



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

## **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Thursday - September 12, 2024**

- In the *West*, a late-season heat wave has ended, except in the *Four Corners States*. In the *Northwest*, cooler weather—accompanied by rain and snow showers in the *northern Rockies* and environs—is aiding wildfire containment efforts.
- On the *Plains*, cool, showery weather in *Montana* is slowing fieldwork but boosting topsoil moisture for newly planted and soon-to-be-planted winter grains. Elsewhere, warm, dry conditions continue to promote summer crop maturation and harvesting, as well as winter wheat planting. Today’s high temperatures will top 90°F as far north as *South Dakota*.
- In the *Corn Belt*, warm, dry weather is ideal for corn and soybean maturation, as well as initial winter wheat planting efforts. Among *Midwestern States*, *Indiana* and *Michigan* had planted 2% of their intended winter wheat acreage by September 8. On the same date, corn maturity ranged from less than 10% in *North Dakota*, *Wisconsin*, and *Michigan*, to 62% in *Missouri*. On the same date, 30 to 35% of the soybeans were dropping leaves in *Illinois*, *Indiana*, and *Ohio*.
- In the *South*, Francine made landfall yesterday afternoon in *Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana*, as a category 2 hurricane with sustained winds near 100 mph. Currently well inland, Francine is rapidly weakening but continues to produce heavy rain and gusty winds. Producers in the *central Gulf Coast region* and the *Mississippi Delta* are monitoring unharvested crops, including cotton and rice, for signs of damage. *Louisiana’s* sugarcane, closer to where the hurricane moved ashore, may have been particularly vulnerable to lodging and flood-related issues, including saltwater intrusion in near-coastal areas.

**Outlook:** The National Hurricane Center forecasts the remnants of Francine to drift northward, with storm dissipation likely to occur over the *northern Mississippi Delta* by Friday. Additional *Southeastern* rainfall, extending as far north as the *lower Ohio Valley*, should total 3 to 6 inches, with locally higher amounts. In hard-hit areas of *southern Louisiana*, tranquil weather in Francine’s wake should allow producers to access fields and make damage assessments. By early next week, a new low-pressure system may form near the *southern Atlantic Coast*, with the potential for a new area of heavy rain and gusty winds. Meanwhile, a cold front currently affecting *northern sections of the Rockies and Plains* will weaken—but will be trailed by another disturbance moving into the *West* during the weekend. The latter system may entrain tropical moisture originating over the *eastern Pacific Ocean*, leading to the possibility of increasingly showery *Western* weather. In contrast, mostly dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days across the *central and southern Plains*, and from the *Great Lakes States into the Northeast*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 17 – 21 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures in most areas from the *Plains eastward*, while cooler-than-normal conditions will cover the *West*. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal weather in the *western Gulf Coast region*, parts of the *Southwest*, and an area stretching from the *lower Great Lakes region into New England*.

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