



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

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Wednesday - May 5, 2021

- In the *West*, warm, dry weather remains ideal for fieldwork and crop development. Today's high temperatures will top 90°F in much of *California's Central Valley*. However, warmth is also causing premature melting of high-elevation snowpack, disrupting the natural hydrological cycle and potentially extending the *Western* wildfire season.
- On the *Plains*, a cool weather pattern is in place, except across *western Texas*. Across the *northern Plains*, patches of light rain are providing beneficial moisture for emerging summer crops and drought-stressed winter grains. However, much more rain will be needed in coming weeks to sustain normal crop growth, as USDA/NASS topsoil moisture on May 2 was rated 83% very short to short in *North Dakota*, along with 67% in *South Dakota* and 59% in *Montana*.
- In the *Corn Belt*, a frost advisory is in effect early today across portions of the *upper Mississippi Valley* and the *upper Great Lakes region*, mainly across *central Wisconsin* and *northern Lower Michigan*. Meanwhile, rain showers are gradually ending across the *eastern Corn Belt*, trailed by cool, breezy conditions. Although corn and soybean planting activities continue in drier areas of the *Midwest*, below-normal temperatures are slowing crop emergence.
- In the *South*, lingering showers are mostly confined to the *central Gulf Coast region* and a few areas along and near the *Atlantic Coast*. Severe thunderstorms, which were widespread across the region from May 2-4, remain a threat today across the *lower Southeast*. Meanwhile, cool, dry air is settling across the *mid-South*, where today's high temperatures will struggle to reach 70°F in some locations.

Outlook: Following recent active weather, including severe thunderstorms across the *South*, a more tranquil pattern will prevail for the next few days. However, during the weekend and early next week, back-to-back storms will follow a similar path across the *Plains*, while chilly air will continue to overspread the *Midwest* and *Northeast*. Five-day rainfall totals could reach 1 to 3 inches in the *Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys*, while up to an inch may fall across the *northern and central Plains*. In contrast, mostly dry weather will prevail in the *upper Great Lakes region* and from *California to the Rio Grande Valley*. Elsewhere, widespread frost and scattered freezes may affect the *northern Plains, upper Midwest, and interior Northeast* during the next several days. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for May 10 – 14 calls for the likelihood of near- or below-normal temperatures nationwide, except for warmer-than-normal weather in the *Far West* and across the *Deep South*, from *coastal Texas to the southern Atlantic Coast*. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation throughout the *West* and across the *nation's northern tier* should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather from the *central and southern Plains eastward to the middle and southern Atlantic States*.

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>

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