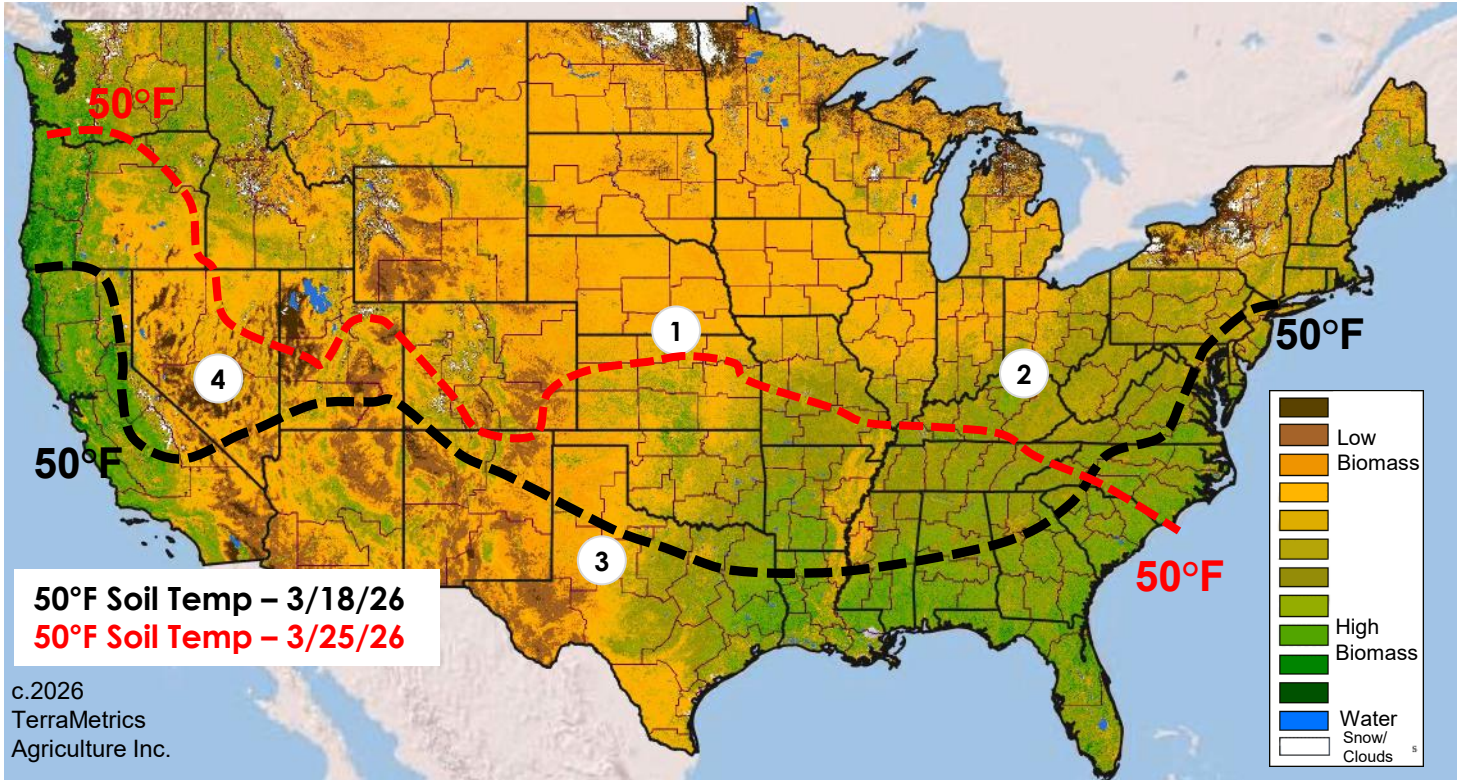


Normalized Differential Vegetation Index | Period 12, March 9 - March 22, 2026



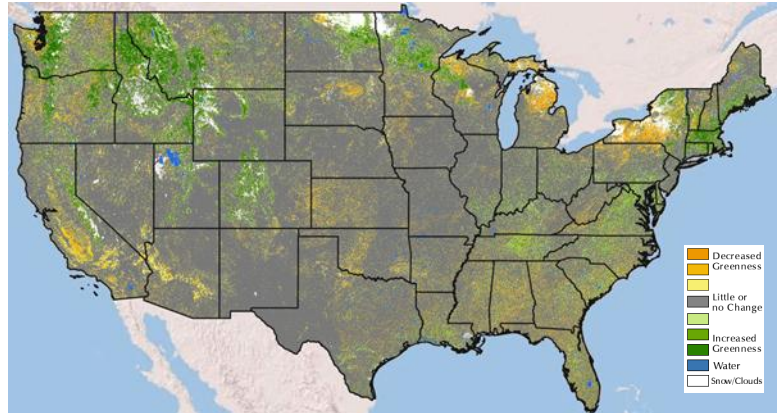
THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

