



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

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Tuesday - August 3, 2021

- In the *West*, a lull in monsoon-related activity has brought a return of mostly dry weather across the *Desert Southwest*. Scattered showers linger, however, in the *central and southern Rockies*. Elsewhere, dry lightning strikes remain a wildfire threat across the *interior Northwest*, where dozens of fires are already actively burning. *Washington* set a state record with USDA/NASS topsoil moisture rated 100% very short to short on August 1; prior to this year, the modern record of 89% had been set on September 10, 2017.
- On the *Plains*, dry weather is promoting summer crop development, except in areas where soil moisture is lacking. On August 1, topsoil moisture was rated 98% very short to short in *Montana*, along with 91% in *North Dakota* and 84% in *South Dakota*. On the same date, *North Dakota* led the nation—among major production states—in very poor to poor ratings for oats (55%; tied with *South Dakota*), soybeans (45%), and corn (44%). With harvest underway and rapidly advancing, very poor to poor ratings were noted in *Montana* for 85% of the spring wheat and 79% of the barley.
- In the *Corn Belt*, a cool, dry weather pattern continues. Several *Midwestern* locations, including *Indianapolis, Indiana*, and *Waterloo, Iowa*, have received less than one-tenth of an inch of rain since mid-July. The *eastern Corn Belt* had abundant moisture reserves when the dry spell began, tempering impacts, but summer crops in drier areas of the *upper Midwest* have experienced increasing levels of stress. On August 1, more than one-fifth of the corn and soybeans in *Minnesota* and the *Dakotas* were rated in very poor to poor condition.
- In the *South*, locally heavy thunderstorms dot the *Gulf Coast region*. Showers and thunderstorms are also occurring in the *southern Atlantic States*. Meanwhile, a short-term drying trend has developed in the *mid-South*; during the week ending August 1, topsoil moisture rated very short to short in *Arkansas* increased from 30 to 42%.

Outlook: Many areas of the country, including the *Plains, Midwest, and Far West*, will remain mostly dry during the next 5 days. Rainfall associated with the *Southwestern* monsoon circulation will also subside, although showers will linger through mid-week in the *Rockies* and environs. Farther east, however, a multi-day rain event will affect the *southern Atlantic region* and areas along the *Gulf Coast*. Five-day rainfall totals could reach 4 inches or more in the *coastal Carolinas*. During the mid- to late-week period, occasional rain may spread as far north as *coastal New England* and could dampen the *upper Great Lakes region*. During the next few days, hot weather will be focused across the *nation's mid-section*, especially on the *central and southern Plains*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for August 8 – 12 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures and precipitation across much of the country. Cooler-than-normal conditions will be confined to parts of the *West*, while wetter-than-normal weather should be largely limited to the *Great Lakes region*.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)

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