



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

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Monday - April 5, 2021

- In the *West*, cooler air is overspreading the *Pacific Northwest*, but record-setting warmth persists from the *Desert Southwest to the central and southern Rockies*. On April 4 in *Arizona*, daily-record high temperatures soared to 98°F in *Phoenix* and 96°F in *Tucson*. At higher elevations of the *Southwest*, the warmth is prematurely melting snowpack.
- On the *Plains*, a spell of record-setting warmth is ending from the north. Early today, cooler air is overspreading *Montana* and parts of the *Dakotas*, but very warm conditions linger farther south. Today's high temperatures could again approach or reach 90°F as far north as *Nebraska*. (On April 4 in *Nebraska*, daily-record highs included 88°F in *Hastings* and *Valentine*.) The early-season warm spell has promoted winter wheat development and spring fieldwork. However, extremely dry conditions persist in some areas, including large sections of the *northern Plains*.
- In the *Corn Belt*, scattered showers and thunderstorms stretch from *Iowa to Michigan*. Slightly cooler air is overspreading the *northern tier of the region*, while warmth continues across the remainder of the *Midwest*. In the *southern Corn Belt*, warm, dry weather favors winter wheat growth and spring planting preparations.
- In the *South*, warmer weather prevails in the wake of a recent cold snap. On April 2-3, *Southeastern* temperatures dipped to 32°F or below as far south as portions of *Alabama*, *Georgia*, and *Mississippi*. Assessments for blooming fruits and other freeze-sensitive commodities are underway. Except in a few lingering wet spots, dry weather throughout the region favors planting activities and other spring fieldwork.

Outlook: As the week progresses, a slow-moving storm system will emerge from the *western U.S.* and intensify over the *nation's mid-section*. The storm should cross the *central Plains* on April 6-7 and reach the *upper Great Lakes region* by April 9. A trailing cold front will drift eastward, approaching the *Atlantic Seaboard* late in the week. Aside from some snow in the *northern and central Rockies* and adjacent *High Plains*, most of the storm's precipitation will fall as rain. Five-day totals could reach 1 to 2 inches or more in the *upper Midwest*. Rainfall may also total 1 to 2 inches in parts of the *South*, including the *lower Mississippi Valley*. Elsewhere, a few severe thunderstorms may dot the *Plains*, *Midwest*, and *South* during the next few days, while windy, dry conditions will contribute to an enhanced wildfire threat across parts of the *southern High Plains* and *Southwest*. Dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days from *California to western and southern Texas*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for April 10 – 14 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions from the *Pacific Northwest to Montana*. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in the *middle and southern Atlantic States* and portions of the *central Plains* and *upper Midwest*.

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>