



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

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - July 26, 2024

- In the **West**, the passage of a cold front has helped clear some smoke, except in the vicinity of still-active wildfires. However, poor air quality remains a concern in several areas, especially in parts of **Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and northern California**. One of the fastest-growing fires, the Park Fire—which started on Wednesday—has burned more than 45,000 acres of vegetation near **Chico, California**.
- On the **Plains**, any showers are light and limited to **Montana** and the **Dakotas**. For most areas, hot, dry weather favors crop development and fieldwork, including **Northern** winter wheat harvesting. However, topsoil moisture is lacking in some areas, mainly on the **High Plains**, with locally adverse impacts on immature summer crops. For example, **Colorado** led the U.S. on July 21 with 27% of its sorghum rated in very poor to poor condition.
- In the **Corn Belt**, hot weather is expanding into the **far upper Midwest**, where today's high temperatures will generally range from 90 to 100°F. In areas that have experienced a cool, wet growing season to date, a short-lived hot spell may benefit corn and soybeans. Across the remainder of the **Midwest**, sunny, mild weather favors summer crop development.
- In the **South**, showery weather continues from the **western Gulf Coast region to the southern Atlantic Coast**. The protracted spell of warm, humid conditions has increased disease pressure for some **Southern** crops. Additionally, the rainy weather is slowing fieldwork, including hay cutting. Flash flooding remains a threat in a few areas, including parts of **eastern Texas** and the **coastal Carolinas**.

Outlook: Rainfall in the **South** will become less organized, although 5-day totals could still reach 1 to 3 inches in numerous locations. Meanwhile, a cold front will generate locally severe thunderstorms while crossing the **northern Plains** and **upper Midwest**, with 1 to 3 inches of rain possible in **northern Minnesota** and neighboring areas. In contrast, mostly dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days from the **Pacific Coast to the Plains**, aside from lingering, monsoon-related showers the next couple of days in the **Four Corners States** and the **Intermountain West**. Elsewhere, heat will continue to shift eastward, with triple-digit (100-degree) temperatures expected across the **central and southern Plains** from late in the weekend well into next week. Triple-digit heat may also edge into the **southwestern Corn Belt**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for July 31 – August 4 calls for above-normal temperatures nearly nationwide, with an area stretching from the **Plains and upper Midwest into the New England** having the greatest likelihood of experiencing hotter-than-normal weather. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal rainfall along and near the **Pacific Coast**, in the **Desert Southwest**, and across the **eastern one-third of the U.S.** should contrast with drier-than-normal conditions in the **Rockies, Plains, and upper Midwest**.

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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.

Next scheduled noon release of the "Agricultural Weather Highlights" will be Monday, August 12, 2024. On other weekdays, this product will be posted by 9 am ET.