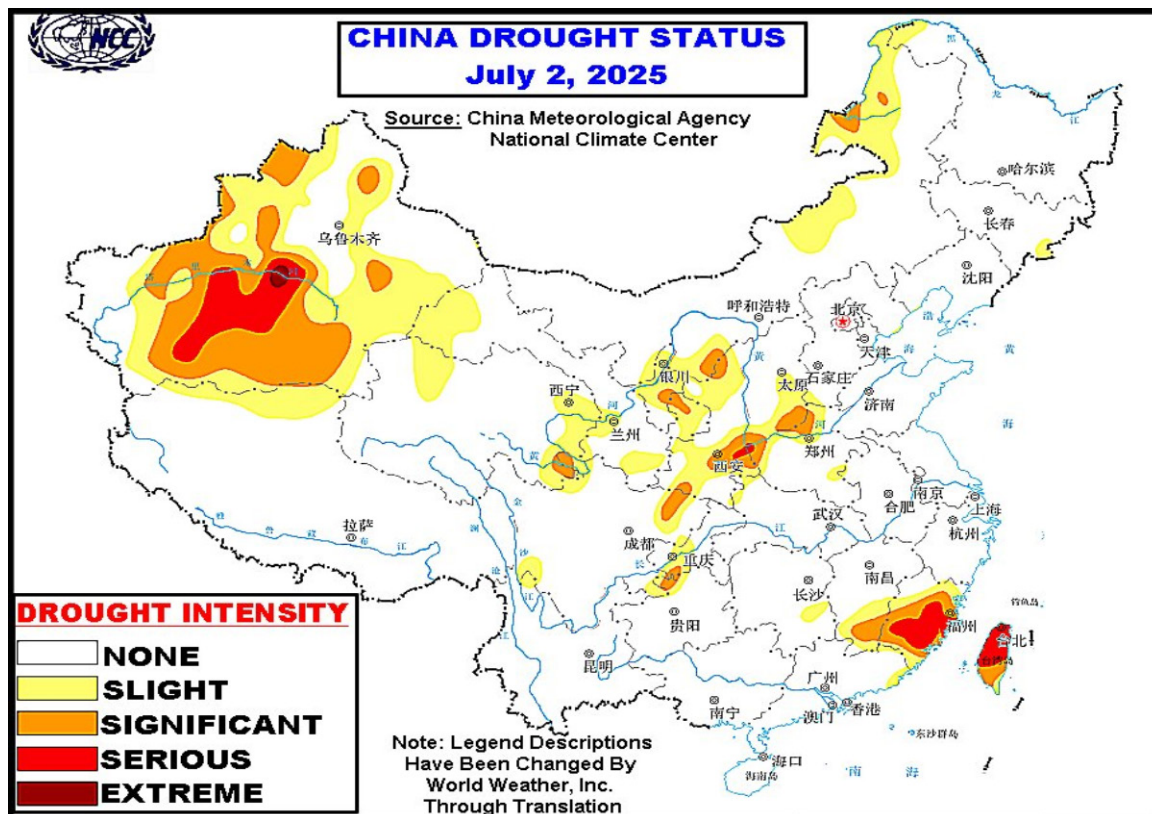
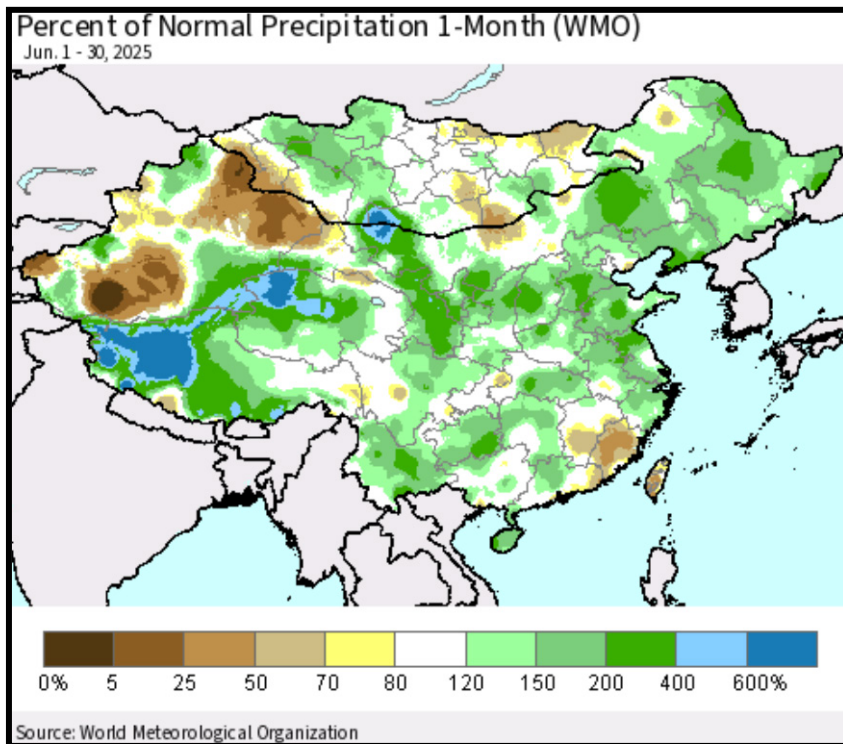
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China Plain, central Yellow River Basin, and Northeast China received more than two

