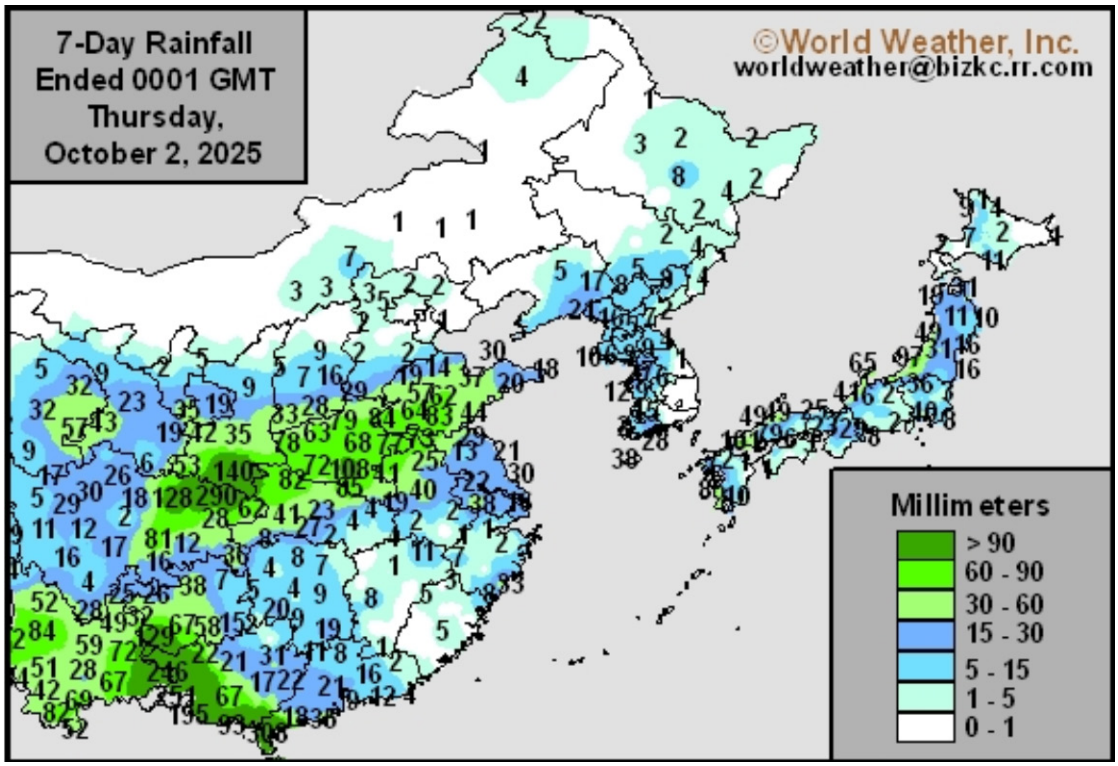
China's Yellow River Basin, North China Plain Too Wet

