



Satellite image with enhanced low ground and cloud-top temperatures for 6:45 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Thursday - May 24, 2012**

- ***In the West***, a freeze warning is in effect this morning for parts of ***northern Nevada***. Cool weather covers the entire region, slowing crop growth. Isolated showers are confined to the ***Northwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, beneficial showers dot the ***northern half of the region***, where very cool weather prevails. Unfavorably dry weather persists, however, from ***Kansas southward into Texas***, reducing soil moisture and increasing stress on pastures, immature winter grains, and rain-fed summer crops. Today's high temperatures will approach or reach 100°F in parts of ***western Texas***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a band of showers and thunderstorms stretches southwestward from ***Lake Superior***. Rain is benefiting emerged summer crops across the ***upper Midwest***. Meanwhile, very warm, dry weather favors soybean planting across the ***southern and eastern Corn Belt***. However, short-term dryness across the lower ***Midwest*** is depleting topsoil moisture and increasing stress on pastures, winter wheat, and summer crops.
- ***In the South***, warm, mostly dry weather prevails. A few showers linger, however, across ***southern Florida*** and the ***southern Mid-Atlantic States***. Drought remains a serious concern across the ***lower Southeast*** and has become an emerging agricultural issue in the ***northern Mississippi Delta***.

**Outlook:** A series of storms will maintain cool unsettled conditions across the ***nation's northern tier***. Five-day rainfall totals could reach 1 to 3 inches from the ***northern Plains into the Northeast***. In contrast, mostly dry weather will prevail across the ***southern half of the U.S.*** through Memorial Day, except for lingering showers in the ***southern Atlantic States***. An early-season heat wave will affect much of the ***South, East, and lower Midwest***, with many locations expecting multiple days of 90-degree heat. Weekend temperatures will peak near 100°F from the ***Mid-South into the eastern Corn Belt***. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for May 29 – June 2 calls for near- to above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions from the ***northern Plains into the Great Lakes region***. Meanwhile, near- to below-normal rainfall across the majority of the U.S. will contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in the ***Southeastern and Atlantic Coast States***.

**Contact:** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)

**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Daily/TODAYSWX.pdf>