



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

## **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Tuesday - March 12, 2024**

- In the **West**, rain and snow showers are occurring as far south as **central California** and the **northern Great Basin**. The precipitation, though not particularly heavy, is helping to boost anemic snowpack across the **northern tier of the West**. Meanwhile, warm, dry weather covers the **Southwest**. In **Arizona**, 49% of the barley had headed by March 10, well ahead of the 5-year average of 24%. Durum wheat in **Arizona** was 48% headed on that date, versus the 5-year average of 14%.
- On the **Plains**, above-normal temperatures favor spring planting preparations and the development of winter grains. Today's high temperatures will approach or reach 80°F across the **southern High Plains**. On March 10, USDA/NASS reported that 65% of the winter wheat was rated in good to excellent condition in **Oklahoma**, along with 53% in **Kansas** and 44% in **Texas**. In **Oklahoma**, 7% of the wheat was jointing on that date.
- In the **Corn Belt**, record-setting warmth continues in advance of an approaching storm system. On Monday, daily-record high temperatures included 70°F in **Fargo, North Dakota**, and 80°F in **Sioux Falls, South Dakota**, and **Sioux City, Iowa**. Later today, high temperatures will broadly top 70°F as far north as **southern Minnesota** and **central Wisconsin**. As the planting season approaches, soil moisture shortages exist in some areas, primarily from the **Mississippi Valley westward**.
- In the **South**, scattered frost was reported this morning as far south as **central sections of Alabama and Georgia**. Dry weather throughout the region favors spring fieldwork, including planting activities across the **Deep South**. Statewide, 20% of the intended corn acreage in **Texas** had been planted by March 10, while 18% of the sorghum had been planted. Elsewhere, strawberry producers in **Hillsborough County, Florida**, are monitoring losses from last week's hail event.

**Outlook:** **Western** precipitation will spread farther inland, becoming focused across the **Rockies** and **Intermountain West** by Wednesday. Storminess will also spread **east of the Rockies**, with an axis of heavier precipitation extending from **Nebraska** (on Wednesday) to **southern New England** (by Thursday night). Some wet snow may accumulate on the **central High Plains**. By Thursday, **Western** precipitation will shift into the **Four Corners States**, where heavy snow will fall at higher elevations. Farther east, locally severe thunderstorms will be most numerous late Thursday from the **middle Mississippi Valley to the southeastern Plains**. Mid- to late-week rainfall totals could reach 2 to 4 inches or more from **eastern Texas to the southern Appalachians**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for March 17 – 21 calls for near- or below-normal temperatures in most areas east of a line from **central Arizona to eastern Montana**, while warmer-than-normal conditions will cover **southern Florida** and parts of the **Northeast**, along with the **northern High Plains** and much of the **West**. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in **northern sections of Montana and Maine**, as well as an area from the **Four Corners region and the Rio Grande Valley to the southern Atlantic Coast**.

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