



# Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

May 9, 2025

## Main Points

- Less than normal precipitation received in the past week outside of Ohio.
- Planting progress is expected to continue as drier conditions support more rapid progress.
- Minimal to no precipitation forecasted in the short term, higher forecasted amounts in the Plains and south-east portions of the region.
- Leaning toward above normal temperatures and precipitation in the 8-14 day outlook.

## Current Conditions

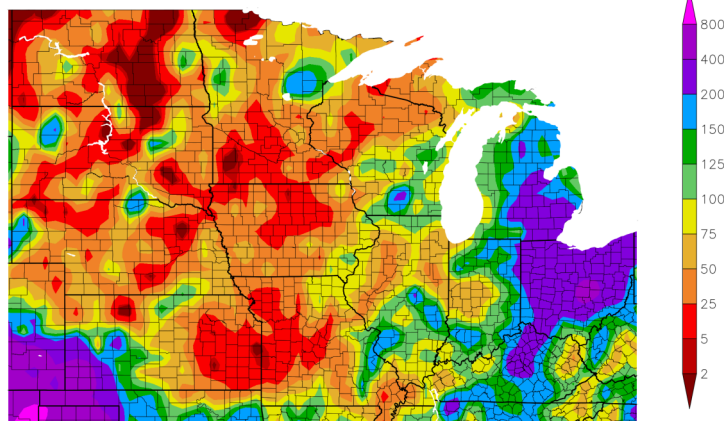
Over the past several days the southeast portion of the region, southern Illinois into Ohio, have received the majority of the precipitation in the region. Locations in Ohio received more than 3 inches in the past week, double their normal weekly precipitation for this time of the year. Elsewhere around the region precipitation was minimal. Extending out from the swath from Illinois to Ohio, surrounding states received less than one inch of precipitation, with many locations receiving less than 0.5 inches further to the northwest.

Temperatures have ranged from the upper 40°Fs into mid-60°Fs in the southeast portions of our region near Kentucky. Normal to cooler normal temperatures were present during the past week from the southwest portion of the region to the northeast portion of the region. There were several pockets that were 4°F to 6°F below normal in Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Michigan. The Dakotas and Minnesota were much warmer than normal having experienced temperatures 6 to 8°F warmer than normal. A pocket in northeastern North Dakota was 10°F warmer than normal.

Growing degree days (GDD) continue to accumulate across the region. Ranging from 50 GDD in the northeast portion of the region to over 400 GDD in the southern portions accumulated since April 1st with a base of 50°F. Except for

Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](#). Generated: 05/08/2025.

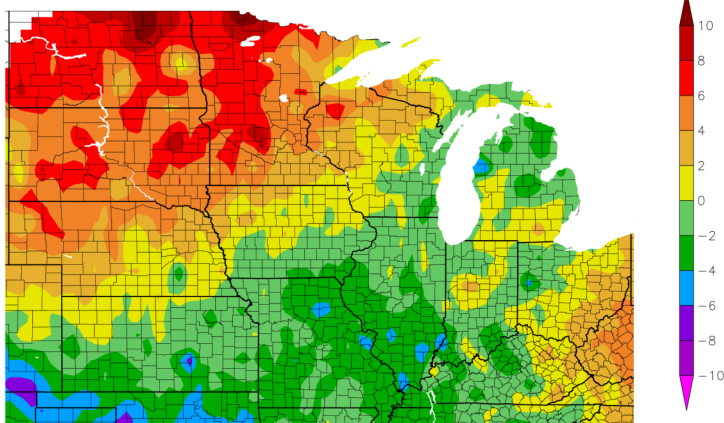
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
5/1/2025 – 5/7/2025



Generated 5/8/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
5/1/2025 – 5/7/2025



Generated 5/8/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Wisconsin and Illinois, which are slightly behind the average GDD accumulation for this time period, most locations have accumulated more GDD than average. The [Corn Growing Degree Day](#) decision support tool provides a point location look at GDD accumulation from a desired start date to maturity.

