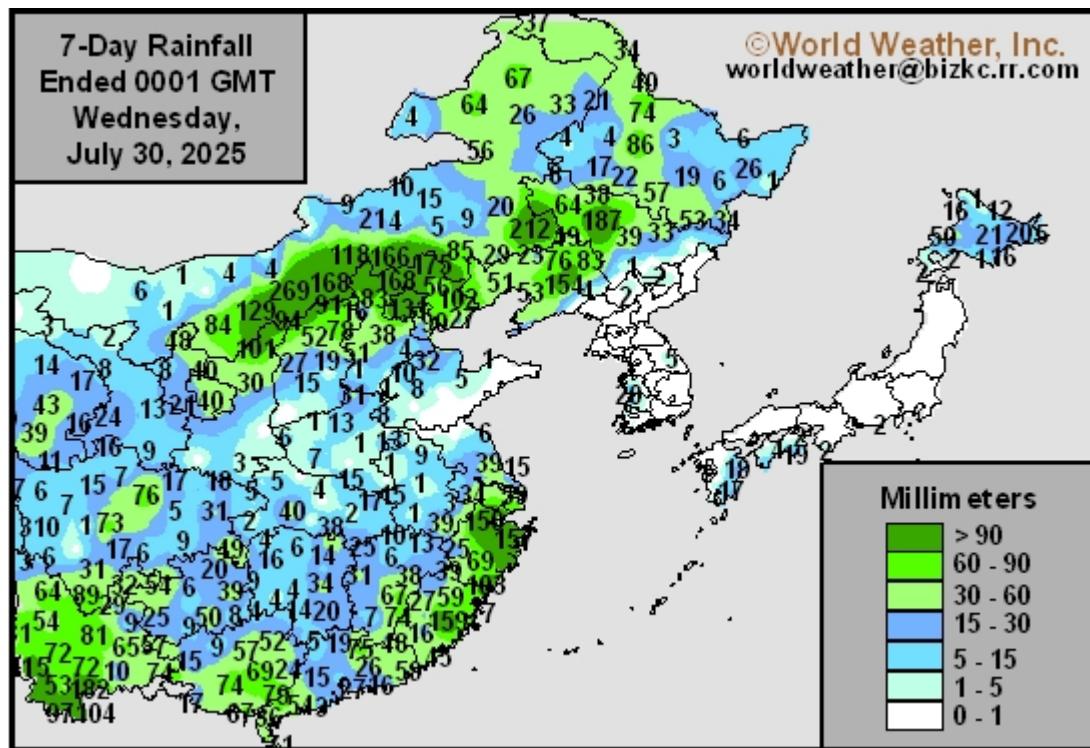


East-Central China Drying To Persist One More Week

By Andrew Owen

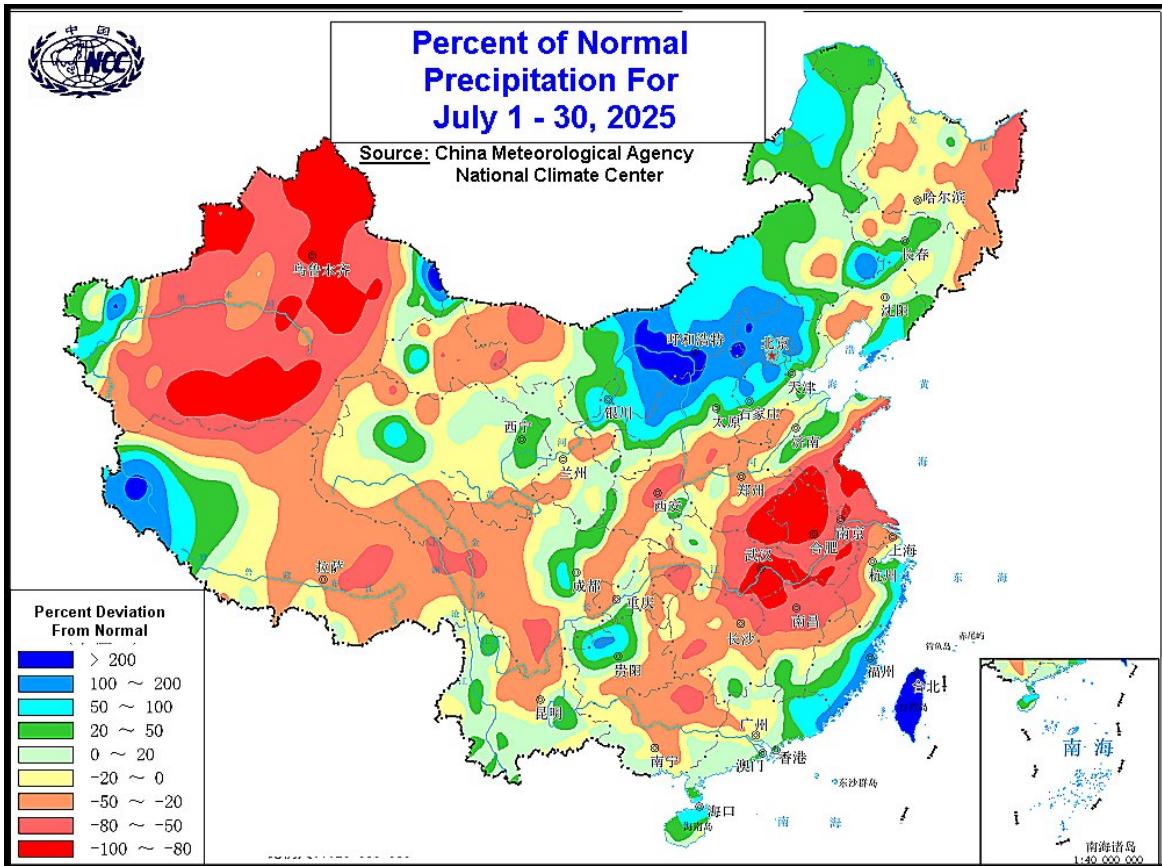
Kansas City, July 30 (World Weather Inc.) – Several areas in the North China Plain and southern sections of Shaanxi and Shanxi dried down during the past week due to a lack of rain and periods of warm to hot weather. These locations will continue to miss out on significant rain for at least the next seven days and will dry down further. Many areas in Henan, northern Anhui, and southern sections of Shaanxi and Shanxi already have a shortage of moisture. Additional drying may stress crops and could impact production potentials. Other locations in China have ample moisture to maintain aggressive growth. Waves of rain will keep the ground saturated for much of southern China and northern China in the coming days. In the meantime, Tropical Storm Co-May will advance into east-central China today and prevail through the end of the weekend resulting into local flooding in Jiangsu; though, the damage should be minimal.

