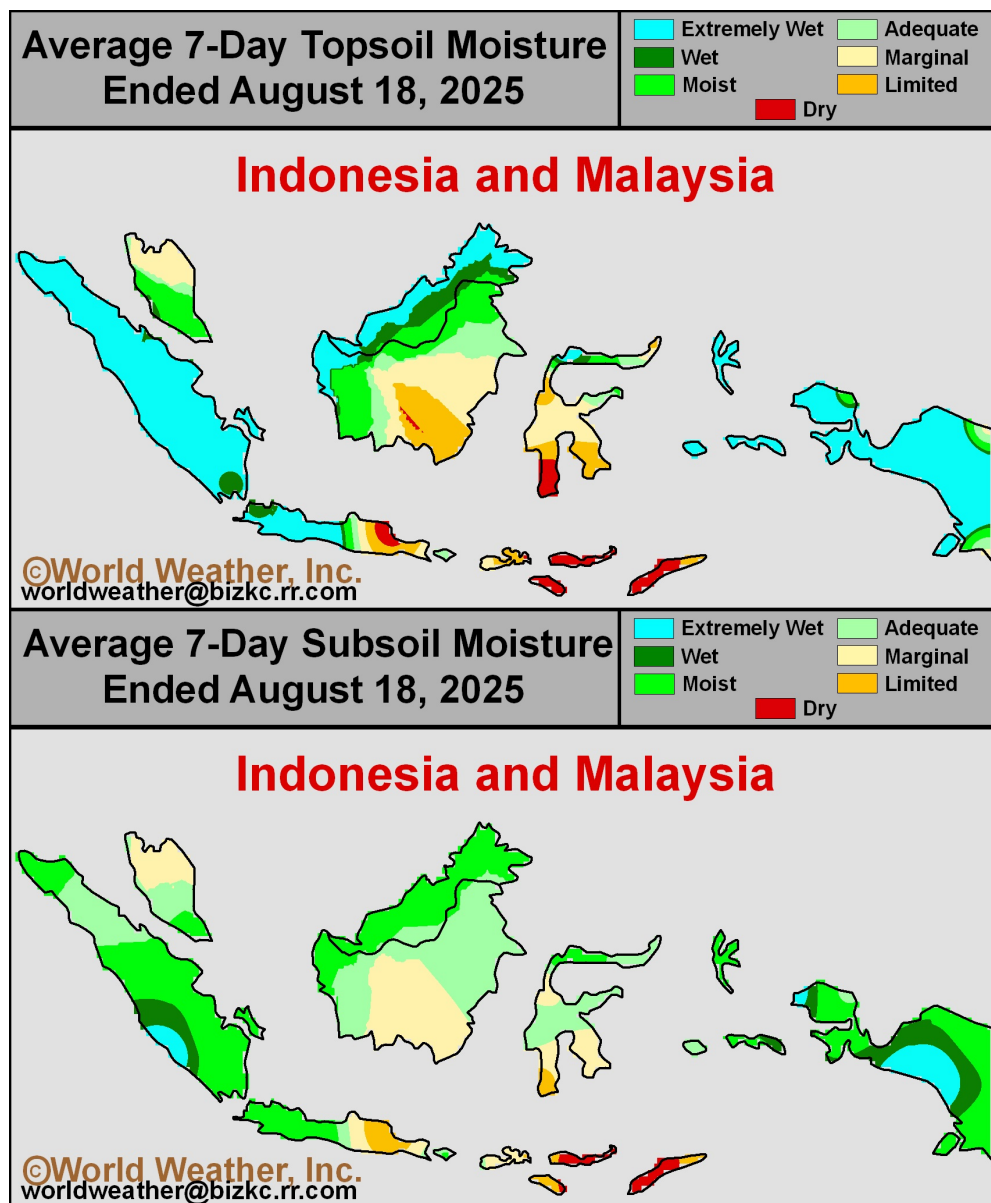


SE Asia Soil Moisture Either Improves Or Will Soon Improve

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

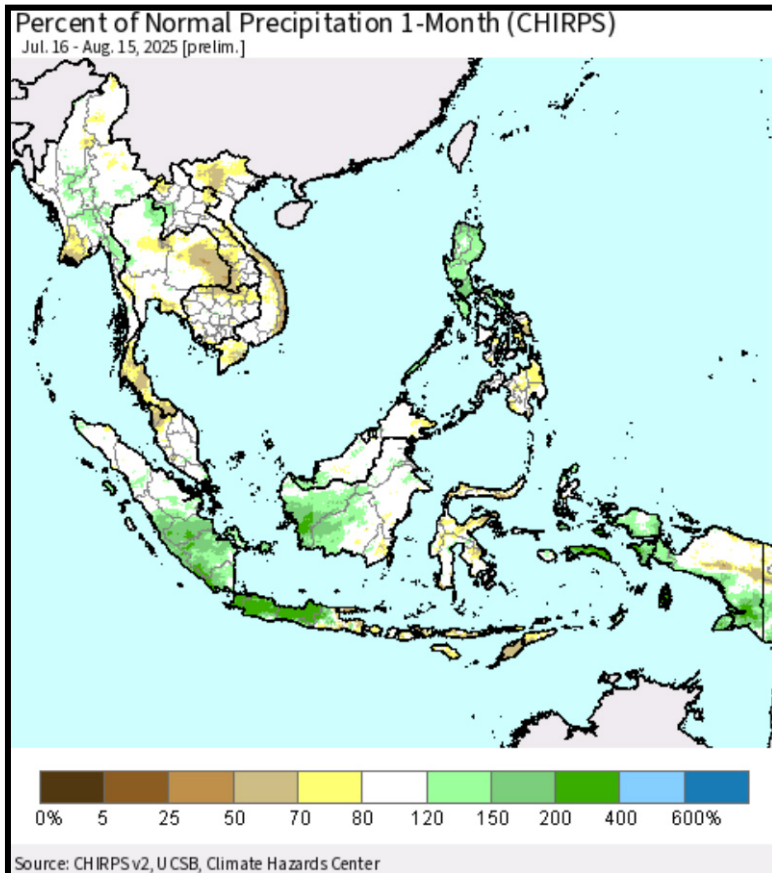
Kansas City, August 18 (World Weather Inc.) – [Some improvement in Southeast Asia weather has occurred recently, although there is still need for some additional precipitation in parts of the region.](#) A notable period of drying occurred in late July and lingered into early August in parts of Indonesia and Malaysia while central Thailand dealt with some erratic rainfall and lighter than usual soil moisture. [None of the dryness seems to have had a big impact on production potentials.](#) Parts of Sumatra will trend a little drier than usual this week and may start to dry down once again. Other production areas in Southeast Asia will see a good mix of rain and sunshine that will bolster or keep soil moisture at adequate to excessive levels. A tropical disturbance may also impact Luzon Island, Philippines late this week with flash flooding possible.



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Soil moisture improved nicely in Sumatra and western Java in the past couple of weeks while the ground continued to dry out over southern Kalimantan, Sulawesi, eastern Java and the Lesser Sunda Islands. Some of the disparity on soil moisture has to do with weather pattern trend changes that are occurring from northwest to southeast across these maritime provinces of Southeast Asia. Changes in Madden Julian Oscillation should bring greater rainfall to the drier areas of Indonesia during the next two weeks, although some pockets of dryness may linger. Similar changes have impacted a part of both Myanmar and western and central Thailand.

Rainfall during the past month was generally near to below normal for mainland



Southeast Asia. Several locations in central and northern Vietnam, eastern and peninsular Thailand, and pockets in Laos received 50% to 70% of normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending August 15. Sulawesi, eastern Kalimantan and the Lesser Sunda Islands of Indonesia and much of southern and central Philippines received near to slightly below normal rainfall. Malaysia and the remaining portions of Indonesia, along with northern Philippines received near to above normal rainfall.

The moisture profile remains relatively favorable for mainland Southeast Asia despite several locations trending a little drier than usual. Rainfall occurred on a

