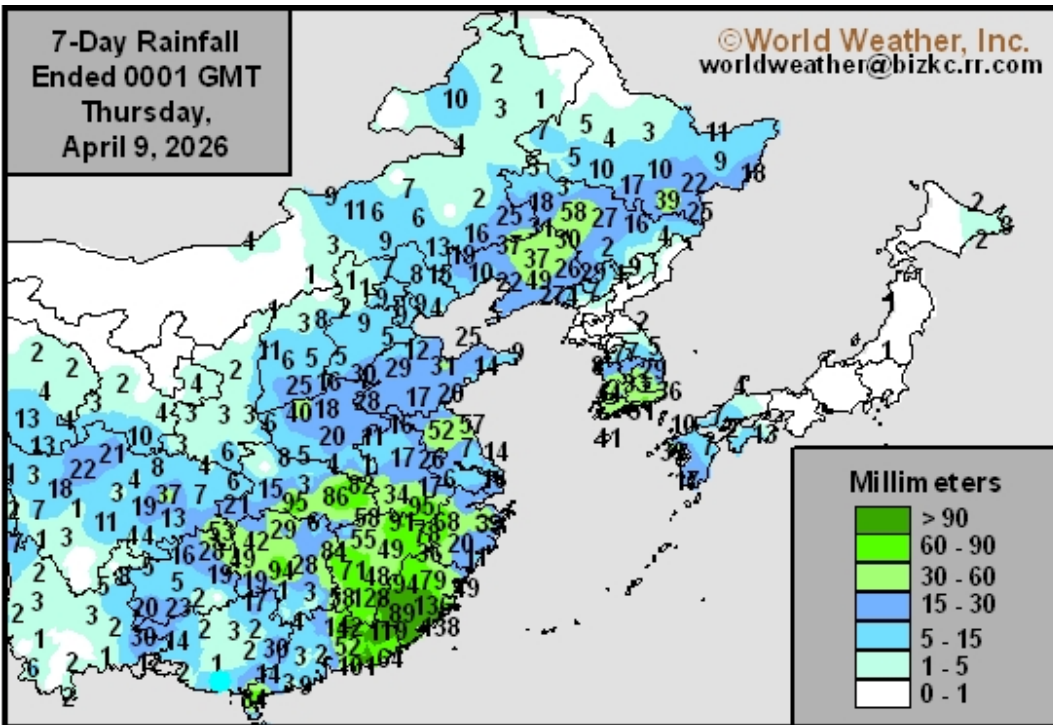


Eastern China Flood Threat Increases Due To Frequent Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 10 (World Weather Inc.) – Recent rainfall in winter rapeseed and wheat areas of China helped maintain a good environment for new growth. *The more advanced rapeseed that is ready to harvest or already being harvested may have seen sluggish conditions during the past week as several locations in the Yangtze River Basin received significant rain. Early-season spring and summer crop planting conditions in the southernmost provinces are variable with many areas in Guangxi, southwestern Guangdong, and Yunnan in a drought.* Waves of rain are slated for the Yangtze River Basin and portions of southern China through the end of next week. *Flood potentials will gradually increase, most notably for northern sections of Jiangxi and Hunan into immediate neighboring areas. Flooding may damage a minor amount of rapeseed and could delay harvesting. No major crop losses are expected.*

Precipitation varied significantly across China during the past week. Fujian and eastern Guangdong reported 2.00 to 5.35 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending April 9. Zhejiang, Jiangxi, southern Anhui, Hunan, and portions of Hubei received 0.79 to 3.75 inches of rain. Guizhou, Sichuan, Henan, northern Anhui, Jiangsu, Shandong, southern sections of Shanxi and Hebei, Liaoning, Jilin, and southern Heilongjiang received 0.24 to 1.50 inches of moisture with local amounts up to 2.28 inches. Other areas received trace amounts to 0.50 inch of moisture and locally greater amounts in Guangxi, southwestern Guangdong, and southeastern Yunnan.



