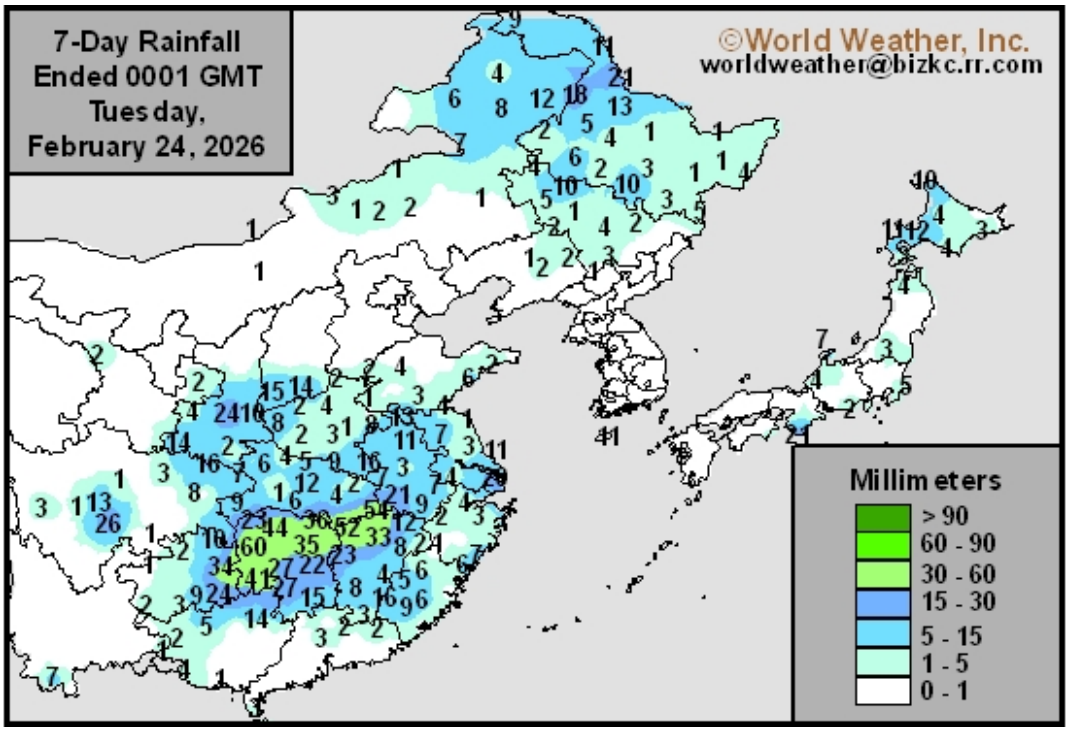
China's Rapeseed, Wheat Areas Will Receive Timely Precipitation

By Andrew Owen

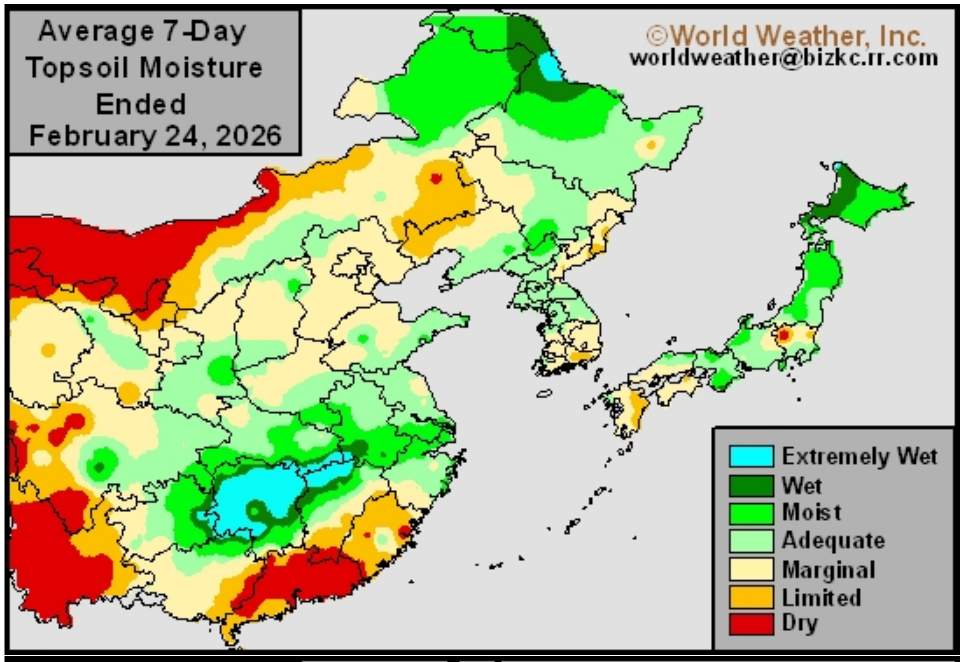
Kansas City, February 24 (World Weather Inc.) – ***Winter rapeseed and wheat prospects remain generally favorable across the main production areas in China. Timely winter precipitation and leftover moisture from last autumn will support aggressive growth this spring. There is still some question as to how well planting recovered in wheat areas last autumn after some of the worst flooding in decades across a part of the production region. Rapeseed is likely coming out of dormancy while the main wheat areas are still too cold to support growth.*** In the meantime, drought is ongoing in several areas of southern China. Abundant rainfall is needed to break the drought and improve early-season planting conditions. Waves of precipitation are slated for a large section of China during the coming week. Areas near and immediately south of the Yangtze River Basin will receive the greatest amount of rain. ***Improvements to the moisture profile are expected in portions of southern China, though much more rain will be needed to fix the dryness***. Winter wheat and rapeseed prospects will remain favorable due to the additional precipitation.