By Andrew Owen

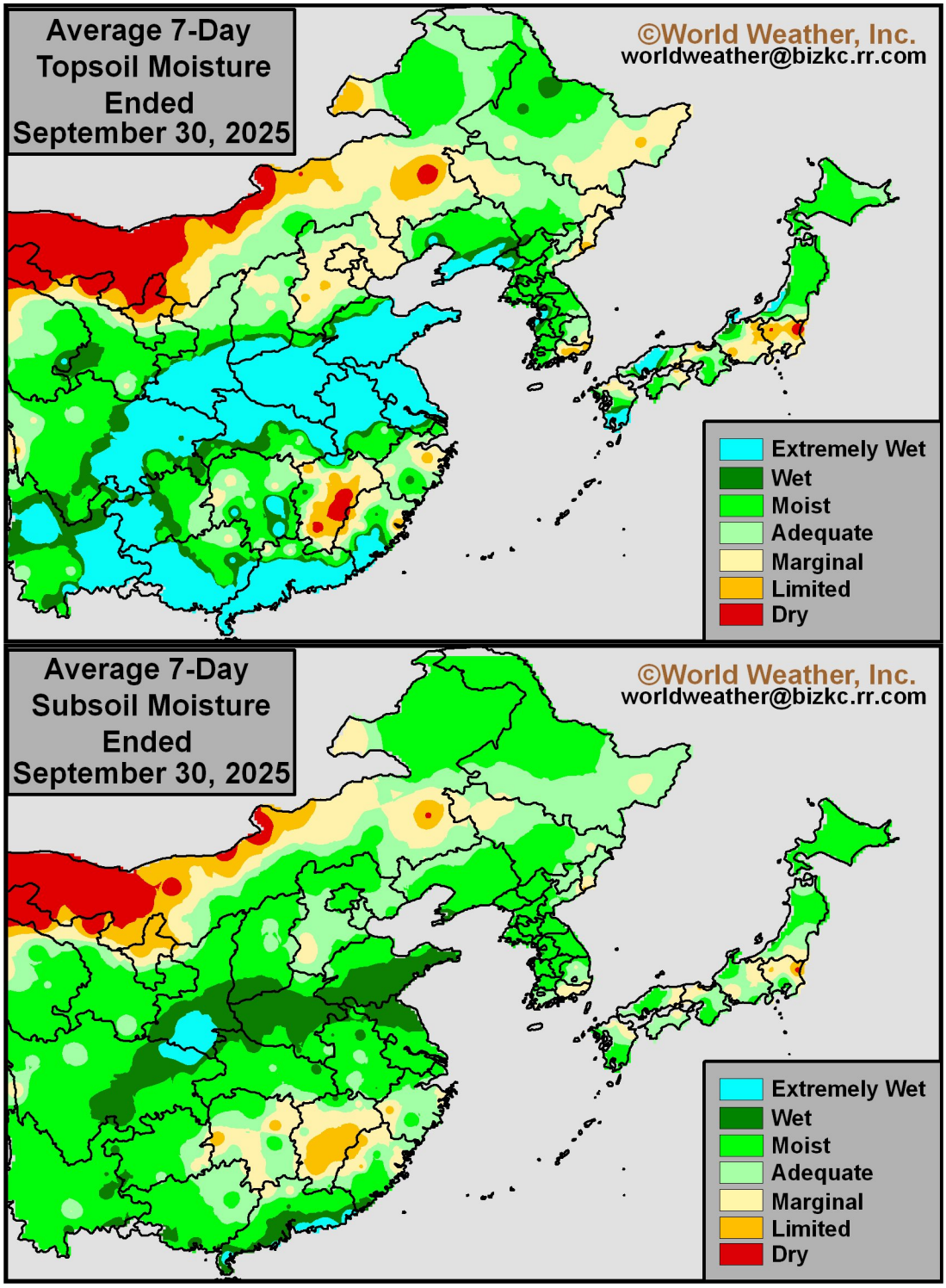
Kansas City, October 2 (World Weather Inc.) – ***Waves of rain have been occurring in China's Yellow River Basin in recent weeks causing delays in summer crop maturation and harvest progress. Some of the rain has also delayed winter wheat planting. Northern parts of the basin experienced some welcome drying this past week while too much rain fell south of the river resulting in ongoing delays to farming activity. The wet pattern is expected to continue, although it will shift northward in the coming week and fester on the northern half of the Yellow River Basin where the ground is likely to become too wet once again expanding the area impacted by too much moisture.*** Concern about unharvested summer crop conditions will rise and so will the concern over wheat planting, emergence and establishment. Flood potentials will also rise over time. Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Matmo may bring significant rain to southwestern China late this weekend and early next week that could disrupt the harvest there, as well.



Two areas of significant rain were noted in eastern China over the seven day period ending today. The first was in the southern Yellow River Basin where 2.00 to 4.00 inches were common except in northeastern Sichuan and southern Shaanxi where amounts of 5.00 to 11.42 inches resulted. The second area of significant rain was associated with Typhoon Ragasa that moved inland September 24 over southwestern Guangdong and dissipated over northern Vietnam September 25-26 with rain totals of 2.50 to more than 8.00 inches. One location in western Guangdong reported 12.15 inches of rain. **Both areas of heavy rain likely experienced some flooding.** Rainfall in most other areas varied from nothing to 1.00 inch resulting in net drying in both northeastern and far southeastern parts of the nation.

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Soil moisture in both of the wettest areas identified above was rated excessive on September 30 and some flooding likely resulted. In contrast, northeastern China and crop areas north of the Yellow River had adequate to short soil moisture and the same was true for the interior southeast of China. A part of Jiangxi had very short topsoil and subsoil moisture suggesting a little crop stress due to dryness in that province.

