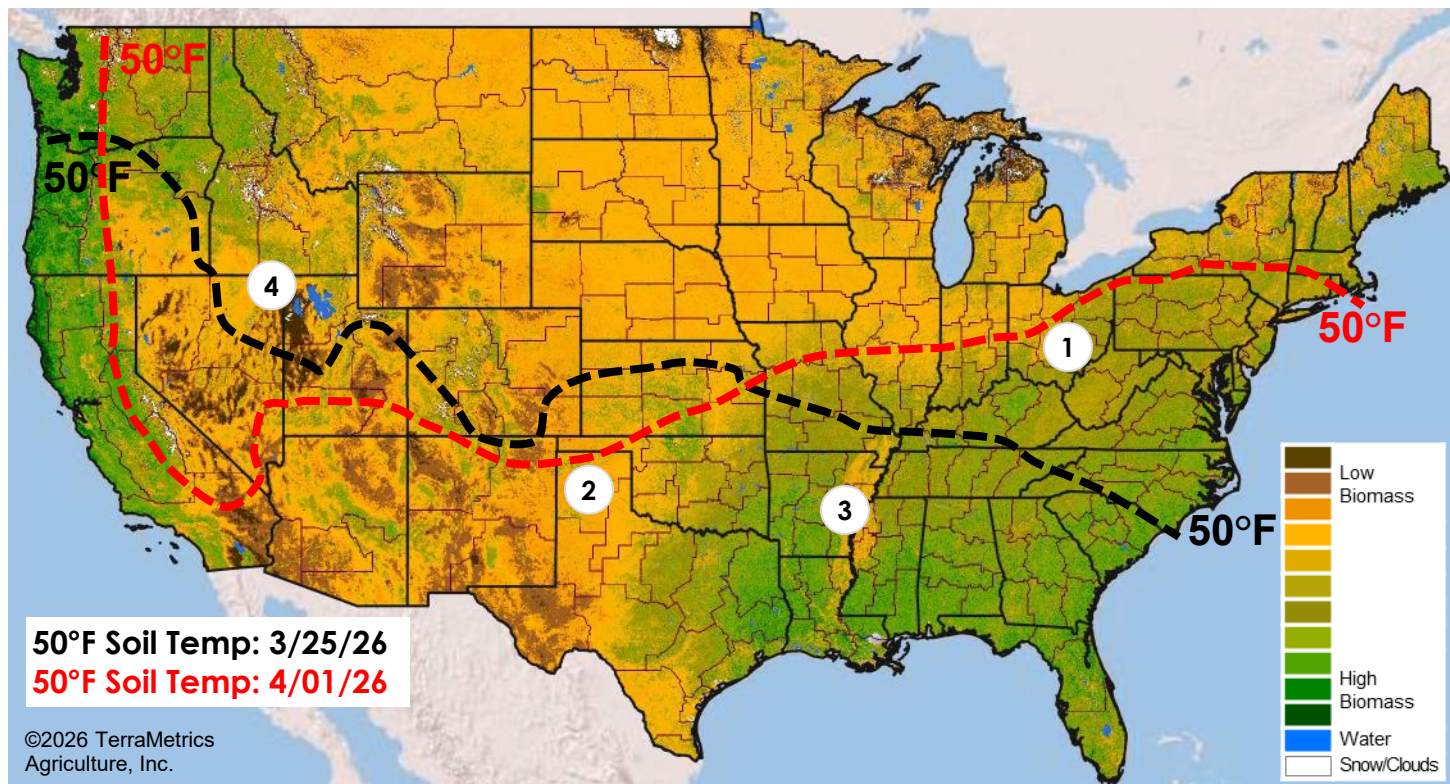


Normalized Differential Vegetation Index | Period 13, March 16 - March 29, 2026



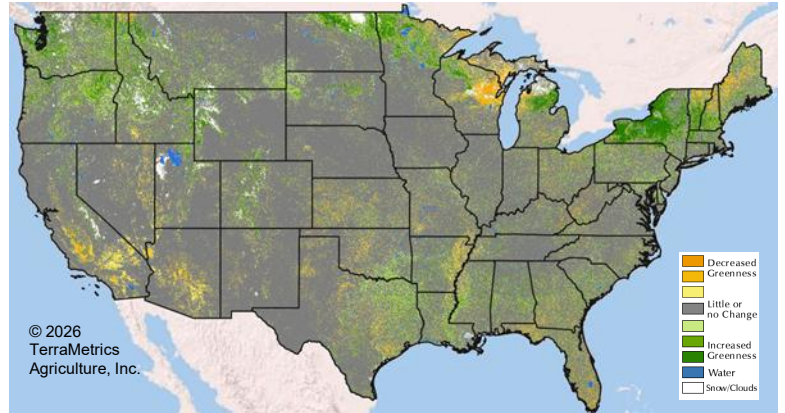
THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

1. The key 50°F soil temperature reading has surged further north since last week, now positioned from the Missouri Valley, across the central Corn Belt, and into the Northeast. Periods of above normal warmth and frequent bouts of showers have given early biomass growth a strong boost. More wet weather is on tap later this week into the weekend for this broad area, which will help to further boost soil moisture in advance of planting.
2. Winter wheat and other biomass in the Western High Plains continue to suffer as drought conditions worsen. Crop health is reported Poor to Very Poor for up to 25 percent of both the Texas and Oklahoma crop. Yield potential will likely suffer if there is no rain soon. However, there is good news in the short-term forecast. A large, slow-moving storm complex that entered the West earlier this week is expected to bring periods of rain in the coming days. While amounts aren't expected to be overly high, it could be just enough to keep the crop 'above water'. Another chance is also expected next week. That said, the crop is hardly out of danger, so we'll continue to keep a close eye on the situation. Also, the rain chances should help to better contain the ongoing wildfires.
