



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures for 6:45 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Tuesday - September 16, 2008

- ***In the West***, hot, dry weather is promoting fieldwork, including ***Northwestern*** winter wheat planting, and crop development. ***Northwestern*** temperatures are reaching record-setting levels for mid-September.
- ***On the Plains***, the return of warm, dry weather favors fieldwork and summer crop maturation, except across recently drenched areas from ***western Texas to eastern Kansas***. To date, winter wheat planting has progressed at a slower-than-normal pace in all of the region's states except ***Colorado***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool weather lingers in the ***Ohio Valley***, but warm, dry air expanding across the remainder of the region favors summer crop development. Dry weather is also allowing water to drain from flooded fields and lowlands in recently soaked areas from ***Missouri to southern Michigan***.
- ***In the South***, showers are mostly confined to the ***southern Mid-Atlantic region***, despite a band of lingering cloudiness stretching from the ***Appalachians to southern Texas***. Damage assessments continue in the wake of Hurricane Ike, although cotton was the only row crop with significant acreage near the point of landfall on the upper Texas coast. Meanwhile, producers in the ***Delta and central Gulf Coast region*** continue to evaluate the effects of Ike and Gustav on cotton, rice, sorghum, soybeans, and sugarcane.

Outlook: Quiet weather will dominate the U.S. over the next several days. Showers and thunderstorms will continue along and near a stalled front over the ***southern Atlantic States***. Below-normal temperatures will persist for much of the week in the ***Gulf and Atlantic Coast States***, but warmth will expand from the ***northern Plains*** and the ***West*** across the remainder of the ***Plains*** and the ***Midwest***. During the next few days, lightning may spark new wildfires in ***northern California*** and the ***Northwest***. Toward week's end, cooler weather will arrive in ***California*** and the ***Intermountain West***, accompanied by widely scattered showers. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 21-25 calls for warmer- and drier-than-normal weather along and near the ***Pacific Coast*** and from the ***Great Lakes region into the Northeast***. In contrast, cooler- and wetter-than-normal conditions will prevail in the ***Gulf Coast region***. Wet weather will also affect parts of the ***northern Plains***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.pdf>