times' normal precipitation.

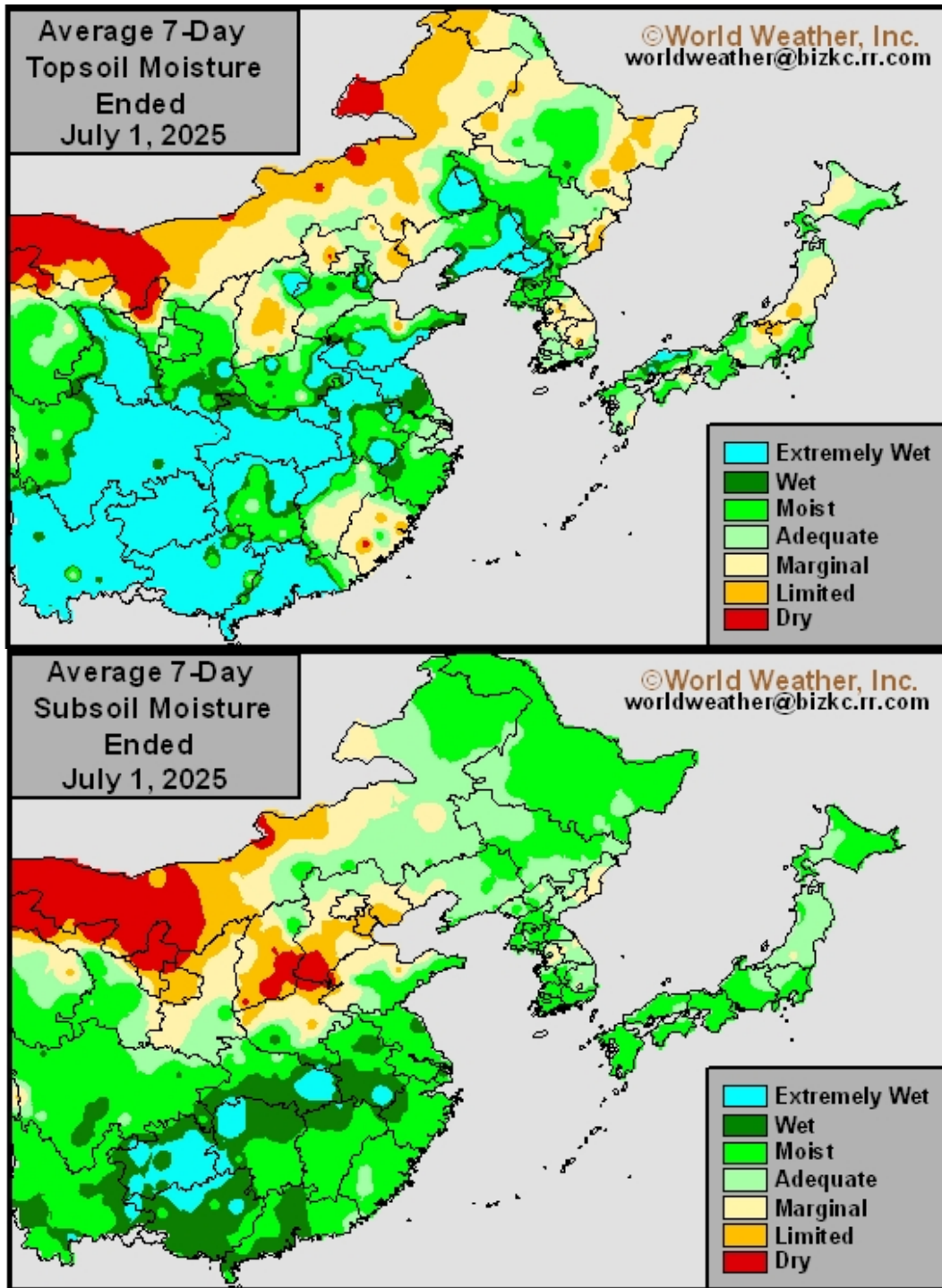
Soil moisture is at adequate to excessive levels in a large section of China. However, many areas in Inner Mongolia and portions of the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin still have a shortage of moisture despite some recent rainfall. Drought persists in portions of Shaanxi, southern Shanxi, and a few neighboring locations due to the lack of rain earlier this year. Portions of Fujian and

