



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

## **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Monday - September 25, 2023**

- In the *West*, stormy weather is arriving along the *Pacific Coast*, extending as far south as *northwestern California*. However, only spotty showers are spreading *east of the Cascades* into key *Northwestern* agricultural areas, many of which continue to experience unfavorably dry conditions. Across the remainder of the *West*, warm, dry weather is promoting early-autumn fieldwork, including rice harvesting in *California* and cotton harvesting in *Arizona*.
- On the *Plains*, warm, dry weather favors an acceleration of fieldwork, following recent shower activity. Last week's rain—which was most widespread across the *northern Plains*—was especially beneficial for the emergence and establishment of recently sown and soon-to-be-planted winter wheat.
- In the *Corn Belt*, seasonably cool weather and spotty showers cover the *far upper Midwest*—including *Minnesota* and the *eastern Dakotas*—where today's high temperatures will remain below 70°F. In contrast, warm, dry weather across the *southern Corn Belt* favors fieldwork, including early-season winter wheat planting and corn and soybean harvesting.
- In the *South*, producers in the *middle Atlantic coastal plain* are assessing Tropical Storm Ophelia's recent wind- and rainfall-related impacts on summer crops, including open-boll cotton in *Virginia* and *North Carolina*. Elsewhere, warm weather is promoting summer crop maturation, although scattered showers are causing minor fieldwork delays in the drought-affected *western and central Gulf Coast States*.

**Outlook:** Lingering showers associated with the remnants of Tropical Storm Ophelia should end later today across *southern New England* and the *mid-Atlantic*. Meanwhile, *Pacific* storminess will struggle to push inland across the *Northwest*, with only light precipitation expected *east of the Cascades*. Other areas of the *West* will experience dry weather for the remainder of the week. The *nation's mid-section* will also receive negligible precipitation, while mid- to late-week temperatures will reach 90°F or higher throughout the *southern half of the Plains*. In the *Midwest*, showers currently affecting the *upper Great Lakes region* will slowly shift southeastward, reaching the *Ohio Valley* around mid-week. Elsewhere, disorganized tropical moisture will be focused across the *lower Southeast*, with daily showers expected in *Florida* and environs. In fact, 5-day rainfall totals should reach 2 to 6 inches or more across *Florida's peninsula*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 30 – October 4 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures in much of the *central and eastern U.S.*, while cooler-than-normal conditions will prevail in the *West*. Meanwhile, below-normal rainfall in most areas from the *middle and lower Mississippi Valley to the Atlantic Coast* should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather from the *Rockies to the Plains and upper Midwest*.

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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 Thursday, October 12. On other weekdays, this product will be posted by 9 am EDT.