



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures for 6:40 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

## **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - September 25, 2020**

- In the *West*, cooler weather is arriving in the *Pacific Northwest*, accompanied by widespread, much-needed precipitation. However, warm, dry conditions persist across the remainder of the region. In addition, windy conditions and low humidity levels are leading to an elevated wildfire threat, especially from *northern Arizona into Wyoming*.
- On the *Plains*, a cold front crossing the *Dakotas* is producing cloudiness and isolated showers. Warm, dry weather across the remainder of the region favors summer crop maturation and harvesting, as well as winter wheat planting. However, drought covers 26% of the U.S. winter wheat production area, including large sections of the *High Plains*, according to the September 22 *U.S. Drought Monitor*. Rain will be needed in drought-affected areas for proper wheat establishment.
- In the *Corn Belt*, warm, dry weather is fostering corn and soybean maturation—and an accelerating harvest pace. On September 20, at least one-half of the corn was fully mature in all *Midwestern States* except *Ohio* (30% mature), *Michigan* (37%), *North Dakota* (39%), and *Wisconsin* (49%). Today's high temperatures should reach or exceed 90°F as far north as *eastern Nebraska*.
- In the *South*, Post-Tropical Cyclone Beta is losing its identity but continues to spark widespread rain in *Virginia* and the *Carolinas*. In the wake of Beta's departure, dry weather has returned from the *western Gulf Coast region to the Mississippi Delta*. Following the rain, producers are monitoring unharvested summer crops such as cotton, rice, and soybeans.

**Outlook:** Despite steady weakening, the remnants of Beta will produce an additional 1 to 3 inches of rain today in the *Carolinas* and *southern Virginia*. Meanwhile, locally heavy precipitation in the *Pacific Northwest* and *northern Rockies* will end by Saturday. The remainder of the *West*, as well as the *High Plains*, will receive little or no precipitation during the next 5 days. Meanwhile, a strong surge of cool air will arrive across the *Plains* and *Midwest* late in the weekend and early next week. Subsequently, cool air will engulf nearly all areas *east of the Rockies*. As October begins, widespread freezes can be expected across the *northern Plains* and *upper Midwest*. In advance of the cool outbreak, showers and thunderstorms could result in scattered to widespread 1- to 2-inch rainfall totals in the *mid-South* and from the *Mississippi Valley eastward*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 30 – October 4 calls for the likelihood of above normal temperatures in *Maine* and the *western U.S.*, while colder-than-normal conditions will dominate areas from the *Plains to the middle and southern Atlantic States*. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather from the *lower Great Lakes region into the Northeast*.

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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.

The next scheduled noon release of the "Agricultural Weather Highlights" will be Wednesday, Sep. 30. On other weekdays, this product will be posted by 9 am EDT.