



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

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - October 5, 2012**

- In the *West*, warmth lingers across the *southern half of the region*, but much colder air has invaded the *interior Northwest*. Developing drought remains a concern with respect to rain-fed winter grains in the *Northwest*.
- On the *Plains*, a few rain and snow showers are affecting *central portions of the region*. Markedly colder weather is slowing winter wheat emergence, which has already been hampered by extremely dry conditions across the *northwestern half of the Plains*.
- In the *Corn Belt*, showers and thunderstorms in the vicinity of a strong cold front stretch from near *Lake Erie into Missouri*. The rain is slowing corn and soybean harvesting but providing additional moisture for newly planted winter wheat. Meanwhile, sharply colder weather in the front's wake has resulted in freezes this morning throughout the *Dakotas*, much of *Minnesota* and *Nebraska*, and *northern Iowa*.
- In the *South*, warm, mostly dry weather favors summer crop harvesting and other fieldwork. Isolated showers are confined to the *lower Southeast*.

**Outlook:** The coldest air of the season will continue to overspread much of the nation, with weekend freezes expected across much of the *Plains* and *Midwest*. Meanwhile, lingering warmth will be limited to the *Pacific Northwest*, the *Desert Southwest*, and the *lower Southeast*. Widespread showers will accompany the surge of cold air into the *South* and *East*; event-total rainfall could exceed an inch in a few locations from the *Mid-South into the Northeast*. In the front's wake, most of the U.S. will experience cool, dry weather, although some light rain and snow may develop across the *northern Plains* and the *Midwest* during the first half of next week. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for October 10-14 calls for below-normal temperatures in *central and southern California* and the *Midwestern, Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States*, while warmer-than-normal weather will prevail in the *south-central and northwestern U.S.* Meanwhile, near- to above-normal precipitation across the majority of the nation will contrast with drier-than-normal conditions across the *northern Plains* and the *Northwest*.

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**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Daily/TODAYSWX.pdf>

*The outlook is an interpretation of National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts and products.*