Rainfall varied significantly across the main production areas in China during the past week. Several areas in central Inner Mongolia through northern sections of Shaanxi, Shanxi, and Hebei into Liaoning and the northern half of Jilin received anywhere from 2.00 to 10.50 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. Yunnan, Guangxi, southern Sichuan, Fujian, Guangdong, Zhejiang, southern Jilin, and portions of Heilongjiang and northeastern Inner Mongolia received 0.50 to 3.50 inches of rain with local amounts up to 7.17 inches in Zhejiang, Fujian, and southern Yunnan. Most other locations received 0.24 to 1.57 inches of rain, though several locations in Shandong, Henan, northern Jiangsu, and southern sections of Shaanxi and Shanxi were either dry or did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation.



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Seasonable to seasonably warm weather was noted across China during the past week. Daytime highs generally peaked to the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit with portions of eastern Sichuan, southern Shaanxi, and neighboring locations warming above 100 degrees in recent days. Several areas in northern China also only warmed to the 70s during periods of more significant rain.

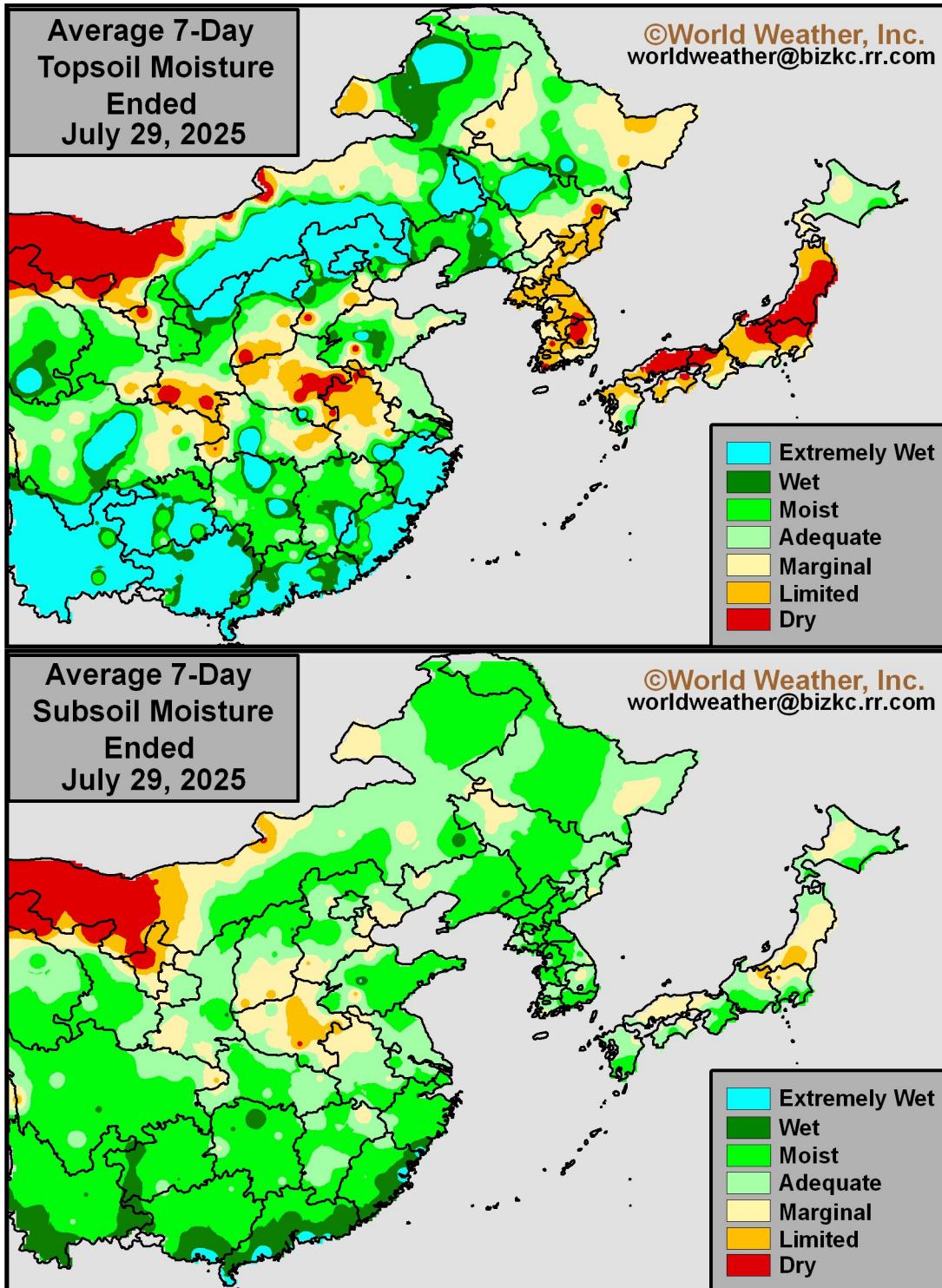


Many areas in Henan, northern Anhui, southern sections of Shaanxi and Shanxi, and immediate neighboring locations have short to very short topsoil moisture while Henan and immediate neighboring border areas has short subsoil moisture. This implies crop stress is most serious in Henan, southern Shanxi, southern Hebei and northern Anhui. Most other crop areas in the drier biased region have marginally adequate to adequate subsoil moisture. Soil moisture in the remainder of the nation was rated well, although local flooding has been occurring periodically in central Inner Mongolia and in a few of the far southern provinces.

Localized flooding has also developed in Zhejiang recently due to Tropical Storm Co-May which may have damaged a minor amount of crop.

Several areas in Henan have become too dry to support ideal conditions for coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops. Other locations in the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin have enough moisture to support new growth in the short-term. However, most locations would benefit from timely rain in the near future to maintain a good outlook for late-season development.

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WEATHER OUTLOOK

Tropical Storm Co-May will advance into east-central China today and slowly meander across the region through the end of the weekend. The disturbance will gradually weaken and should dissipate either late Sunday or early next week. Rain will spread across