# Impacts

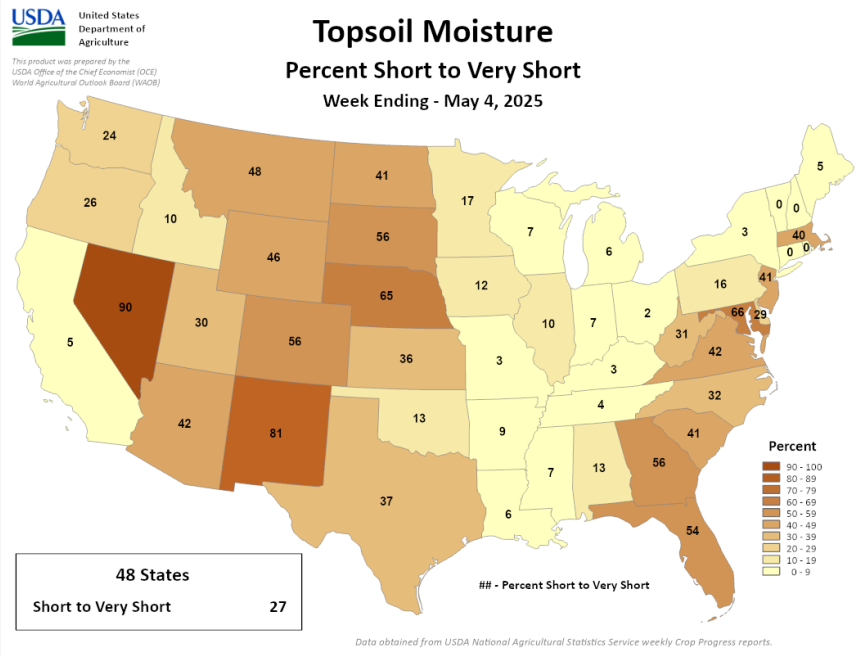
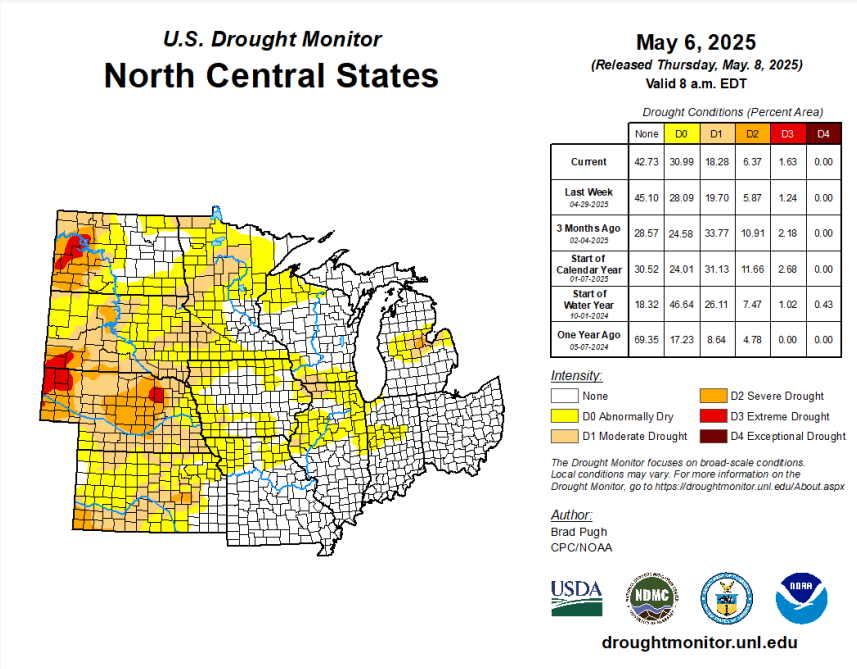
## Drought

Currently, 43% of the region is classified as no drought (none), 31% as abnormally dry (D0), 18% as moderate drought (D1), 6% at severe drought (D2), and 2% as extreme drought (D3). Pockets of extreme drought are most prevalent in the Plains, where lack of spring rainfall continues to impact the region. In comparison to last week, there have been small pockets of 1-class improvement and 1-class degradation sprinkled across the region.

As of the week ending May 4th, USDA-NASS topsoil moisture rankings indicate surplus moisture conditions in the eastern portion of the region, with 46% of Ohio topsoil moisture in surplus. In contrast, 36-65% of topsoil moisture remains in short to very short supply across the Plains. As topsoil continues to dry, folks in Minnesota report some concern for weed control, as some soil moisture is needed for effective herbicide application.

