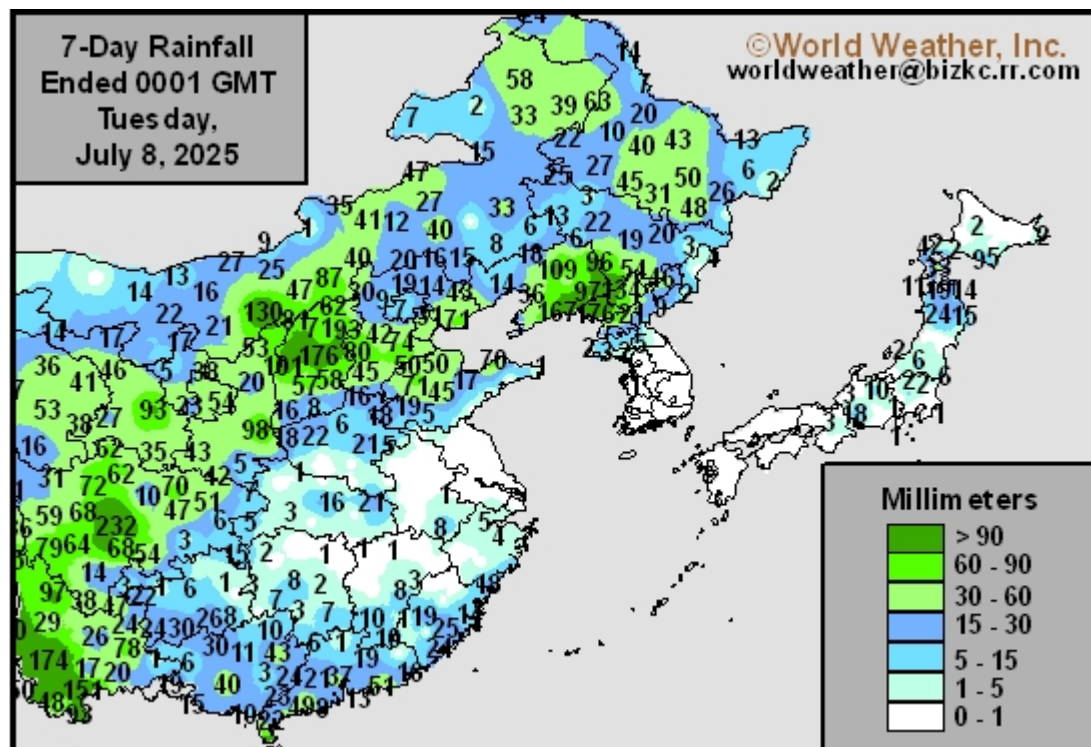


North China Plain Will Dry Down As Rain Potentials Decrease

By Andrew Owen

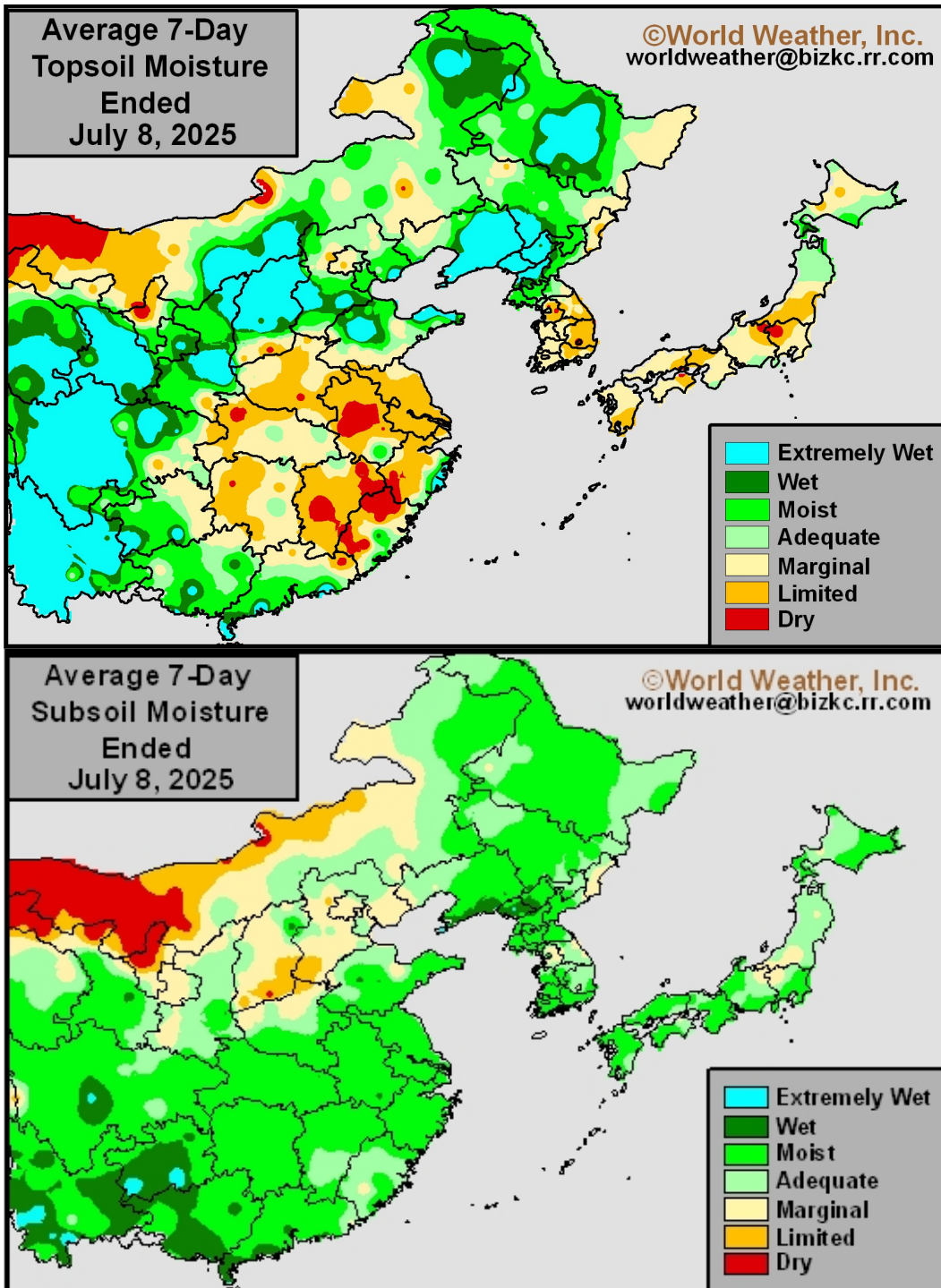
Kansas City, July 8 (World Weather Inc.) – Much of southeastern China, including the Yangtze River Basin dried down during the past week due to the lack of rain and periods of warmer than normal weather. Subsoil moisture remained sufficient to support crop development, but the topsoil became notably dry. Northern China; including the Northeast Provinces, Inner Mongolia and northern parts of the Yellow River Basin were favorably moist. *The coming week to ten days will bring significant rain back to most of southern China from the Yangtze River to the southern coastal provinces while drying dominates the North China Plain returning a little concern about long term crop development.* Most other areas in the nation should see a good mix of rain and sunshine to support crop development. Some of the heavy rain expected in southern China will come from the remnants of Tropical Storm Danas.

Rainfall varied significantly across China's main production areas during the past week. Yunnan and central Sichuan into Shaanxi, Shanxi, southern and northeastern Hebei, northern Shandong, Liaoning, southwestern Jilin, and portions of central Inner Mongolia received 1.00 to 5.00 inches of rain with local amounts up to 9.15 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning. Heilongjiang and other areas in Inner Mongolia, Jilin, and northern Hebei, along with northern Henan, southern Guizhou, Guangxi, Guangdong, and southern Fujian received 0.50 to 2.50 inches of rain. A few locations in Hubei, eastern Sichuan, Hunan, Jiangxi, southern Anhui, and southern Zhejiang received 0.12 to 0.83 inch of moisture. Little to no rain was noted elsewhere.



