

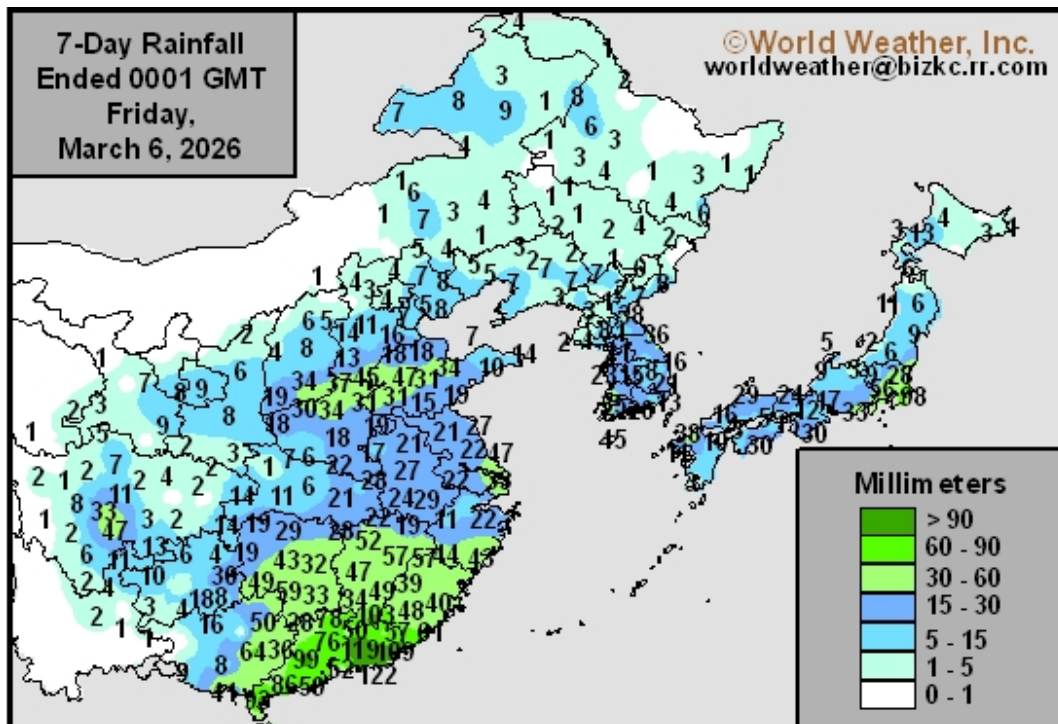
# Southeast China Drought Erased After Recent Rainfall

