



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures for 6:45 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - May 18, 2018

- In the **West**, scattered showers linger across the ***northern half of the region***, accompanied by cool conditions. In contrast, dry, breezy weather is leading to an elevated risk of wildfires in the **Southwest**, particularly across the drought-affected ***southern Rockies***.
- On the **Plains**, widespread showers and thunderstorms from ***Nebraska northward*** are slowing fieldwork but generally benefiting winter grains and summer crops. On May 13, prior to the recent and ongoing rainfall, ***North Dakota's*** topsoil moisture was rated 47% very short to short. Meanwhile, widely scattered showers dot the ***southern Plains***, where more sustained rainfall is needed to ease the effects of a punishing drought.
- In the **Corn Belt**, corn and soybean planting activities, as well as summer crop emergence and growth, continue in many areas under a warm, dry regime. However, locally heavy showers are spreading across the ***middle Mississippi Valley*** and developing in the ***westernmost Corn Belt***.
- In the **South**, warm, humid weather persists. ***Southeastern*** showers have become less widespread, but remain locally heavy. Currently, some of the heaviest rain is falling in the ***southern Mid-Atlantic region***, where pockets of flash flooding and river flooding are occurring.

Outlook: Heavy ***Eastern*** showers will continue into the weekend but will subside thereafter, although river flooding in the ***Mid-Atlantic region*** may persist into next week. Meanwhile, a very active weather pattern will prevail during the next several days across the ***nation's mid-section***, including the ***Plains*** and ***Midwest***. Five-day rainfall totals could reach 2 to 4 inches on the ***central Plains*** and 1 to 3 inches across the ***lower Midwest***. Showery weather will also cover the ***Northwest***, but dry conditions will prevail in ***southern California*** and the ***Desert Southwest***. During the weekend, a surge of cool air will cover the ***Plains*** and ***Midwest***, leading to the possibility of weekend frost from the ***northern Plains into the upper Great Lakes region***. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for May 23 – 27 calls for the likelihood of warmer-than-normal weather nationwide, except for near-normal temperatures in ***Florida*** and near- to below-normal temperatures in ***northern New England***. Meanwhile, near- to above-normal rainfall across most of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal conditions in the ***Pacific Northwest, southern Texas, and the Great Lakes region***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Daily/TODAYSWX.pdf>