



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

## **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - May 17, 2024**

- In the *West*, warm, dry weather is accelerating fieldwork and crop development over *central and southern portions of the region*. Conversely, rain and mountain snow showers are accompanying much cooler temperatures across the *northern Rockies* and *Northwest*. *Western* drought has largely been eradicated by a second consecutive abnormally wet water year, but topsoil moisture was rated 60 and 91 percent short to very short in *Montana* and *Arizona*, respectively, as of May 12.
- On the *Plains*, mostly dry weather across *central and southern portions the region* is promoting fieldwork and winter wheat development. However, scattered showers linger over *northern Texas* and dot the *northern Plains*. Drought continues to impact winter wheat in *Kansas*, where 35 percent of the crop was rated poor to very poor as of May 12.
- In the *Corn Belt*, showers have returned to the *Ohio and mid-Mississippi Valleys*, though a few sprinkles are also occurring across the *upper Midwest*. The renewed wetness is further delaying fieldwork; on May 12, corn was 42 percent planted in *Illinois*, 14 points behind the 5-year average 39 points behind last year at the same time.
- In the *South*, showers and thunderstorms — some severe — are spreading across the *eastern Gulf Coast region* and redeveloping in *southern Texas*. Rain will continue to slowly shift eastward during the day Friday across the *Southeast*, though *southern Florida* will remain mostly sunny and hot.

**Outlook:** Following the departure of one slow-moving storm along the *mid-Atlantic Coast*, another disturbance over the *southern Plains* will drift northeastward and sustain or reintroduce showery and unseasonably cool weather across the *mid-Atlantic, lower Ohio Valley*, and *Southeast*, though heat will linger in *Florida*. Furthermore, a subtropical air mass will maintain the risk of heavy rain and flash flooding along the *Gulf Coast*. Farther north and west, a weakening cold front will trigger rain and mountain snow showers as it sweeps across the *central portions of the Rockies and Plains* and *upper Midwest*. However, a reenforcing cold front will closely follow and renew shower chances over the same locales during the latter half of the weekend. By early next week, the second front will separate unseasonably cold conditions across the *nation's northwestern quadrant* from the return of summer-like heat on the *central and southern Plains*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for May 22 – 26 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal rainfall across much of the country, with drier-than-normal conditions confined to the *southern Rockies and High Plains* as well as *southern-most portions of Texas and Florida*. Warmer-than-normal temperatures are expected from *Texas to the East Coast*, while colder-than-normal conditions prevail from the *upper Midwest westward* across the *northern Plains, central and northern Rockies*, and *Pacific Coast States*.

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