By Andrew Owen

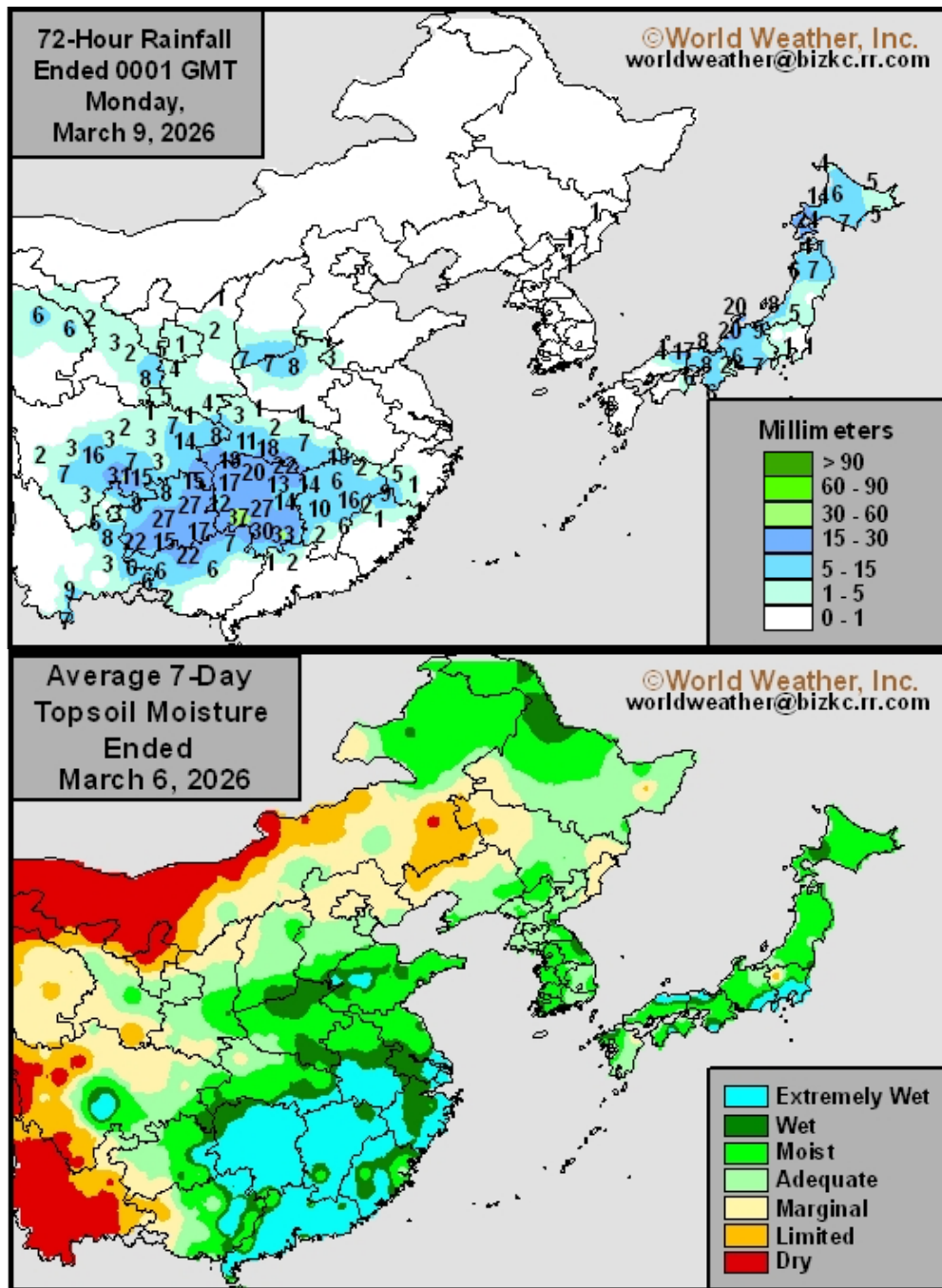
Kansas City, March 9 (World Weather Inc.) – *Drier-than-normal weather over the winter severely depleted soil moisture in much of southern China. Drought evolved as the ground firmed, though a good soaking of rain during the past week generally erased the drought in southeastern China.* Early-season planting prospects improved across the region. *Southwestern China remains in drought and a boost in rain would be welcome.* *Winter rapeseed conditions are favorable across the Yangtze River Basin due to rainfall this past week and timely precipitation over the winter. The North China Plain also received timely precipitation during the past week and winter wheat prospects remain favorable.* Precipitation through this next week will favor portions of the western Yangtze River Basin and southwestern China. *The driest areas in southwestern China will still need additional precipitation to completely fix the moisture deficits. Winter crop conditions will remain favorable, even in areas that receive little to no precipitation in the coming days.*

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Guangdong received the most significant rain in China's main production areas during the week ended last Friday. Moisture totals ranged from 2.00 to nearly 5.00 inches. Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, eastern Guangxi, Zhejiang, and portions of Shandong, Jiangsu, Henan, southern Shanxi, and central Sichuan received 0.50 to 2.32 inches of moisture. Hubei, Guizhou, other areas in Sichuan, Anhui, and southern Hebei received 0.43 to 1.14 inches of moisture. Shaanxi, northern sections of Shanxi and Hebei, and much of Northeast China received trace amounts to 0.35 inch of moisture. Other production areas received little to no precipitation.