1. The key 50°F soil temperature reading has surged much further north over the past week given strong heat for this time of year. It now lies across the heart of the Missouri Valley and lower Corn Belt regions. Early Greenness is clearly evident in those areas, primarily turf and deciduous vegetation. The rest of the month promises more variable temperature shifts but remaining quite dry. Still, where soil moisture is adequate, producers in these areas will be eager to get the planters rolling.
2. States east of the Mississippi River, while warming of late, have still been dealing with frequent bouts of cooler weather. Greening is becoming more evident, but has been slowed at times. However, ample moisture supplies are in place for most with the exception of Florida north into the Carolinas, which are dealing with severe drought. After recent drier weather, we're watching what looks to be a return to much more unsettled conditions as we turn the corner into April. This is in keeping with our concern for overly wet conditions possible during planting, particularly for the Delta and Mid-South regions.
3. The wheat areas of the Western High Plains are increasingly stressed given extended periods of early heat. Dry and windy conditions have predominated as well with wildfires being reported in portions of western Nebraska and Kansas. The Lone Star state is in particularly bad shape with over 80 percent of the state in some level of drought. Winter wheat health has been rapidly declining. Early spring planting has been delayed for some, with others planting into dry soils hoping for rains soon.
4. Greenness in western states, however, has been thriving overall given persistent above normal warmth and adequate moisture supplies. Further, more widespread rains are likely as we move into April, which should keep conditions very good. There's even good news for the heat-ravaged Southwest, which should get a much cooler break at the beginning of April.

Vegetation Index Difference Maps | Period 12, March 9 - March 22, 2026

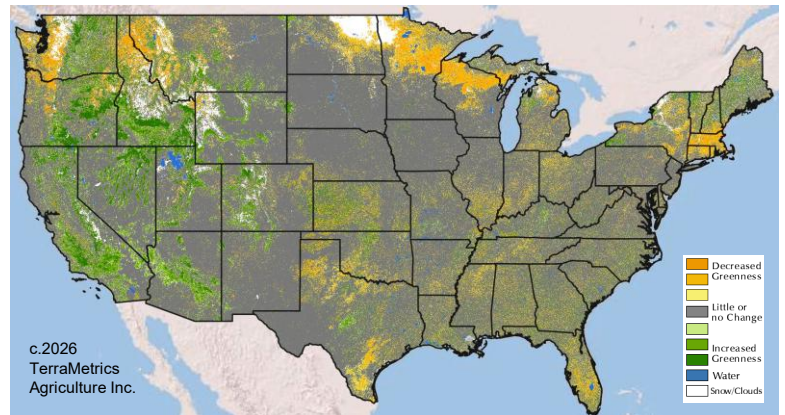
Change from Last Week

Conditions are slowly greening across southern and eastern states given bursts of above normal warmth and ample soil moisture. Greenness progress for most of the West is also looking quite robust given a very warm last few weeks. The exception is southern California and the Southwest which has been enduring record heat for the better part of the last 2 weeks with no moisture. The wheat areas of the Western High Plains are showing increased stress given dry conditions.



Change from Last Year

Early Greenness trends from the Corn Belt on south appear to be quite mixed, but overall less green given periods of cool weather. Conversely, western states are much greener with range and grasslands thriving. The Plains wheat areas are greatly suffering from increasing drought conditions, although Kansas is faring a bit better than areas further south. The northern areas shaded in brown and white represent snow cover that was not there last year.



Change from Normal

This comparison shows much broader greening for a good portion of the Corn Belt and Northeast states as turf and deciduous vegetation emerges. Again, western states are benefiting from a very warm winter and early spring, although adverse impacts of strong heat can be seen over portions of the Southwest. Conditions are clearly very poor for winter wheat and other biomass from Kansas on south, but exceptionally bad in the western half of Texas.