## Soils, Crops and Livestock

As of the week ending May 4th, planting progress continues across the region, and most states have seen a double digit increase in planting progress in comparison to last week. Across the region, corn planting progress ranges from 16-54% (overall 40%). Currently, the western portion of the region is tracking above the 5-year average in terms of corn planting progress – driven by drier conditions allowing for fieldwork. Soybean planting progress lags slightly behind corn planting, with 10-38% (overall 30%) of soybeans planted. However, in comparison to the 5-year average, all states in the region except for Illinois are tracking ahead of schedule for soybeans. With drier conditions and warmer temperatures forecasted over the next week, planting progress is expected to increase as favorable planting conditions prevail.

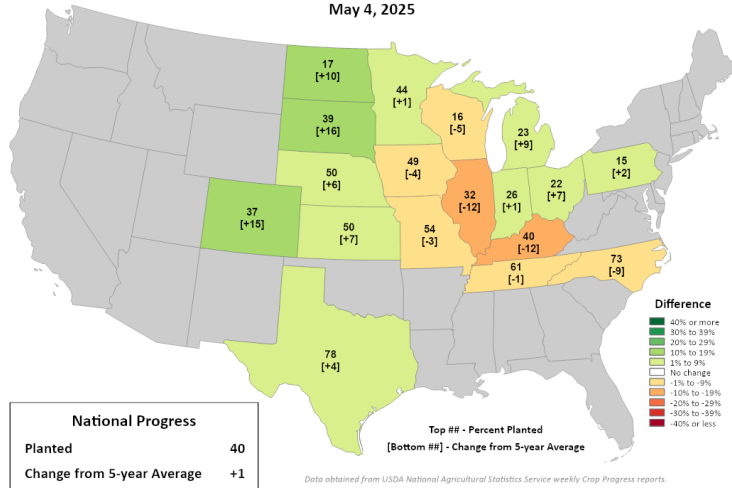


Maps generated by the [National Drought Mitigation Center](#) and [United States Department of Agriculture](#).

