



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

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Tuesday - April 9, 2024

- In the **West**, a few rain and snow showers are spreading inland from the **Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies**. Across the remainder of the **West**, dry weather accompanies a warming trend, with today's high temperatures expected to reach 80°F as far north as **California's Sacramento Valley**. Meanwhile, **Arizona** led the U.S. on April 7 with 16% of its intended cotton acreage planted.
- On the **Plains**, any rain is limited to parts of **Oklahoma** and **Texas**, where showers and thunderstorms are providing generally beneficial moisture for winter grains and recently planted summer crops. In **Texas**, 27% of the winter wheat had headed by April 7, with 20% of the crop rated in very poor to poor condition. Farther north, mild, dry weather across the **northern and central Plains** favors a gradual return to fieldwork, following recent storminess.
- In the **Corn Belt**, a few rain and snow showers linger across the **upper Great Lakes region**, while rain is returning to the **lower Ohio Valley**. During the week ending April 7, there were fewer than 3 days suitable for fieldwork in all **Midwestern States** except **Nebraska** (5.0 days) and **Missouri** (4.8 days). Still, sowing of corn had begun by April 7 in parts of the **southern Corn Belt**, led by **Missouri** with statewide planting 7% complete.
- In the **South**, showers and thunderstorms extend from **eastern Texas to the southern Appalachians**. Some of the thunderstorms, especially from **northeastern Texas to the Mississippi Delta**, are producing heavy rain and gusty winds. Until the rain arrived, **Southern** planting had been advancing at a rapid pace, with 23% of the nation's intended rice acreage planted by April 7, versus the 5-year average of 18%.

Outlook: A storm system currently crossing the **south-central U.S.** will move northeastward, reaching the **eastern Corn Belt** by Thursday. Significant rain will fall along and near the track of the storm, while showers and locally severe thunderstorms will occur in the vicinity of the trailing cold front. Additional rainfall should total 1 to 2 inches or more across portions of the **southern Plains** and in most areas east of a line from **eastern Texas to Lake Michigan**. Rainfall could top 4 inches in the **lower Mississippi Valley** and environs. In contrast, little or no precipitation will occur during the next 5 days from the **Rockies to the northern and central Plains and upper Midwest**. Elsewhere, late-week storminess grazing the **Pacific Coast States** will result in increasingly showery weather, especially in **California**. Warm weather will cover much of the country, except for briefly cool, blustery conditions in the wake of the departing **Midwestern** storm system. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for April 14 – 18 calls for the likelihood of near- or below-normal temperatures in the **West**, while warmer-than-normal weather will prevail from the **Plains to the Atlantic Coast**. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation in the **East** and **Far West** should contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions in most areas from the **Rockies to the western slopes of the Appalachians**.

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