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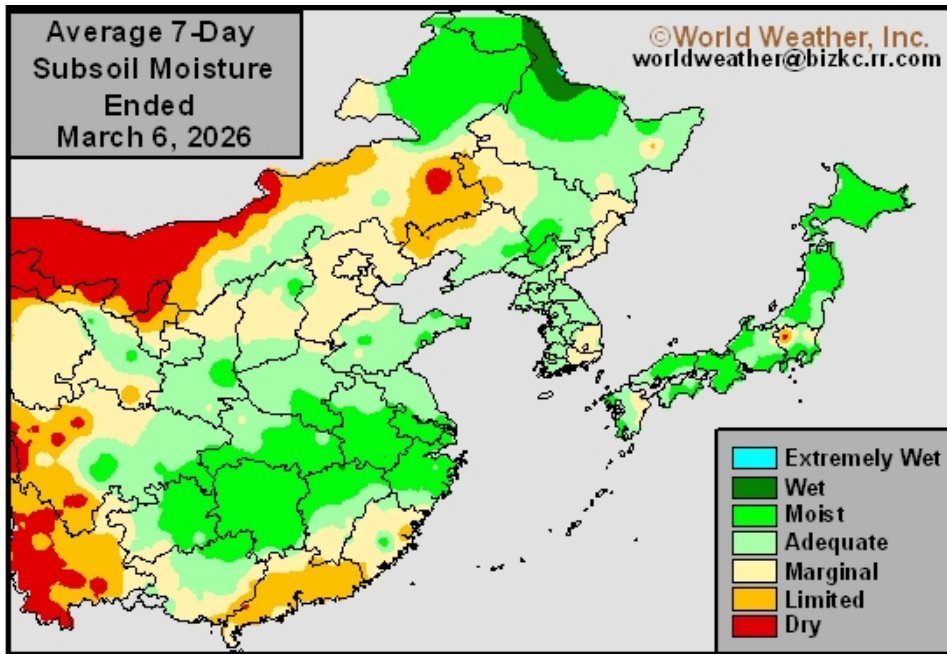


Additional rain fell in the interior southern parts of China during the weekend further ensuring moisture abundance from eastern Sichuan into Guizhou and east into Hunan.

[Several locations in southeastern China entered March under varying levels of drought after experiencing drier than usual conditions over the winter. However, recent rainfall was enough to completely erase the drought in most locations.](#) Early-season planting prospects improved as a result across the region. [In the meantime, drought or abnormally dry conditions are ongoing in Yunnan and portions of Guangxi, Guizhou, and Sichuan. These areas need to see more frequent rainfall in the coming weeks to support better early-season planting prospects and some of that need is being fulfilled.](#)

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**Other production areas in China are largely drought-free. The Yangtze River Basin has ample moisture to support aggressive winter rapeseed growth. Prospects for the upcoming season remain favorable. *The North China Plain also has enough moisture for the winter wheat, though temperatures have not yet warmed enough to bring most of the crop out of dormancy.*** Overall production potentials for the winter wheat remains favorable as well.



### WEATHER OUTLOOK

Not much precipitation of significance is likely early to mid-week this week; however, a frontal system moving across eastern China late this week and into the coming weekend will generate some additional rain. The precipitation should linger through mid-week next week and totals for the entire period will vary from 0.75 to 2.00 inches in the lower half of the Yangtze River Basin while varying from 1.00 to 3.00 inches in the upper half of the Yangtze River Basin. The southern coastal provinces may not receive more than 0.75 inch of moisture and some areas will be dry.

The North China Plain, Inner Mongolia and the Northeast Provinces of China are expecting to get 0.10 to 0.75 inch of moisture from rain and snow during the next ten days. The moisture will be welcome and good for winter crop development as soon as soil temperature rise sufficiently for greening.

Recent rain in Sichuan, Yunnan, and neighboring areas has improved the moisture profile. However, the driest locations will likely need additional rain to completely fix the moisture deficits and support ideal early-season planting. *Many other areas in southern China will dry down this workweek due to the lack of significant rain and periods of warm daytime temperatures. The boost in precipitation coming late this week through early next week should provide some additional improvement to soil moisture; although, southeast China will need greater rain later this month as planting begins.*

## **Southeast China Drought Erased After Recent Rainfall**

Winter rapeseed development conditions will remain favorable for much of the Yangtze River Basin through the end of next week despite many areas in east-central China only receiving light amounts of precipitation. Winter wheat prospects will also remain favorable for the North China Plain. Temperatures this week will be warm enough to bring some of the wheat out of dormancy.

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