## Corn Progress

### Percent Planted

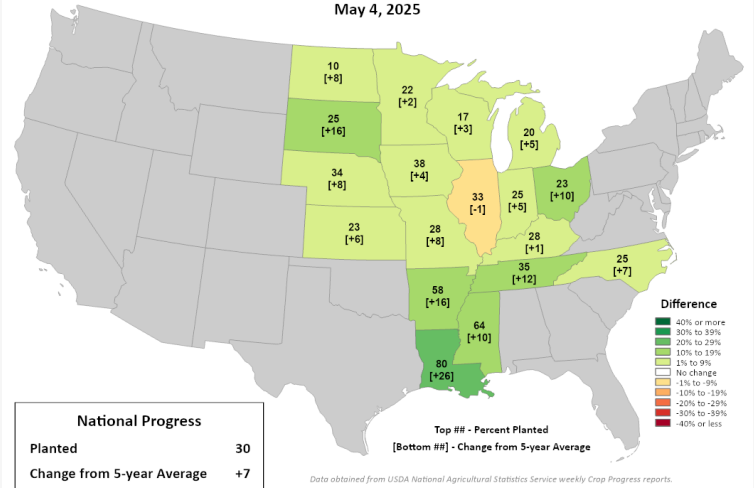
May 4, 2025



## Soybeans Progress

### Percent Planted

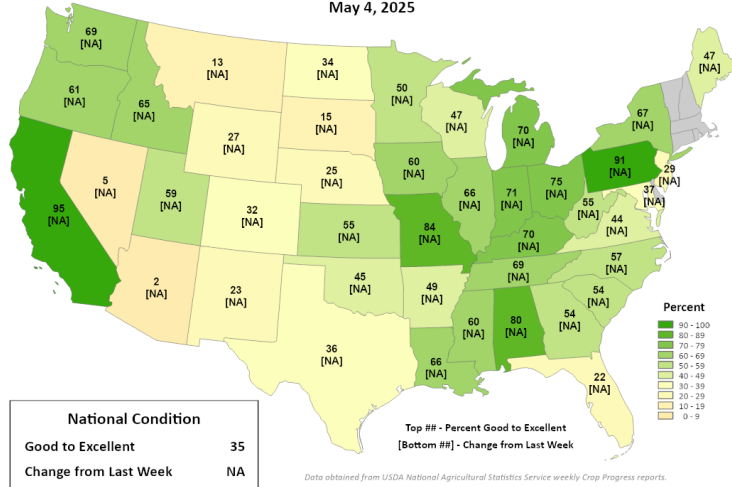
May 4, 2025



## Pasture and Range Conditions

### Percent Good to Excellent

May 4, 2025

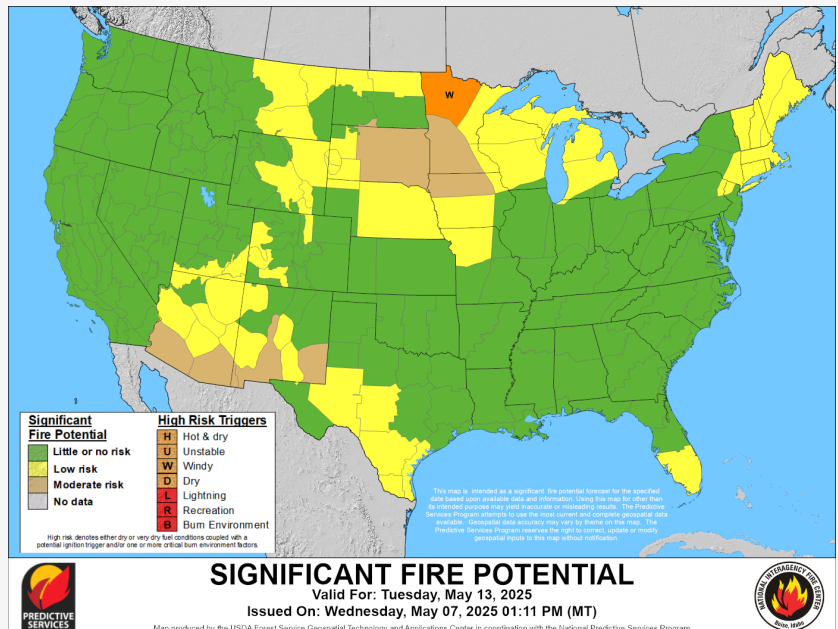


Across the Plains, pasture and range conditions are feeling the impact of dry conditions, with 30-38% of pasture and rangeland classified as poor to very poor. In contrast, spring rainfall has favored pastures in the central and eastern portion of the region; Missouri to Ohio report 66-84% of pasture and rangeland in good to excellent condition.

With spotty rainfall across many states in the region, pest and disease concerns vary. Currently South Dakota is reporting dry conditions, decreasing the risk for crop disease related to high moisture, but anticipate larger grasshopper population this year due to favorable fall-spring conditions. In Indiana, folks should keep an eye on winter wheat and rainfall forecasts when deciding to spray fungicide. Wisconsin is reporting the emergence of adult seed corn maggots.

