



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

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - September 16, 2022

- In the *West*, poor air quality and smoky conditions from rampant wildfire activity continue to plague parts of *California*, the *Great Basin*, and the *Northwest*. Actively burning wildfires in *Idaho* and the *Pacific Coast States* have collectively charred more than three-quarters of a million acres of vegetation. In addition, the Mosquito Fire has become *California's* largest wildfire of the year to date, with some 68,000 acres burned and more than five dozen structures destroyed.
- On the *Plains*, hot weather persists across the *southern half of the region*, where today's high temperatures will generally range from 90 to 95°F. With the *Plains'* winter wheat planting progress (on September 11) ranging from 3% complete in *Kansas* to 20% in *Colorado*, rain will soon be needed to ensure uniform emergence. On the *northern Plains*, relatively cool weather accompanies widely scattered showers.
- In the *Corn Belt*, a broken line of showers extends southwestward from the *upper Great Lakes region*. Any rain in the *western Corn Belt* is too late to benefit maturing corn and soybeans. Meanwhile, warm, dry weather across the *southern and eastern Corn Belt* is helping to push summer crops toward maturity. On September 11, only 16% of the corn in *Illinois* was fully mature, compared to the 5-year average of 36%.
- In the *South*, showers are confined to *Florida's peninsula*. Elsewhere, warm, dry weather is ideal for summer crop maturation and harvesting, except in areas where lingering wetness is hampering fieldwork. On September 11, *Louisiana* led the nation with topsoil moisture rated 35% surplus, followed by *Alabama* (22%) and *Georgia* (18%).

Outlook: Tropical Storm Fiona is forecast to pass just south of *Puerto Rico* and the *U.S. Virgin Islands* during the weekend; possible impacts may include heavy rain, flash flooding, and tropical storm-force wind gusts (39 mph or greater). However, some drought-affected areas may benefit from the tropical showers. On the *U.S. mainland*, very warm, dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days from the *southern half of the Plains into the Southeast*, except along the immediate *Gulf Coast* and across *Florida's peninsula*. Rainfall in *southern Florida* could total 1 to 3 inches or more. Meanwhile, high temperatures could approach or reach 100°F across the *central and southern Plains* and the *mid-South*. Elsewhere, 5-day rainfall could total 1 to 2 inches across parts of the *northern U.S.*, while beneficial showers late in the weekend and early next week could aid wildfire containment efforts in *northern and central California*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 21 – 25 calls for the likelihood of warmer-than-normal weather along the *Pacific Coast* and east of a line from the *southern Rockies to Lake Superior*, while near- or below-normal temperatures will cover much of the *interior West*, as well as the *northern Plains*. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions in the *Rockies, High Plains, and Intermountain West*.

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