



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures for 6:10 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Thursday - May 16, 2024

- In the *West*, warm, dry weather is accelerating fieldwork and crop development. Much of the region remains free of drought, though pockets of Extreme Drought (D3) linger in the *northern Rockies* and the *lower Four Corners region*. However, showers are signaling the arrival of much cooler temperatures in the *Northwest*.
- On the *Plains*, mostly dry weather across *central portions the region* is bookended by showers on the *northern Plains* and locally severe thunderstorms to the south over *northern Texas and environs*. The warmth and dryness over the *central Plains* favor fieldwork and crop development, though winter wheat continues to struggle amid drought in *Kansas*.
- In the *Corn Belt*, the brief respite between storms is already ending across the *western third of the region*, with showers this morning stretching from *Minnesota to Missouri*. Dry weather is providing a short-lived window for fieldwork over the *eastern Corn Belt* before showers return Friday.
- In the *South*, sunny skies favor fieldwork and winter crop development, though a few scattered showers linger in *southern Florida* along a weak cold front. However, showers are beginning to develop over the *western Gulf Coast region* where heavy to excessive rain (1-2 inches per hour) is expected later today, especially in *southeastern Texas*.

Outlook: A storm system will finally exit the *eastern seaboard*, allowing for a brief respite from damp, chilly conditions over the *eastern third of the nation*. However, another area of low pressure emerging onto the *southern High Plains* will drift east into the *Ohio Valley* by the weekend, renewing the threat of rain to close out the week from the *southern Plains to the central and southern Atlantic Coast states*. In the warm, humid air south of the storm's center, locally heavy rain (2 inches or more) and severe thunderstorms are possible across the *south-central U.S.* While the rain will ease drought in parts of *Oklahoma*, the core *central Plains'* Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1-D3) in *Kansas* will largely miss out. Meanwhile, *Western* warmth and dryness will continue, with temperatures again topping 100°F at lower elevations of the *Desert Southwest*; however, rain and mountain snow showers will precede and accompany sharply cooler weather over the *nation's northwestern quadrant*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for May 21 – 25 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal rainfall across much of the country save for drier-than-normal conditions from *New Mexico southeastward to Florida*. Warmer-than-normal temperatures are expected from *Texas to the East Coast*, while colder-than-normal conditions prevail over the *northern half of the Plains* and from the *Rockies to the Pacific Coast*.

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Web Site: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TODAYSWX.pdf>

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The outlook is an interpretation of National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts and products.

Next scheduled noon release of the "Agricultural Weather Highlights" will be Wednesday, June 12, 2024. On other weekdays, this product will be posted by 9 am ET.