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Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Anhui, northern Jiangxi, and immediate neighboring locations today and Thursday. Erratic rainfall will persist Friday into early next week as Co-May weakens and gradually dissipates. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches with local amounts of 6.00 inches or more in Jiangsu. Localized flooding will be a concern during the next few days, though no major crop damage is expected. The environment will otherwise remain favorable for the coarse grains, oilseeds, and other crops produced in these locations.

Southern China will receive rain on a frequent basis through the middle of next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 2.00 to 6.00 inches with local amounts of 9.00 inches or slightly more. Flash flooding will be a concern and may damage a minor amount of rice, sugarcane, and corn. However, overall production losses should be minimal. Long-term production potentials will otherwise remain favorable.

Northern China will also see a good mix of rain and sunshine through the middle of next week. Disturbances will often advance across the region and promote erratic rainfall on a near daily basis. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.50 to 3.00 inches and locally greater amounts in Heilongjiang. Pockets in Inner Mongolia will also only receive 0.25 to 0.50 inch of moisture. The rain combined with already adequate amounts of moisture will maintain a good environment for the rice, corn, soybeans, spring wheat, sunseed, and other crops produced this time of year.

The remaining locations in the North China Plain and Yangtze River Basin into the central Yellow River Basin will receive varying amounts of rain through the middle of next week. Sichuan into northern sections of Shaanxi, Shanxi, and Hebei will see a mix of spotty rain and sunshine. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches and locally greater amounts. The remaining locations will only have a few opportunities for spotty rain. Most locations will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain, though several pockets in Henan and southern Shaanxi will be mostly dry. Portions of eastern Sichuan, southern Shaanxi, Henan, and Hubei will also warm near or above 100 degrees at times, most notably over the weekend and the first part of next week.

Sichuan and northern sections of Shaanxi, Shanxi, and Hebei will receive enough rain to maintain relatively good crop conditions through the middle of next week. Henan, southern sections of Shaanxi and Shanxi, western Shandong, and portions of Hubei will otherwise dry down despite some spotty rain. These areas will likely become or remain too dry to support new growth. With periods of hot weather possible, some of the crops may be stressed. Rain potentials could increase for the driest locations August 7 – 13. If the rain verifies, production impacts could be minimal for the driest fields.

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