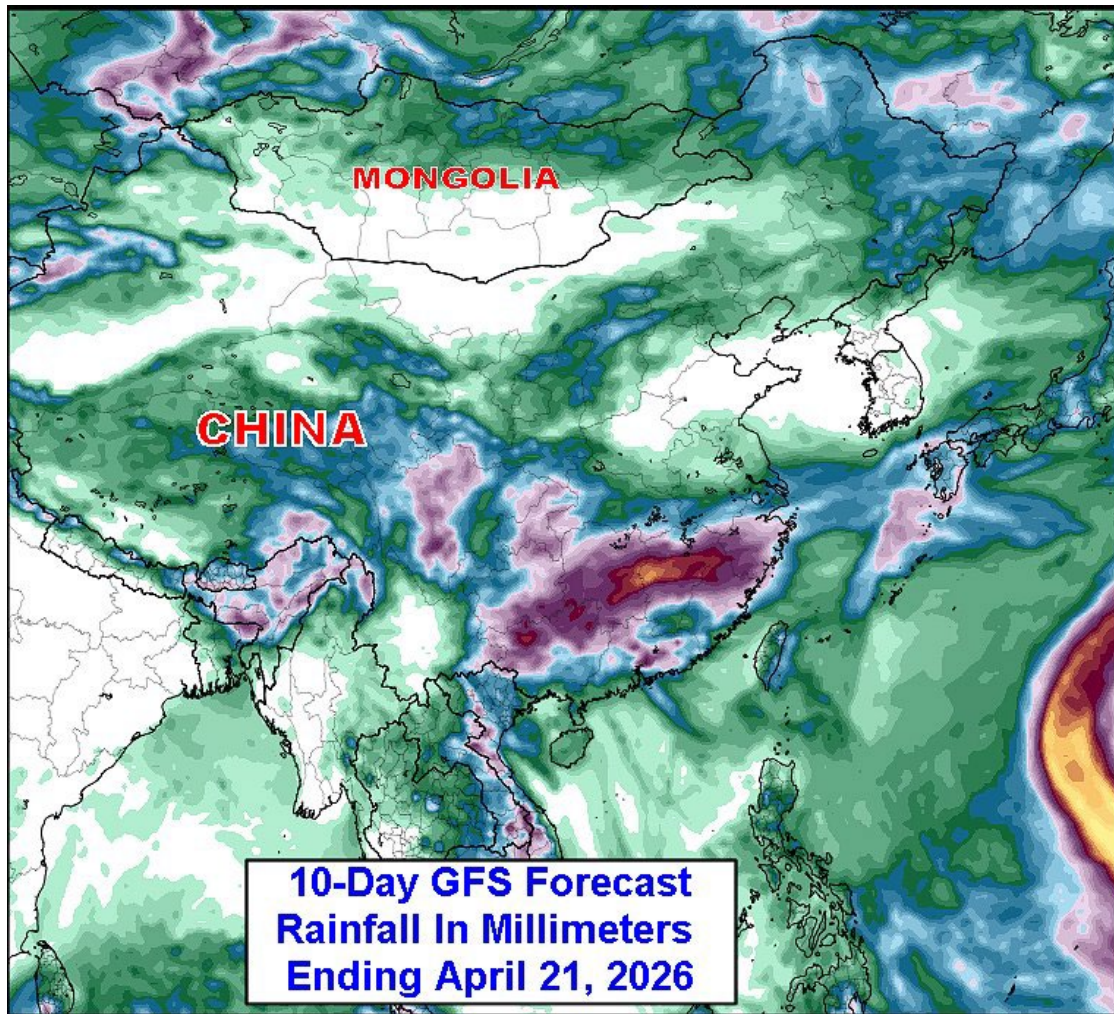
The lack of significant rain and periods of warm weather caused drought or abnormally dry conditions to evolve in portions of Yunnan, Guangxi, and southwestern

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Guangdong in recent days. A few locations in northern Shaanxi and Shanxi are also in drought. The remaining locations in China were drought-free as of this morning.

Rainfall in the Yangtze River Basin during the past week was beneficial for immature winter crops. Maturation and harvesting of rapeseed may have advanced slowly during the wettest period, though quality impacts were suspected of being low. Recent precipitation for the North China Plain also helped maintain a good outlook for the winter wheat.

Early-season spring and summer planting conditions are variable near and south of the Yangtze River. The Yangtze River Basin and southeastern China have enough moisture to support relatively good establishment and early-season development; though, the frequency of rain must slow. Southwestern China in the meantime, needs significant rain to improve planting and establishment due to dryness. There is still plenty of time for better rainfall in the coming week, though some of the driest locations in Guangxi will need abundant rain to completely fix the moisture deficits.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

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Precipitation will again be highly variable across China through the end of next week. Waves of rain are slated from the Yangtze River Basin into Guangxi, northern Guangdong, Fujian, and eastern Yunnan with rain occurring on a daily basis. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 2.00 to 6.00 inches with local amounts of 10.00 inches or more possible in northern sections of Hunan and Jiangxi and immediate neighboring areas. That is enough to cause flooding and to more seriously threaten rapeseed quality in the wettest areas. Other areas in southern China and a few locations in northern Hubei will also only receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with locally greater amounts. Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will again have several opportunities for rain April 18 – 24.

Flooding will be a growing concern for Jiangxi, Hunan, and neighboring areas in the coming days due to the waves of precipitation. Some damage to rapeseed quality and general infrastructure will be possible. Early-season planting and general fieldwork may also advance slowly in the wettest locations. Rainfall will be welcome in the drier areas of Guangxi and Guangdong and planting prospects may improve marginally. There will still be a need for additional rain late this month and early April.

The North China Plain, central Yellow River Basin, and northern China will have a few opportunities for precipitation through the end of next week. Disturbances will initially promote spotty precipitation in Northeast China today and Saturday. Erratic precipitation will spread from northern China to the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin at times next week as more disturbances track over the region. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.75 inch with local amounts of 1.50 inches or more in Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia, and Jilin. Portions of Shandong and immediate neighboring areas will also trend mostly dry. Snow will accumulate in portions of Northeast China today and Saturday with totals ranging from a dusting to 3 inches. These areas will again have a few opportunities for spotty precipitation April 18 – 24.

Winter wheat conditions in the North China Plain will remain favorable in the coming weeks despite the lack of abundant precipitation. Most fields have ample moisture to support new growth without much additional precipitation. There will still be a need for timely precipitation late this month into May to ensure ideal late-season growth. The need for rain will also increase late this month into May once the spring grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops are planted. **Northeast China** will have ample moisture to support good early-season planting in May.

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