



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

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Tuesday - April 30, 2024

- In the *West*, scattered showers are primarily occurring in the *Pacific Northwest* and the *northern Rockies*. Meanwhile, some *interior sections of the Northwest* experienced sub-freezing temperatures early today, with potential adverse impacts on winter grains and blooming fruits. In contrast, warm, dry weather favors *Southwestern* fieldwork and crop growth.
- On the *Plains*, scattered showers are affecting the *northern half of the region*. Meanwhile, very warm weather prevails from *Kansas southward*, where today's high temperatures will approach, reach, or exceed 90°F. The warmth favors a rapid pace of crop development—but is further stressing crops in areas where soil moisture is lacking. In *Kansas*, where topsoil moisture was rated 56% very short to short on April 28, nearly one-third (31%) of the winter wheat was rated in very poor to poor condition.
- In the *Corn Belt*, showers have shifted into the *Ohio Valley* and the *lower Great Lakes region*. Meanwhile, warm weather is returning across the *southwestern Corn Belt*, well in advance of an approaching storm system. By April 28, more than one-quarter (27%) of the nation's intended corn acreage had been planted, ahead of the 5-year average of 22%.
- In the *South*, a weakening cold front is producing a few showers from the *Ohio Valley southward into Alabama and Georgia*. Despite small pockets of excessive wetness, most *Southern* fieldwork is progressing at a rapid pace. For example, 72% of the U.S. rice had been planted by April 28, well ahead of the 5-year average of 46%.

Outlook: In a possible near-repeat performance from a week ago, atmospheric energy emerging from the *western U.S.* will spark a multi-day severe weather outbreak, starting later today across portions of the *Plains* and *western Corn Belt*. The focus for severe weather will shift slightly westward, to the *central and southern High Plains*, on Wednesday, before returning to the *southeastern Plains, western Corn Belt, and mid-South* by Thursday. With clean-up efforts continuing in last week's hardest-hit areas, the return of additional strong storms could complicate recovery. Furthermore, this week's storms should produce an additional 1 to 3 inches of rain, with locally higher amounts, leading to localized flooding. However, any rain in remaining drought-affected areas of the *nation's mid-section* should benefit rangeland, pastures, winter wheat, and emerging summer crops. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather will prevail from *southern California to the southern Rockies*, while frequent showers will dot the *Northwest*. Much of the *eastern one-third of the U.S.* will also receive periods of light to moderately heavy rain. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for May 5 – 9 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures from the *central and southern Rockies to the Atlantic Coast*, while cooler-than-normal conditions will prevail in the *Far West*. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal weather in *southern Florida* and *southern sections of the Rockies and High Plains*.

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