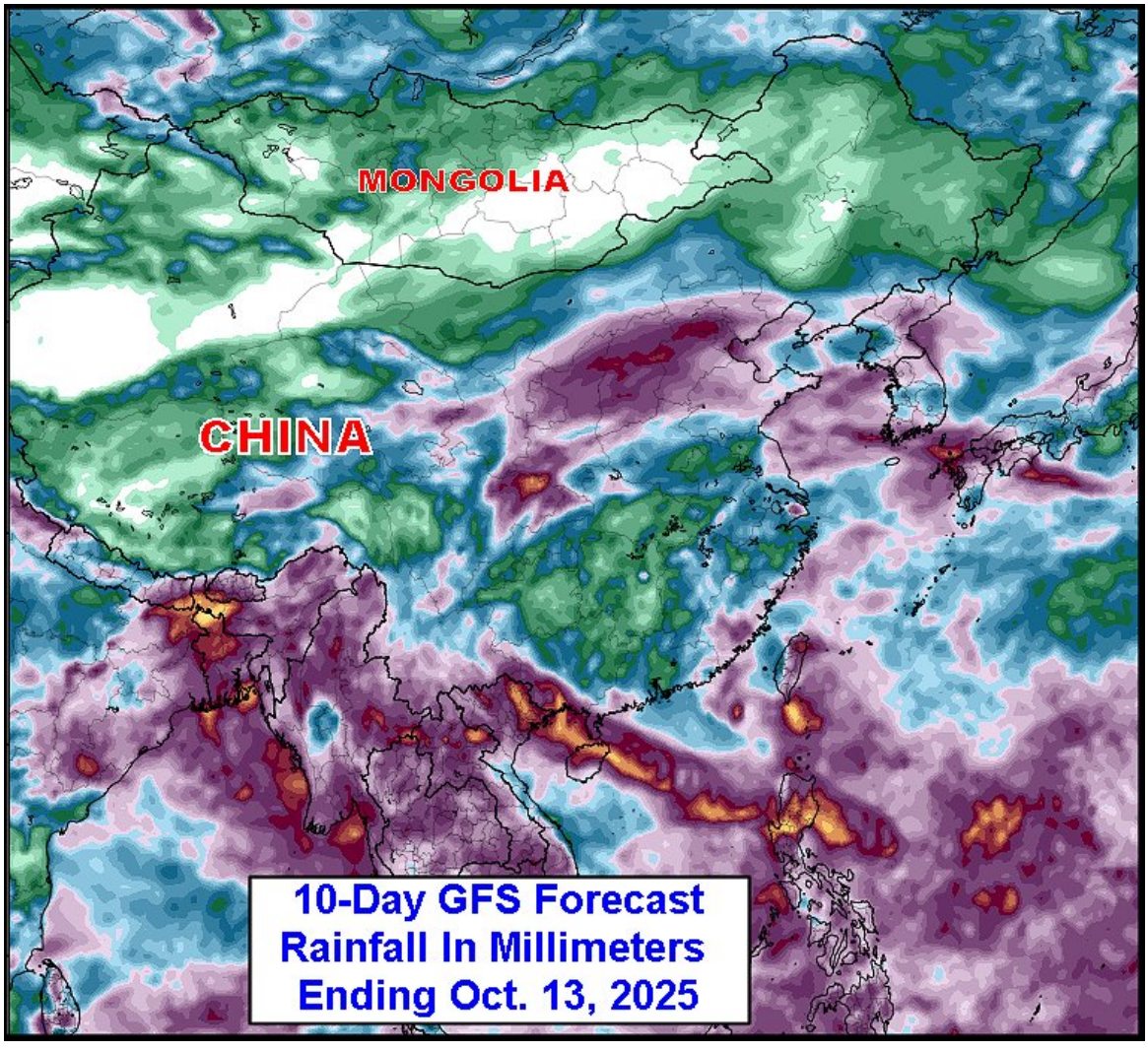


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Several locations from the central Yellow River Basin and North China Plain into Sichuan and southwestern China have been too wet for aggressive harvesting in recent days. An extended period of drier and warmer weather is needed to dry the ground and promote better harvest conditions. ***Quality declines were also possible in the wettest oilseed, and cotton areas.*** Harvest conditions were more favorable in the remaining production areas of China due to drier soil and weather conditions.

In the meantime, some early winter rapeseed planting likely advanced swiftly in much of the Yangtze River Basin outside the wettest locations in Sichuan. Establishment conditions are relatively favorable. The bulk of planting in that region typically occurs from mid-October through November. Winter wheat planting in the North China Plain usually occurs from late September through October and may be advancing slowly in the wettest locations.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



China's Yellow River Basin, North China Plain Too Wet

Waves of rain will prevail for the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin into Sichuan and neighboring areas of Hubei and Guizhou. Precipitation will occur on a near daily basis with totals ranging from 0.75 to 4.00 inches by next Thursday morning. Local rain totals of 6.00 inches or more will also be possible in Sichuan, Shaanxi, and Shanxi. Localized flooding will be a concern in Shaanxi, Shanxi, and Sichuan due to the additional rain and if the rain prevails through the entire ten-day period (as advertised above) a more broad-based problem with standing water could evolve that might delay fieldwork well beyond the end of the rainy period. Some crop damage might also be a problem if the wet bias lasts too long. Harvesting, planting and general fieldwork will either be on hold or advance very slowly in much of the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin as the rainy pattern evolves and festers. **The need for drier weather will remain high toward mid- and late-October.**

Other production areas in China will generally trend drier than usual during the coming week with a few exceptions. Tropical Storm Matmo will likely promote significant rain in Yunnan and portions of Guangxi later this weekend and early next week. These areas will receive 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain with several locations in southern Yunnan and southwestern Guangxi potentially receiving 4.00 to over 8.00 inches of moisture. Flooding will be the greatest concern and could damage some of the unharvested rice and sugarcane. The remaining locations will have a few opportunities for spotty rain that may briefly disrupt the harvest. No major delays are expected. Winter rapeseed planting will advance swiftly in the Yangtze River Basin.

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