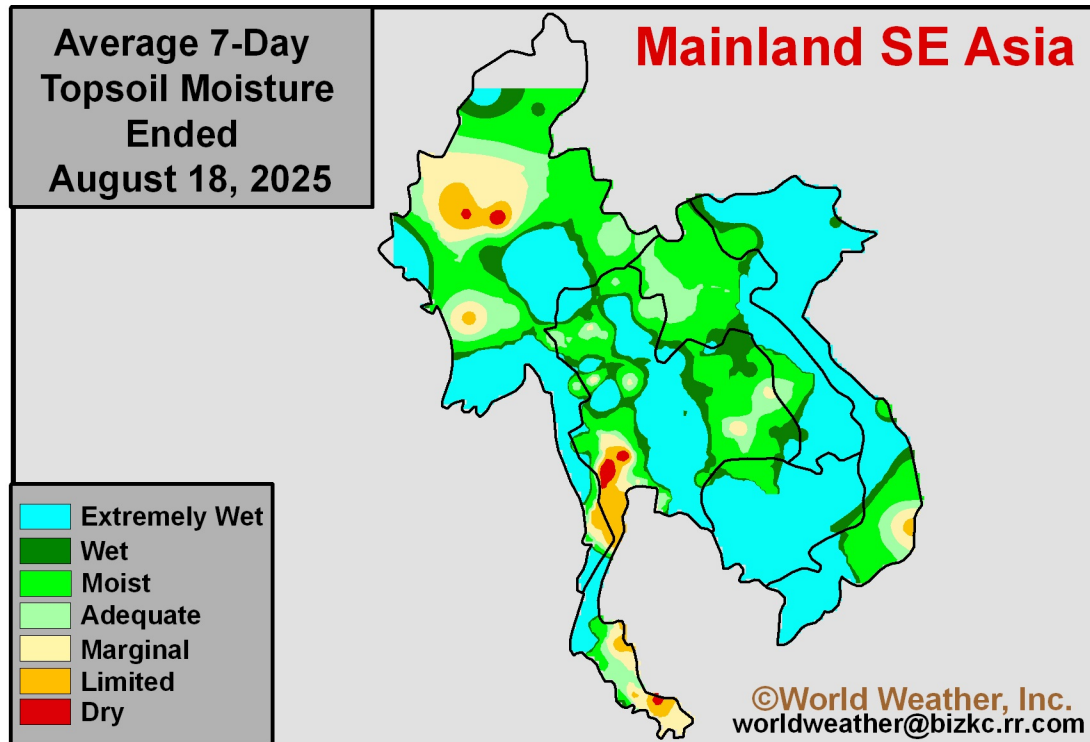
frequent enough basis to keep soil moisture at adequate or excessive levels outside a few pockets in Thailand which are actually trending wetter this week.

Several locations in Kalimantan, Sulawesi, the Lesser Sunda Islands, and eastern Java dried down due to a lack of rain in recent weeks. Several locations have a shortage of moisture in the topsoil while still having some moisture at subsoil levels. These areas still had enough moisture to support new growth, though a boost in rain would be welcome in the near future. Other locations in Indonesia and Malaysia have ample moisture to support aggressive growth.

The Philippines have adequate to excessive soil moisture. The country has been impacted by several tropical disturbances this summer that promoted periods of severe flooding. Damage to crops was noted, though the extent of the damage and losses was not known. The wettest areas in Luzon Island would benefit from drier weather in the coming weeks; however, a tropical cyclone may impact the region late this week inducing another period of excessive rain.

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The tropical disturbance that may evolve into a tropical cyclone may promote another round of significant rain in portions of Luzon Island Friday afternoon and evening when the system potentially clips the region. Much of the country will receive 2.00 to 6.00 inches of rain by next Monday morning. However, portions of northern Luzon could receive more than 10.00 inches of rain depending on the exact path the disturbance takes. The ground will be saturated in much of the country with severe flooding a possibility in northern Luzon. Some damage to crops may be possible in northern Luzon if the tropical disturbance advances across the region. Crop conditions elsewhere in the nation will remain relatively good.



Monsoonal rain will often be scattered across mainland Southeast Asia this week. Precipitation will occur on a near daily basis with totals ranging from 1.00 to 4.00 inches and locally more. Waves of rain will prevail August 26 – September 1. Rain potentials could increase during this time due to the phase of the Madden-Julian Oscillation. With waves of rain slated for mainland Southeast Asia through early September, soil moisture will remain or increase to adequate or excessive levels in most locations. The environment will improve or remain favorable for aggressive growth.

Precipitation will vary across Indonesia and Malaysia this week. The Lesser Sunda Islands and portions of northwestern Sumatra will trend drier than usual. These areas will still have a few opportunities for rain, though most locations will not receive enough precipitation to significantly impact long-term soil conditions. Malaysia and the remaining portions of Indonesia will otherwise see a mix of precipitation and sunshine. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.75 to 4.00 inches and locally more. Both countries will again have several opportunities for monsoonal rain August 26 – September 1. The driest areas in Indonesia will receive enough rain to improve the moisture profile

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outside the Lesser Sunda Islands. Crop conditions will remain relatively favorable across Indonesia and Malaysia.

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