3. The lower Mississippi Valley has benefited recently from a drier stretch, which has helped to dry out saturated soils from persistent, heavy rains. This has certainly helped increase the pace of planting and early development. However, with a return to an unsettled pattern, the area will be 'under the gun' for overly wet conditions that could hamper fieldwork and planting progress. We will be monitoring closely for the potential for replant or prevent plant for the wettest areas in the region.
4. Western states, already much greener than typical given very warm temperatures and adequate soil moisture, will get a strong boost in the coming days from large, slow-moving Pacific storm systems. Crop, pasture, and range lands will continue to thrive.

Vegetation Index Difference Maps | Period 13, March 16 - March 29, 2026

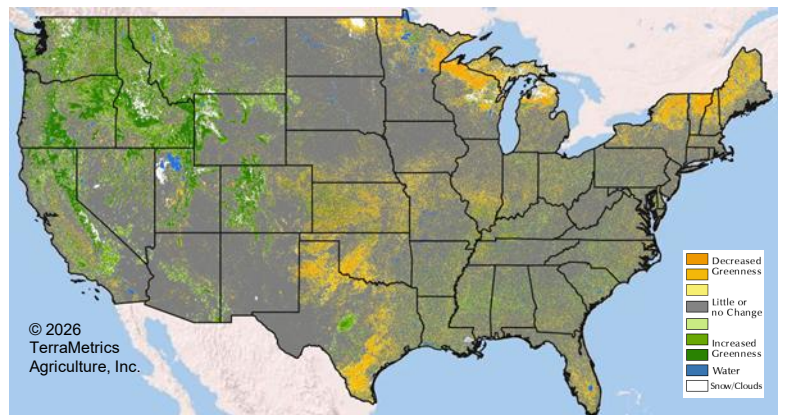
Change from Last Week

Widespread greening continues across southern and eastern states given bursts of above normal warmth and ample soil moisture, and rapid snow melt is evident across the far north. 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 extended drier weather and short periods of cool weather. Conversely, western states are much greener with range and grasslands thriving much earlier than last year. Conversely, the Plains wheat areas are greatly suffering from increasing drought conditions along with strong heat and high winds. 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 growth hastens. Again, western states are benefiting from a very warm winter and early spring, although adverse impacts of strong heat can still 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.

