

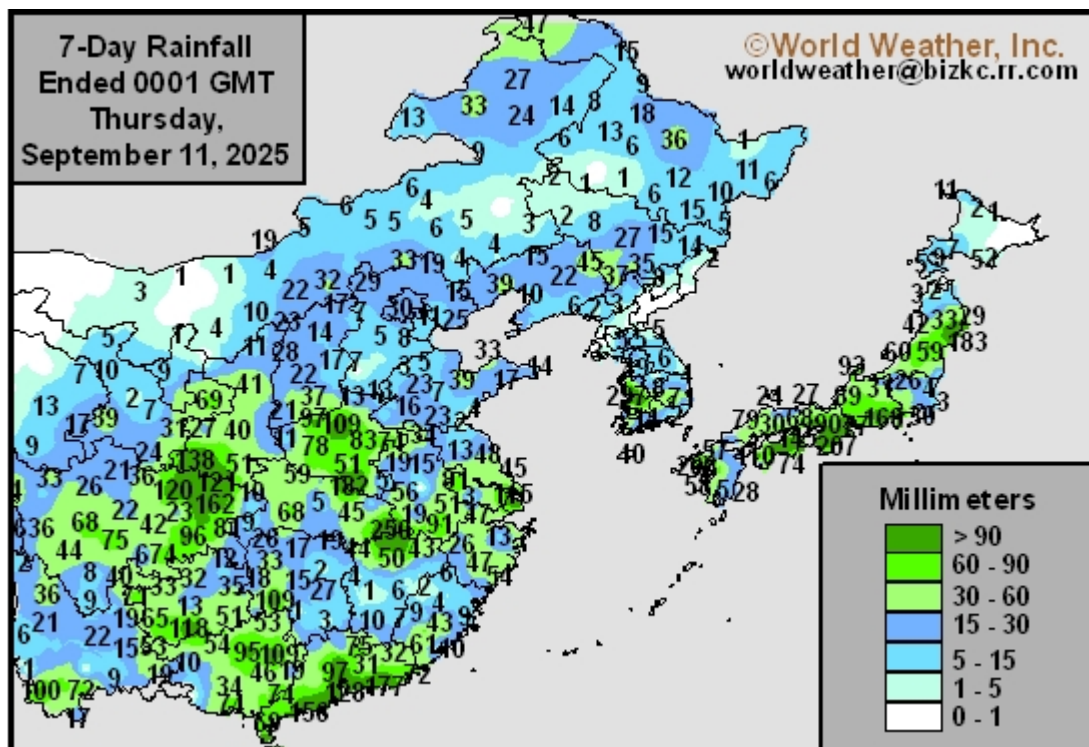
China Rain Slows Summer Crop Maturation, Harvesting

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, September 11 (World Weather Inc.) – It is not unusual for early September China weather to be wet; however, in most years the rainy season draws to a quick close in late September and drier weather evolves. *This year's rainy season is expected to linger a little longer with frequent showers and thunderstorms expected at least for another ten days and probably longer. The longer rainy weather prevails, the slower summer crop maturation and harvesting progresses and eventually there may be a need for a more definitive period of drier weather.* *In contrast, the moisture will prove to be quite beneficial for future winter wheat and rapeseed planting.*

China's crop harvest season normally begins in August or September depending on the crop. Harvest conditions have been relatively favorable for portions of southeastern and Northeast China in recent days due to a lack of rain and warm weather. Other production areas received varying amounts of rain that likely slowed or even delayed the harvest.

