



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

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - September 14, 2012**

- In the *West*, cool conditions linger across the *southern Rockies*. Elsewhere, late-season warmth and dry conditions favor fieldwork, including *Northwestern* winter wheat planting. However, several wildfires remain active in the *northern Rockies*. On the strength of late-summer wildfire activity in the *Northwest*, the nation's year-to-date total is approaching 8.4 million acres—within reach of the 2006 record of 9.9 million acres.
- On the *Plains*, warm weather has returned to *northern areas*, where today's high temperatures will approach 90°F as far north as *Montana*. Farther south, cool, showery weather continues to boost soil moisture in preparation for winter wheat planting, especially across the *southeastern Plains*.
- In the *Corn Belt*, a band of widespread showers stretches from *southeastern Michigan into the middle Mississippi Valley*. Farther north, frost advisories are in effect early today in parts of *North Dakota* and *northern Minnesota*, where low temperatures generally ranged from 30 to 40°F.
- In the *South*, isolated showers are confined to the *western Gulf Coast region* and *Florida's peninsula*. Elsewhere, warm, dry weather continues to promote summer crop maturation and harvesting.

**Outlook:** During the weekend and early next week, a cold front crossing the *Plains* and the *Midwest* will interact with a pool of atmospheric moisture across the *South*. As a result, showers and thunderstorms will develop in the vicinity of the front, while showers will be drawn northward in advance of the front across the *eastern U.S.* Five-day rainfall totals should reach 1 to 3 inches in a broad area across the *South* and *East*. In contrast, little or no rain can be expected into the middle of next week across the *western half of the U.S.* In the front's wake, another surge of cool air will arrive during the first half of next week across the *Plains* and *Midwest*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 19-23 calls for below-normal temperatures from the *Plains to the Appalachians*, while warmer-than-normal weather will be confined to *southern Florida, New England*, and the *West*. Meanwhile, below-normal precipitation from the *Pacific Coast to the Plains* will contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions *east of the Mississippi River*.

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