



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

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Tuesday - May 14, 2024

- In the **West**, warm, dry weather is accelerating the melting of high-elevation snowpack and leading to some swift-running streams in the **northern Intermountain West** and environs. The **Western** warmth is also promoting fieldwork, including spring planting activities, and a rapid pace of crop development.
- On the **Plains**, scattered showers accompany cooler conditions across **Montana** and the **Dakotas**. Meanwhile, warm, dry weather generally favors fieldwork and crop development across the **central and southern Plains**. However, some winter wheat continues to struggle amid drought, with 35% of the crop rated in very poor to poor condition on May 12 in **Kansas**, along with 23% in **Texas**, compared with the national value of 18%.
- In the **Corn Belt**, unsettled, showery weather prevails across roughly the **southeastern half of the region**, maintaining a locally slow pace of fieldwork. Nearly one-half (49%) of the intended U.S. corn acreage had been planted by May 12, slightly behind the 5-year average of 54%.
- In the **South**, heavy rain is falling in portions of the **Gulf Coast region**, mainly from **southeastern Louisiana to northern Florida**. More broadly, scattered showers stretch from the **Mississippi Delta to the middle and southern Atlantic States**, excluding **Florida's peninsula**. Meanwhile, early-season heat lingers across **southern Florida**, as well as the **western Gulf Coast region**.

Outlook: Back-to-back storm systems will result in widespread precipitation across the **central and eastern U.S.**, with the heaviest rain (locally 2 to 4 inches or more) expected from **eastern Texas to the southern Atlantic Coast**, excluding **southern Florida**. Sporadic strong thunderstorms will accompany the **Southern** rain. A broader area will receive light to moderately heavy rain, with 5-day totals expected to top an inch in most areas along and south of a line from **southeastern Kansas into the lower Great Lakes region**. In contrast, little or no precipitation will fall during the remainder of the week **west of the Rockies**. A **Western** warm spell will accompany the dry weather, with temperatures regularly topping 100°F at lower elevations of the **Desert Southwest**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for May 19 – 23 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures and precipitation across much of the country. Cooler-than-normal conditions will be confined to portions of **southern California** and the **Desert Southwest**, as well as an area stretching from the **Pacific Northwest to the northern High Plains**. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal weather should be limited to parts of the **South**, from **southeastern Arizona to southern and coastal Texas**.

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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.