



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - October 20, 2004

- ***In the West***, the sudden onset of the 2004-05 winter wet season is benefiting newly planted winter grains, aiding drought-stressed pastures and rangelands, and curbing the threat of wildfires. However, serious water-supply concerns persist across the ***Southwest*** and ***Intermountain West*** due to low reservoir levels, dry subsoils, and multi-year precipitation deficits.
- ***On the Plains***, below-normal temperatures are confined to ***Montana***, where cold weather continues to slow winter wheat emergence. Elsewhere, warm, mostly dry weather favors summer crop harvesting and wheat emergence and establishment.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, warm, mostly dry weather is promoting corn and soybean harvesting, and winter wheat planting and emergence.
- ***In the South***, showers linger along and near the ***southern Atlantic Coast***, but warm, dry weather elsewhere favors fieldwork, including summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting.

Outlook: In the ***West***, storminess will gradually shift southward into the ***Four Corners States*** by week's end, although showers will linger across the ***Pacific Northwest***. Meanwhile, a developing storm system will produce wet, windy weather across the ***northern Plains*** and ***upper Midwest***. During the weekend, locally severe thunderstorms will develop along the storm's trailing cold front across the ***central and southern Plains*** and move eastward into the ***Mississippi Valley***. Farther east, cool weather and occasional drizzle in the ***Northeast*** will contrast with warm, mostly dry conditions in the ***Southeast***. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for October 25-29 calls for a continuation of cool, showery weather in the ***West***, with some of that moisture spreading across the ***northern Plains***. Wet conditions are also forecast for ***New England*** but elsewhere in the Nation, near- to below normal rainfall is expected, with above-normal temperatures dominating the ***Midwestern and Southern States***. This scenario would benefit maturing grains, oilseeds, and cotton in major production areas.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>