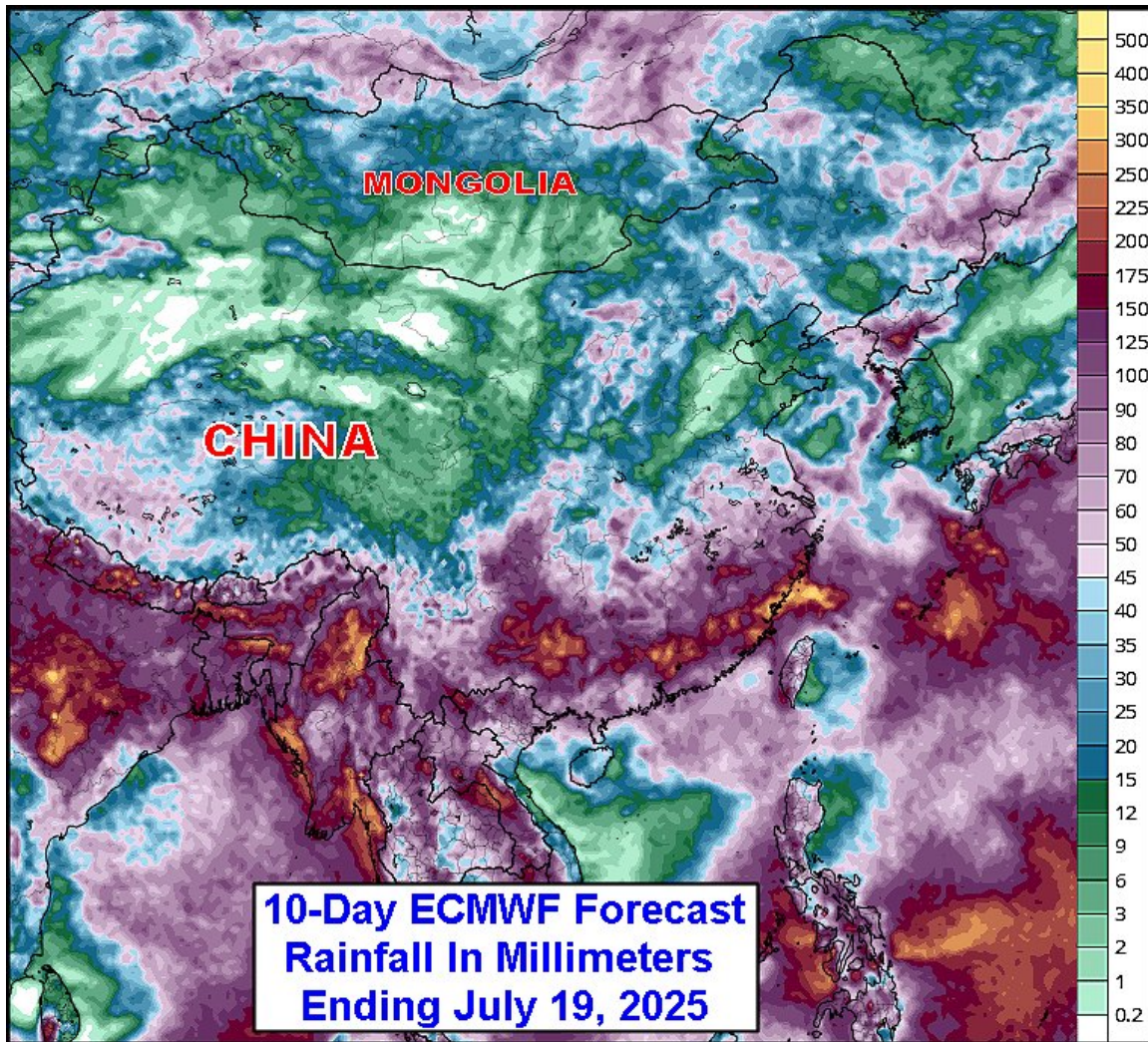
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Temperatures were warmer than normal at times in China during the past week. Highest readings were in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit **with pockets from southeastern and east-central China into the North China Plain occasionally warming above 100 degrees.** Low temperatures were often in the 60s and 70s with pockets from southern China and the Yangtze River Basin into the North China Plain only cooling to the 80s at times. Pockets in northern China also often cooled to the 50s.



