



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

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Thursday - April 25, 2024

- In the **West**, widely scattered showers are occurring, with the most notable precipitation overspreading the **Pacific Northwest**. In many areas, conditions are favorable for fieldwork, including **Northwestern** small grain planting. On April 21, **Washington** led the U.S. with 60% of its intended spring wheat acreage planted, followed by **Idaho** at 55%.
- On the **Plains**, patchy showers are developing across the **southern half of the region** in advance of an approaching storm system. Additionally, a surge of warmth across the **southern High Plains** will boost today's high temperatures to near 90°F in **western Texas**. Meanwhile, warm, dry weather across the **northern Plains** favors fieldwork, including barley and spring wheat planting. On April 21, fifteen percent of the nation's intended spring wheat acreage had been planted.
- In the **Corn Belt**, frost and freezes were noted this morning in the **Great Lakes States**. Fruit producers in **Michigan** and elsewhere in the **Midwest** are monitoring the potential impacts of the cold weather on crops that are mostly blooming ahead of schedule. Meanwhile, dry weather throughout the **Corn Belt** is promoting spring fieldwork, including corn and soybean planting.
- In the **South**, mostly dry weather is ideal for fieldwork, including corn, cotton, peanut, rice, and soybean planting. In addition, warmth across the **Deep South** is fostering a rapid pace of pasture growth and winter wheat development, along with summer crop emergence.

Outlook: As a storm system emerges from the **central Rockies** later today, there will be an increasing threat of severe thunderstorms across the **central and southern Plains**. The risk of severe weather will shift eastward on Friday, reaching the **mid-South** and **middle Mississippi Valley**. As the initial storm weakens during the weekend, a trailing system will result in another round of strong to locally severe thunderstorms across many of the same areas. Five-day, two-storm rainfall totals should reach 1 to 5 inches or more across a broad area, including much of the **Plains, Midwest, and mid-South**. Some of the highest totals should occur on the **Ozark Plateau** and environs, while significant rainfall will bypass the **southern High Plains** and the **Atlantic Coast States**. Widespread precipitation, including high-elevation snow, should also fall in the **West**, except from **California to the southern Rockies**. Elsewhere, sub-freezing temperatures in the **Northeast** will linger into Saturday morning, followed by a marked warming trend. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for April 30 – May 4 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures across most of the country, with cooler-than-normal conditions confined to **northern and central California** and the **Pacific Northwest**. Meanwhile, above-normal precipitation from the **Pacific Northwest to the upper Great Lakes region** and across the **nation's mid-section** should contrast with drier-than-normal weather in much of the **eastern U.S.** and from the **southern Great Basin to the central Rockies**.

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