## Fire

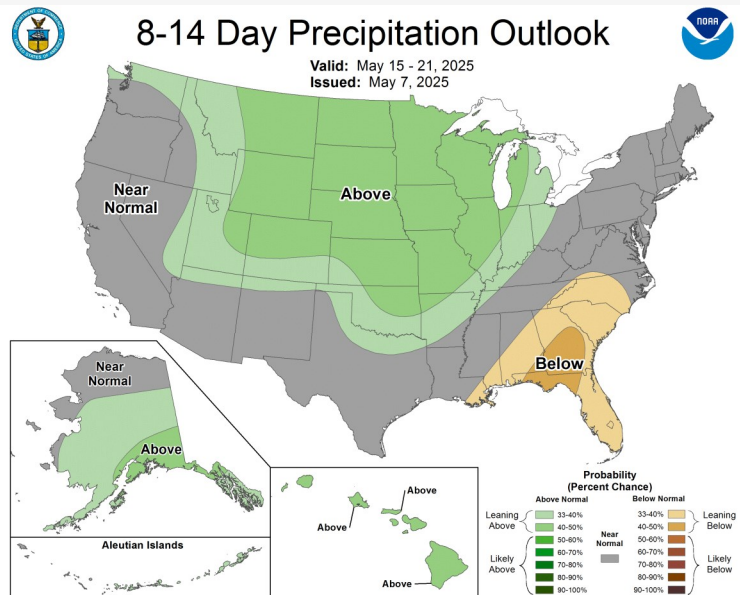
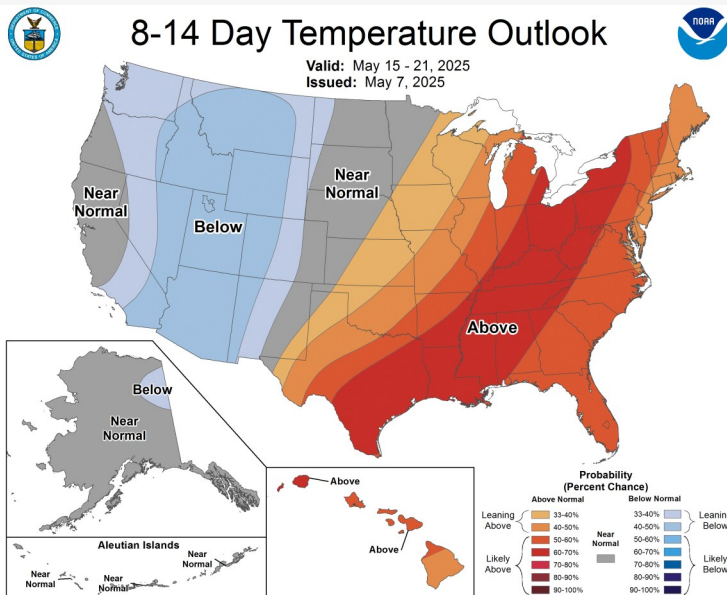
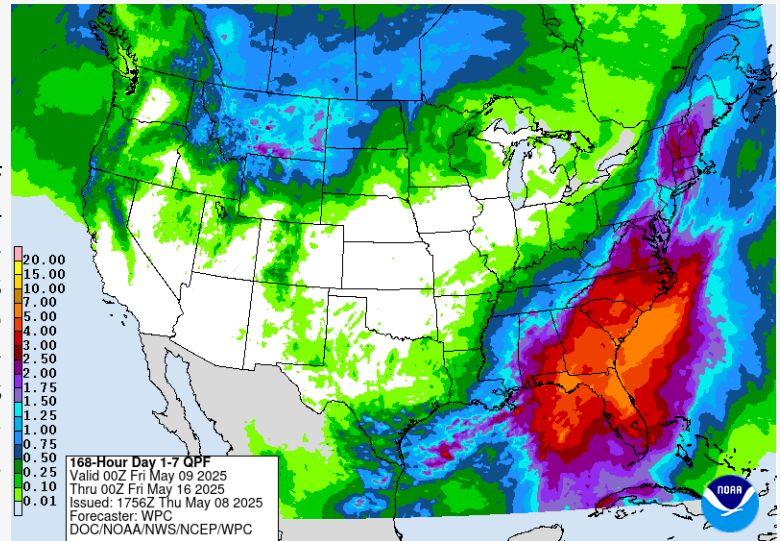
Over the past few weeks, both northern Illinois and Nebraska have reported wildfires. Persisting dry conditions paired with changes in wind conditions allowed for controlled burns to intensify and expand. Looking toward next week, much of the northern and western portions of the region have a low risk fire potential, while much of the southeastern portion of the region has little to no risk. Those in South Dakota, southern Minnesota, and northern Iowa are under moderate risk and should pay careful attention to conditions. Northern Minnesota has the potential for windy conditions early next week, which could serve as a high-risk trigger for burns to quickly become out of control.





# Outlook

The seven-day total precipitation forecast for our region has minimal precipitation for the majority of our region. Areas that are forecasted to receive more than 1 inch of precipitation include Kentucky and the Dakotas. The 8-14 day precipitation outlook continues to have the Dakota and the rest of our region with improved chances for precipitation. Northwest portions of our region are likely to experience near normal temperatures according to the 8-14 day outlook. Moving east, temperatures are leaning to and likely to be above normal. Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky are likely to experience above normal temperatures.



Outlooks provided by the [Weather Prediction Center](#) and the [Climate Prediction Center](#).

## Partners and Contributors

[United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)  
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[Midwestern Regional Climate Center \(MRCC\)](#)  
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[High Plains Regional Climate Center \(HPRCC\)](#)

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