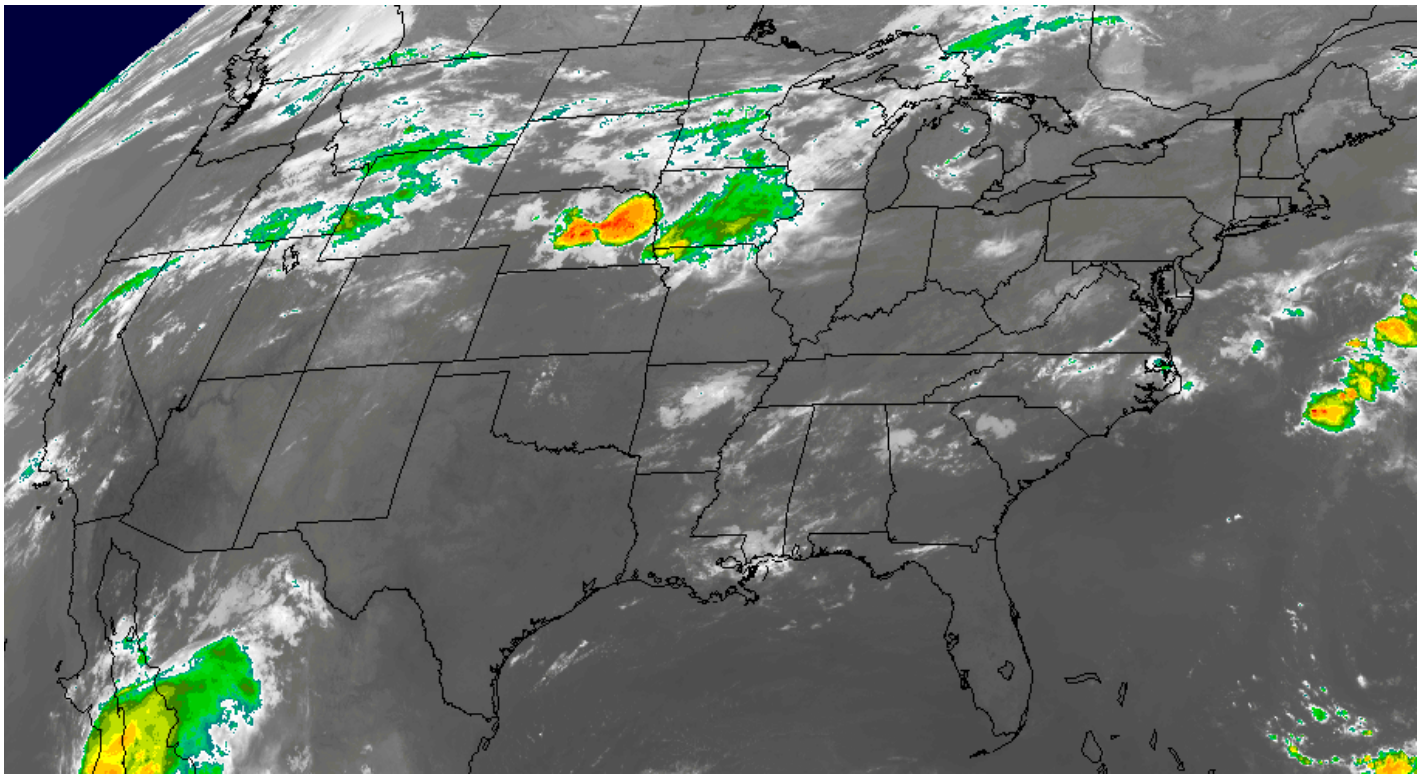




Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures for 6:10 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Tuesday - August 18, 2026

- In the **West**, a lull in monsoon-related shower activity has led to the return of hot, mostly dry weather. However, a few showers dot the **northern Intermountain West**. On August 16, rangeland and pastures were rated 72% very poor to poor in **Colorado**, along with 71% in **Wyoming**. On the same date, statewide topsoil moisture in agricultural regions was rated at least 45% very short to short in all **Western States**, except **California**.
- On the **Plains**, scattered showers and thunderstorms are occurring from **Nebraska northward**. The **Northern** showers are causing minor fieldwork delays, although the nation's spring wheat harvest was already 41% complete by August 16, versus the 5-year average of 34%. Meanwhile, blazing heat and dry conditions prevail across the **southern half of the Plains**. With hot, dry weather having dominated the **southern Plains** for a month, cascading agricultural impacts include livestock stress and deteriorating conditions for rangeland, pastures, and immature summer crops.
- In the **Corn Belt**, a broken line of showers extending southwestward from the **Great Lakes region** is heaviest in **Nebraska**. Meanwhile, lowland flooding lingers in **central sections of Illinois and Indiana**, following last week's deluge. A wide range of agricultural conditions exist across the **Midwest**, with statewide topsoil moisture ranging from 71% very short to short in **North Dakota** to 52% surplus in **Ohio**.
- In the **South**, hot, mostly dry weather prevails, except across the **northern tier of the region**. Today's high temperatures will broadly range from 95 to 105°F, with some of the highest readings expected **west of the Mississippi River**. On August 16, statewide topsoil moisture was rated 81% very short to short in **Arkansas**, along with 75% in **Louisiana**.

Outlook: During the next 5 days, the passage of two cold fronts will maintain active weather in the **Corn Belt**, although rainfall intensity will not match last week's downpours. Still, **Midwestern** rainfall could reach 1 to 2 inches or more. Similar amounts will be observed across the **northern and central Plains**. Meanwhile, parts of the **Southeast** may experience an increase in rainfall coverage, with some of the heaviest rain (locally 2 to 4 inches or more) expected in the **middle and southern Atlantic States**. In contrast, hot, mostly dry weather will persist in the **south-central U.S.**, including the **southern Plains**. Elsewhere, a gradual return of monsoon-related shower activity should occur across the **West**, except in the **Great Basin** and **Pacific Coast States**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for August 23 – 27 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures across most of the country. Cooler-than-normal conditions will be confined to portions of the **lower Great Lakes region** and the **Northeast**, while drier-than-normal weather should be limited to the **Deep South**, from **Texas (excluding the northern panhandle) to Florida's peninsula**.

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