



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

## **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Thursday - May 2, 2024**

- In the *West*, cool weather prevails, except from *southern California to the southern Rockies*. Scattered freezes occurred again this morning across the *interior Northwest*, including parts of *eastern Washington* and *Idaho's Snake River Plain*. Meanwhile, *Arizona* led the U.S. with 64% of its cotton acreage planted by April 28, followed by *California* at 40%.
- On the *Plains*, overnight thunderstorms produced isolated wind and hail damage from *Texas into southern Nebraska*. Hail at least 4 inches in diameter was reported in parts of *Gove County, Kansas*, and *Donley County, Texas*. Early today, rain has shifted onto the *eastern Plains*, with the heaviest showers occurring in *eastern Texas*. Elsewhere, chilly weather prevails in *Montana*, where a mix of rain and wet snow is benefiting winter wheat and spring-sown crops.
- In the *Corn Belt*, rain across areas from the *Mississippi Valley westward* is slowing fieldwork but providing additional relief from long-term drought. Meanwhile in the *eastern Corn Belt*, previously delayed planting activities are accelerating amid a spell of warm, dry weather. During the week ending April 28, topsoil moisture rated surplus dropped from 44 to 26% in *Ohio* and from 35 to 25% in *Indiana*.
- In the *South*, showers and thunderstorms are spreading into areas *west of the Mississippi River*. Flash flooding is a concern early today in *eastern Texas*, where heavy rain fell overnight. Meanwhile in the *Southeast*, warm, dry weather favors fieldwork, pasture growth, winter wheat maturation, and summer crop emergence and development, although topsoil moisture has become limited in some areas.

**Outlook:** Active weather will continue into next week, as multiple weather systems cross the country. A cold front currently approaching the *Mississippi Valley* will drift eastward and weaken, reaching the *Atlantic Coast States* during the weekend. A secondary cold front will follow, eventually merging with the initial front. Finally, a potent spring storm will arrive along the *Pacific Coast* on Saturday before pushing eastward toward the *northern Plains* by early next week. The threat of widespread severe thunderstorms will diminish during the weekend, only to return across the *Plains* by Monday. Five-day rainfall totals should exceed an inch in parts of the *Northwest* and many areas from the *Plains eastward*, with much higher amounts possible from the *southern Plains into the lower Mississippi Valley*. In contrast, rain will bypass the *Southwest* and most areas along and near the *Gulf Coast*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for May 7 – 11 calls for the likelihood of below-normal temperatures across the *northern High Plains* and the *West*, while warmer-than-normal weather will prevail east of a line from the *southern Rockies into the upper Great Lakes region*. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across the *Deep South* and along the *Pacific Coast* should contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions in much of the *northern two-thirds of the U.S.*

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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 Friday, May 10, 2024. On other weekdays, this product will be posted by 9 am ET.