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Topsoil moisture was rated short to very short Tuesday in much of the region south of the Yellow River with the driest conditions from southern Henan, Anhui and Jiangsu into interior parts of Zhejiang, northern Fujian and most of Jiangxi. The dryness in these areas was not a huge issue for crops because of favorable subsoil moisture; however, rain must resume soon to protect production potentials. In the meantime, Soil moisture in the northern Yellow River Basin, Inner Mongolia and Northeast Provinces was rated favorably and most spring and summer crop development should have advanced well.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Precipitation will vary across the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin during the coming week. A series of disturbance will bring rain to Shaanxi, Shanxi, Hebei, and immediate neighboring locations through Friday. Drier weather will evolve over the weekend and early next week, though periods of light rain will still be possible. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches and local amounts over 4.00 inches. The remaining locations in the North China Plain will otherwise

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trend drier than normal. A few locations in Shandong and Henan will still receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain by next Tuesday morning. However, most areas will not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Temperatures will trend near to above normal with daytime highs often reaching the 80s and 90s. Pockets in the North China Plain will also warm above 100 degrees during periods of drier weather. Drier-than-normal weather is then slated for much of the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin July 16 – 22.

Aggressive drying is slated for much of the North China Plain outside Hebei through at least the next seven-day period due to the lack of rain and warm to hot daytime temperatures. Most areas will have enough moisture to maintain relatively good coarse grain, oilseed, and cotton development during the next week to ten days; however, crop conditions may deteriorate later this month as the ground firms.

In the meantime, Hebei and the central Yellow River Basin will receive enough rain to maintain good crop growth during the coming week. A lack of follow-up rain during the second week of the outlook may increase the need for precipitation late in July to support favorable long-term production potentials.

Near and South of Yangtze River

Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will have several opportunities for rain during the coming week. *Tropical Storm Danas will meander around the southeastern China coastline during the next few days and will generate periods of heavy rain for Fujian and Zhejiang through Thursday. A large section of Zhejiang and Fujian will receive 3.00 to 7.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 12.00 inches or more by next Tuesday morning.* Other locations will receive 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 6.00 inches or slightly more in Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou, and Guangxi. Most locations will again see a mix of precipitation and sunshine July 16 – 22.

Flooding will be a significant concern in Fujian and Zhejiang during the next several days as Tropical Storm Danas advances over southeastern China. Damage to rice, sugarcane, and corn will be possible. Port damage is possible, although not likely to be a huge problem. The storm may hinder shipping activities for a few days and some flooding over land may also cause some travel delay. Other locations near and south of the Yangtze River will receive enough rain to maintain aggressive growth in the coming weeks.

Northern China

Northern China will see a mix of spotty rain and sunshine during the coming week. A series of disturbances will advance across the region on a frequent basis that will generate erratic rainfall on a near daily basis. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts over 3.00 inches in Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang. Pockets in western Liaoning will also only receive 0.10 to 0.50 inch of rain. The region will again see a mix of rain and sunshine July 16 – 22. *The environment will remain favorable for the corn, soybeans, rice, spring wheat, and other crops produced in the region.*

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