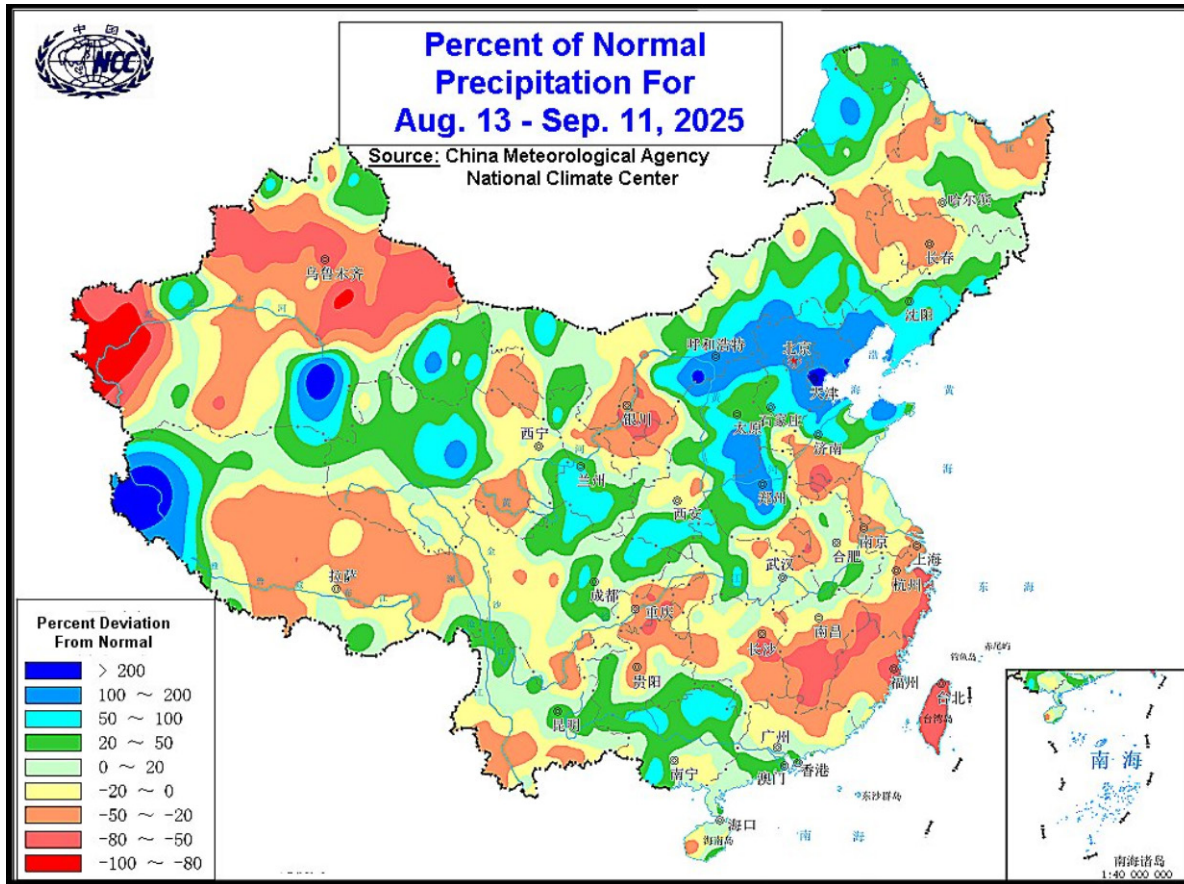
Precipitation totals for the 7-day period ending today varied from 1.00 to 5.00 inches with local amounts to 9.84 inches in Sichuan, southern Shaanxi, Henan, northern Jiangxi, southern Guizhou, Guangxi, Guangdong, and portions of southern Jiangsu and southern Anhui. Other locations generally received 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain, though several pockets in Fujian, southern Jiangxi, eastern Hunan, southern Hebei, Inner Mongolia, and northern Jilin only receive trace amounts to 0.50 inch of moisture.



Southeastern China and several pockets in Guizhou, Yunnan, Anhui, Jiangsu, Shandong, northern Shaanxi, northern Jilin, and Heilongjiang were drier than usual for the 30-day period ending this morning. Rainfall in most other production areas was near to

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above normal with portions of Hebei, Shanxi, northern Shaanxi, Henan, and Liaoning receiving well above normal rainfall for this time of year.



Several locations in Fujian, Jiangxi, eastern Hunan, and immediate neighboring locations have a shortage of moisture in the topsoil due to the lack of rain in recent weeks. Most other locations have adequate to excessive. Localized flooding was possible, though not confirmed, in Sichuan, southern Shaanxi, Henan, northern Anhui, and neighboring locations due to periods of heavy rain the past few days.