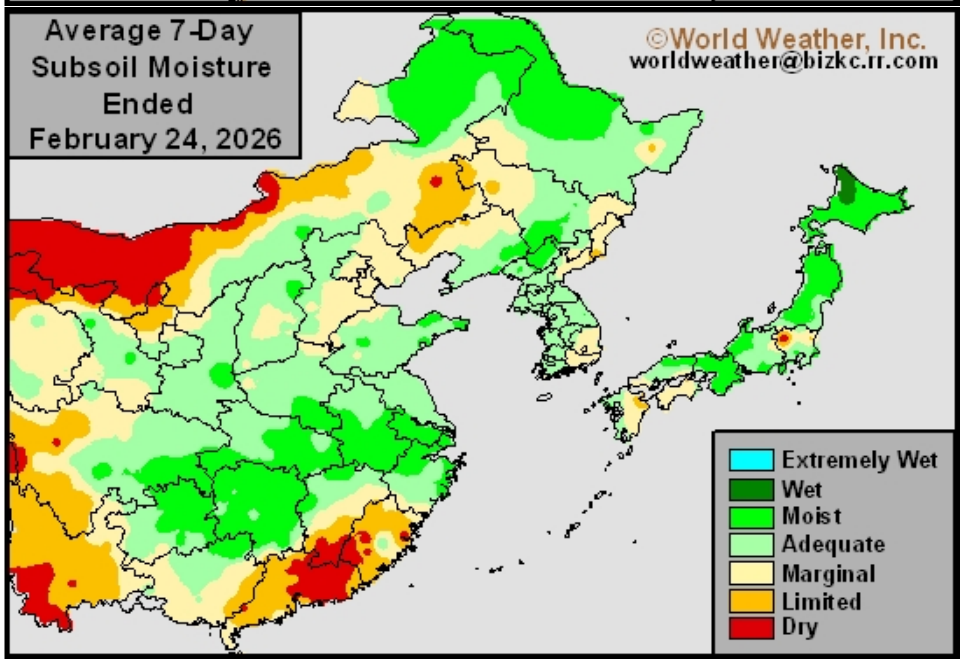
Hunan, northern Jiangxi, and eastern Guizhou received some of the most significant precipitation in China during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.59 to 2.36 inches. Hubei, Anhui, Jiangsu, and portions of Fujian, Zhejiang, southern Jiangxi, northern Guangxi, Henan, Sichuan, southern Shanxi, central and southern Shaanxi, Heilongjiang, northern Jilin, and northeastern Inner Mongolia received 0.20 to 0.95 inch of moisture. Little to no precipitation was noted elsewhere.



Last week's rain improved topsoil moisture in the Yangtze River Basin where it was rated adequate to excessive. Soil moisture remains rated short to very short in portions of far

southern China and pockets of Inner Mongolia. Other locations generally have adequate or marginally adequate moisture.