southern Jiangxi are also starting to experience drought as these areas have missed out on recent rain.



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The North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin received enough rain to further improve the drought during the past week. Additional rain is still needed to completely fix the dryness, though coarse grain, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops produced this time of year still benefitted from the rain. The remaining production areas in China had enough moisture to support aggressive growth as well.



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WEATHER OUTLOOK

Disturbances will generate erratic rainfall across the **North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin** through the middle of next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 1.50 to 5.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 8.00 inches or more in **Shanxi, Hebei, and northern Shaanxi**. **Other areas in Shaanxi into northern sections of Henan and Shandong** will receive 0.50 to 3.00 inches of rain. Southern sections of Shandong and Henan into northern Anhui and Jiangsu will only receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with locally greater amounts. Alternating periods of erratic rainfall and sunshine are slated for most locations July 10 – 16.

Shaanxi, Shanxi, Hebei, and immediate neighboring locations will receive enough rain in the coming days to further bolster soil moisture. The environment will continue to improve for the coarse grain, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops. The remaining locations in the North China Plain will otherwise dry down due to the lack of significant rain and warm daytime temperatures. These areas have enough moisture to maintain relatively good development during the next few days, though the need for rain will increase toward mid-July.

Precipitation will vary for **areas near and south of the Yangtze River** through the middle of next week. Yunnan, Guangxi, and Guangdong into Sichuan, Guizhou, and western sections of Hunan and Hubei will see rain scattered across these areas on a frequent basis. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches in most areas with local amounts of 6.00 inches or more in Sichuan and Yunnan. Other locations will trend drier than usual. Periods of spotty rain will still occur with totals ranging from 0.10 to 1.00 inch and locally greater amounts. Waves of rain are then slated for much of southern China and the Yangtze River Basin July 10-16.

Although many Fujian, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, and neighboring locations in southeastern and east-central China will dry down through the middle of next week, most locations will still have ample moisture to support aggressive growth. With rain likely returning during the second week of the outlook, production potentials should remain favorable. Other areas in the Yangtze River Basin and southern China will receive enough rain to maintain aggressive growth in the coming weeks.

Northern China will see a mix of erratic rainfall and sunshine through the middle of next week. A disturbance will promote the first wave of rain today into Friday. Scattered showers will prevail over the weekend and the first part of next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts of 3.00 inches or more in central Inner Mongolia and Liaoning. Pockets in northern Jilin and southern Heilongjiang will also only receive 0.10 to 0.50 inch of rain. Drier than normal weather will then evolve for much of the region July 10 – 16, though periods of erratic rain will still occur. **The region will receive enough rain to maintain a good environment for the corn, soybeans, rice, spring wheat, and other crops produced this time of year.**

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