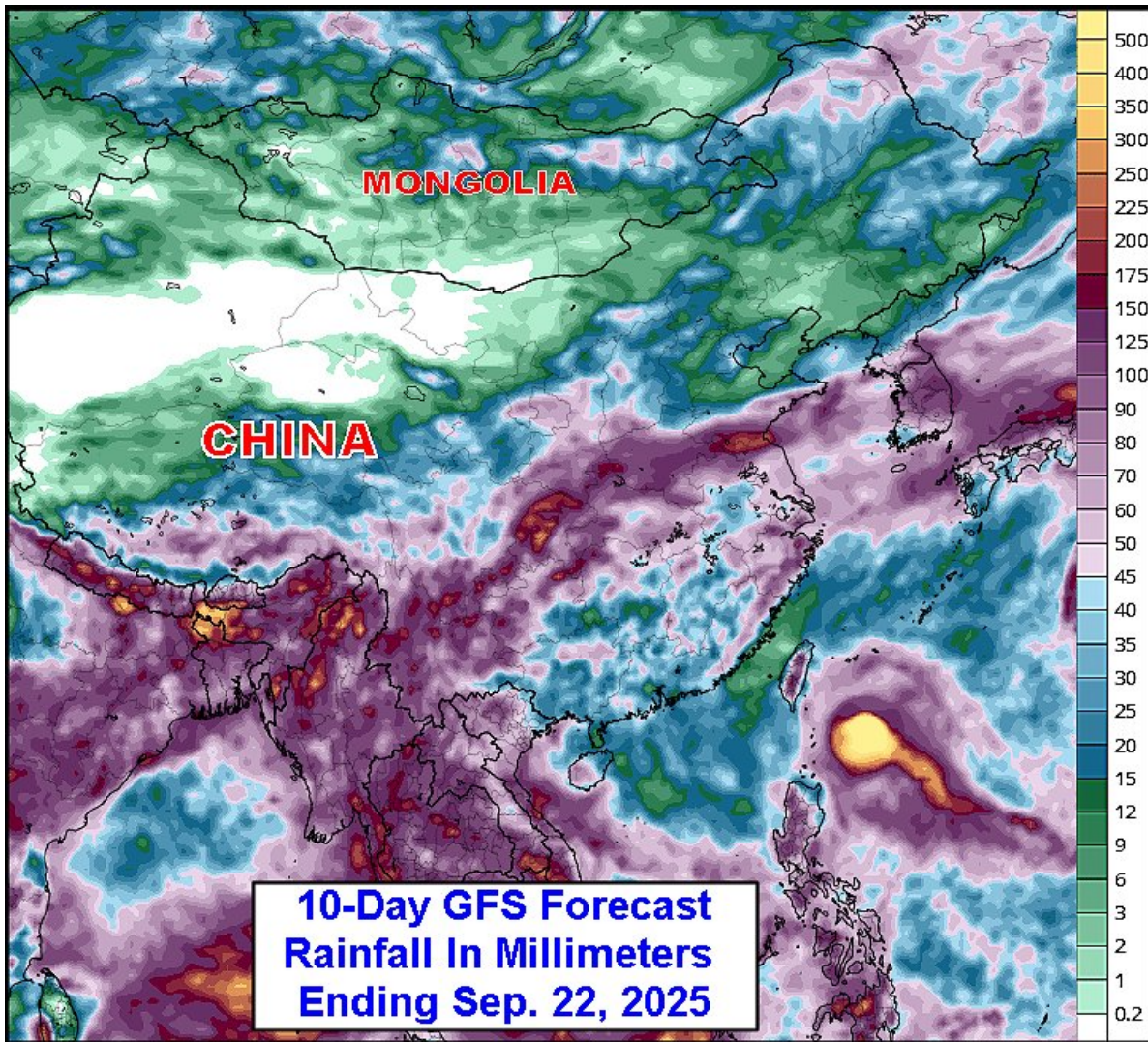
The environment remained favorable for any crops that are still developing. Even the driest fields in southeastern China still had some moisture in the subsoil to promote relatively good growth. The need for drier weather will increase in coming weeks as more crops mature and get ready for harvest. Harvesting of the early-planted crops usually begins later in August or early September before expanding later in the autumn.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

Some of the most frequent and significant rain during the coming week in China will occur **from the Yangtze River Basin into the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin**. Disturbances will generate some of the most widespread precipitation today and Friday. Spotty rain will occur in a few locations Saturday before more widespread rain returns later this weekend into the middle of next week. Moisture totals by next Thursday

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morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches with local amounts of 7.00 inches or more from Sichuan and southern Shaanxi into Henan, northern sections of Anhui and Jiangsu, and southern Shandong. Localized flooding will be possible today and again next week for the wettest pockets. Crop damage should be minimal.