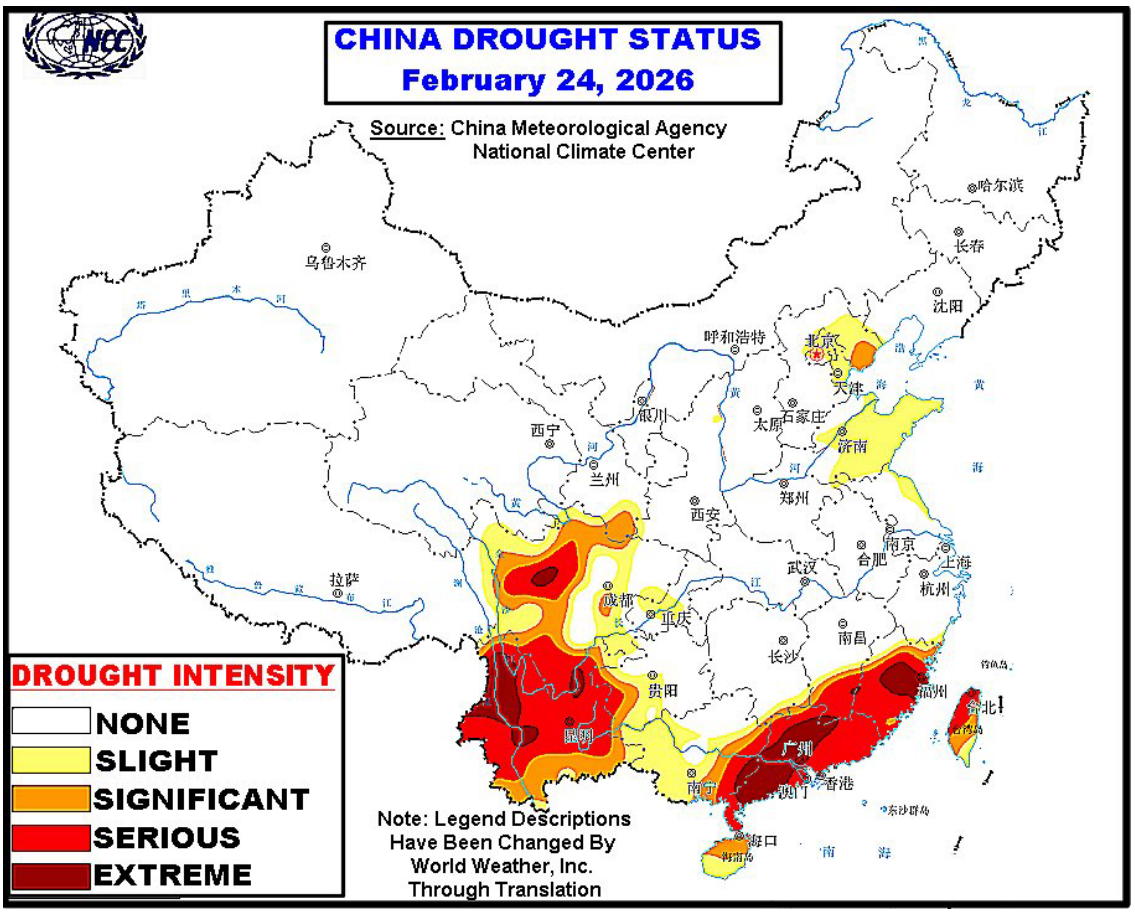




Winter rapeseed prospects in the Yangtze River Basin are favorable due to periods of precipitation over the winter. Daytime temperatures were warm enough to bring some of the crop out of dormancy in the past few days and development conditions are relatively good. Winter wheat prospects in the North China Plain are also favorable in the North China Plain. However, much of the wheat crop remains dormant.

Drought or abnormally dry conditions were noted in a large section of southern China and portions of Sichuan. Precipitation was lower than usual over the winter and the

ground gradually firmed across the region. Early-season planting usually begins in March. The need for significant rain is high to reduce drought and support better early-season planting and establishment conditions.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

An unusually wet weather pattern is slated from southern China and the Yangtze River Basin into portions of the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin during the coming week. The first disturbance will bring erratic rainfall to these areas today into Thursday. Another system will promote rain and some light snow Friday through early next week. The Yangtze River Basin and northern sections of Guangxi, Guangdong, and Fujian will receive 1.50 to 5.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 7.00 inches or slightly more in Jiangxi and immediate neighboring areas. Other areas in southern China and areas from Henan and southern Shaanxi into northern sections of Anhui and Jiangsu will receive 0.50 to 3.00 inches of moisture, though many areas in Yunnan will be dry. The remaining locations in the North China Plain and central Yellow River will receive 0.20 to 1.00 inch of moisture. Pockets in the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin will also see light snow accumulate later this weekend and early next week.