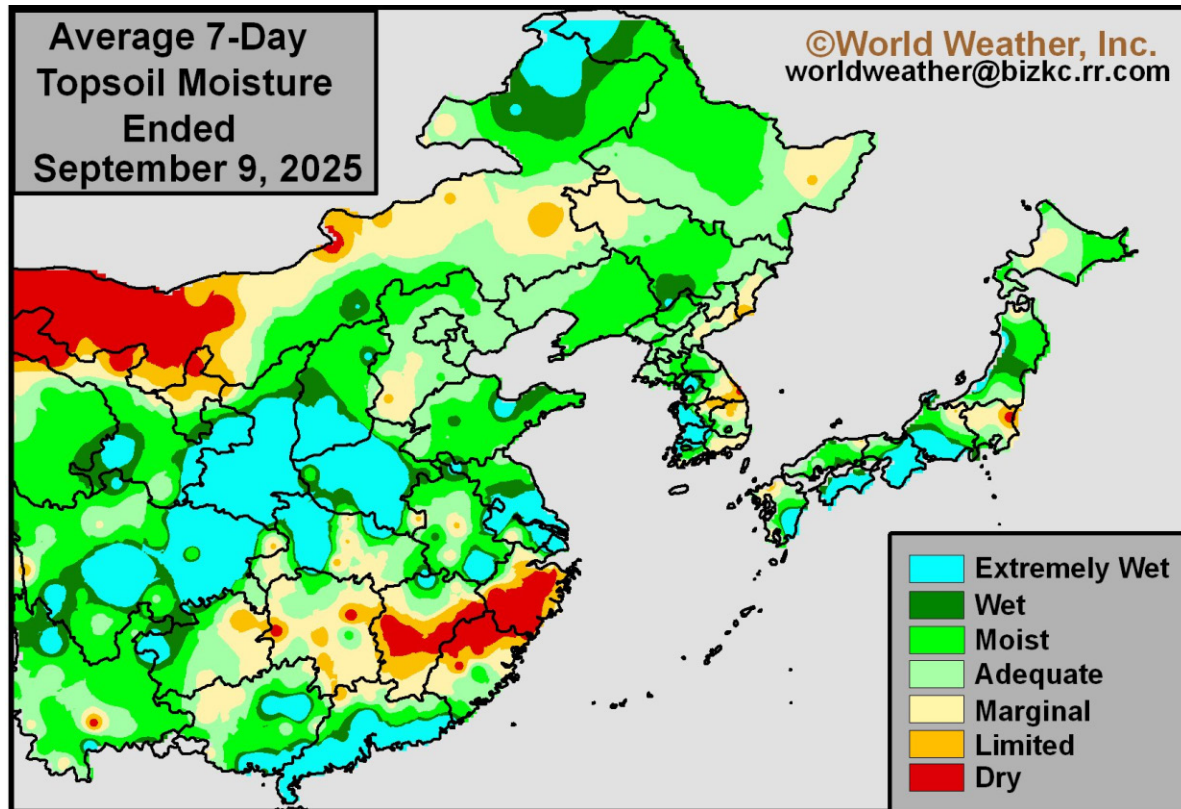
Southern China and northern China will see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine during the coming week. Rain will often be scattered across southern China, though many areas in the southeast will be dry over the weekend and early next week. Disturbances will promote erratic rainfall for northern China through the end of the weekend. Light rain will also occur in a few locations early next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.50 to 3.00 inches with local amounts of 5.00 inches or more in Yunnan. A few locations in southeastern China and central Inner Mongolia will also only receive 0.10 to 0.50 inch of rain.

Waves of rain during the coming week will maintain relatively good conditions for any crops that are still developing. However, the environment will remain less than favorable or even poor for maturation and early-season harvesting, most notably in the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin. Additional harvest delays and potential

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crop quality issues are possible as the rain continues in the September 19-25 period. Some crop quality declines will be possible in a few of the wetter areas.

Winter wheat and barley planting usually begins in September and persists into early November for the North China Plain and neighboring production areas. Early-season planting will likely get off to a sluggish start due to the wet weather in the coming weeks, but crop emergence and establishment should be quite successful because of abundant subsoil moisture when the crop finally gets planted. Winter rapeseed planting in the Yangtze River Basin begins in October. Most locations will have ample moisture to support good establishment once planting begins.



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