Northern China will have a few opportunities for erratic snow during the coming week. A series of disturbances will promote waves of precipitation during this time with moisture totals ranging from 0.10 to 0.75 inch by next Tuesday morning. Several areas in

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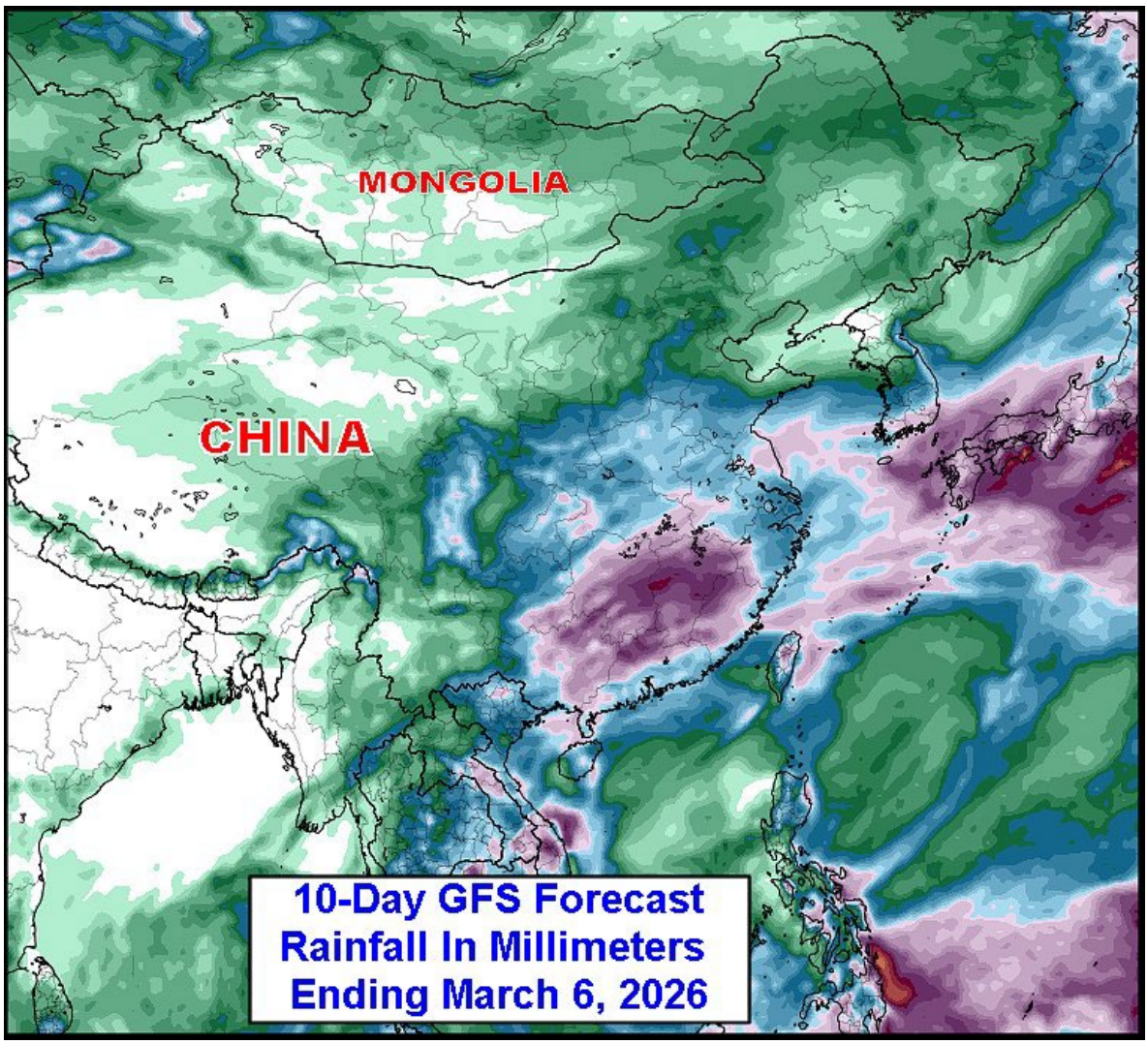
Inner Mongolia and a few locations in northern and central Heilongjiang will see 2 to 6 inches of snow accumulate with locally greater amounts. Little to no snow will accumulate elsewhere.



Areas near and south of the Yangtze River Basin will continue to see waves of precipitation March 4 – 10. The remaining production areas will have a few opportunities for light precipitation as well.

Precipitation in the coming weeks will bolster or keep soil moisture near current levels in a large section of China. Winter wheat and rapeseed prospects will remain favorable due to the additional precipitation. Warm daytime temperatures will also support slow growth in portions of the Yangtze River Basin. Southern China may see some improvement to the drought, though the region will need much more rain to completely fix the dryness and support ideal early-season planting.

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