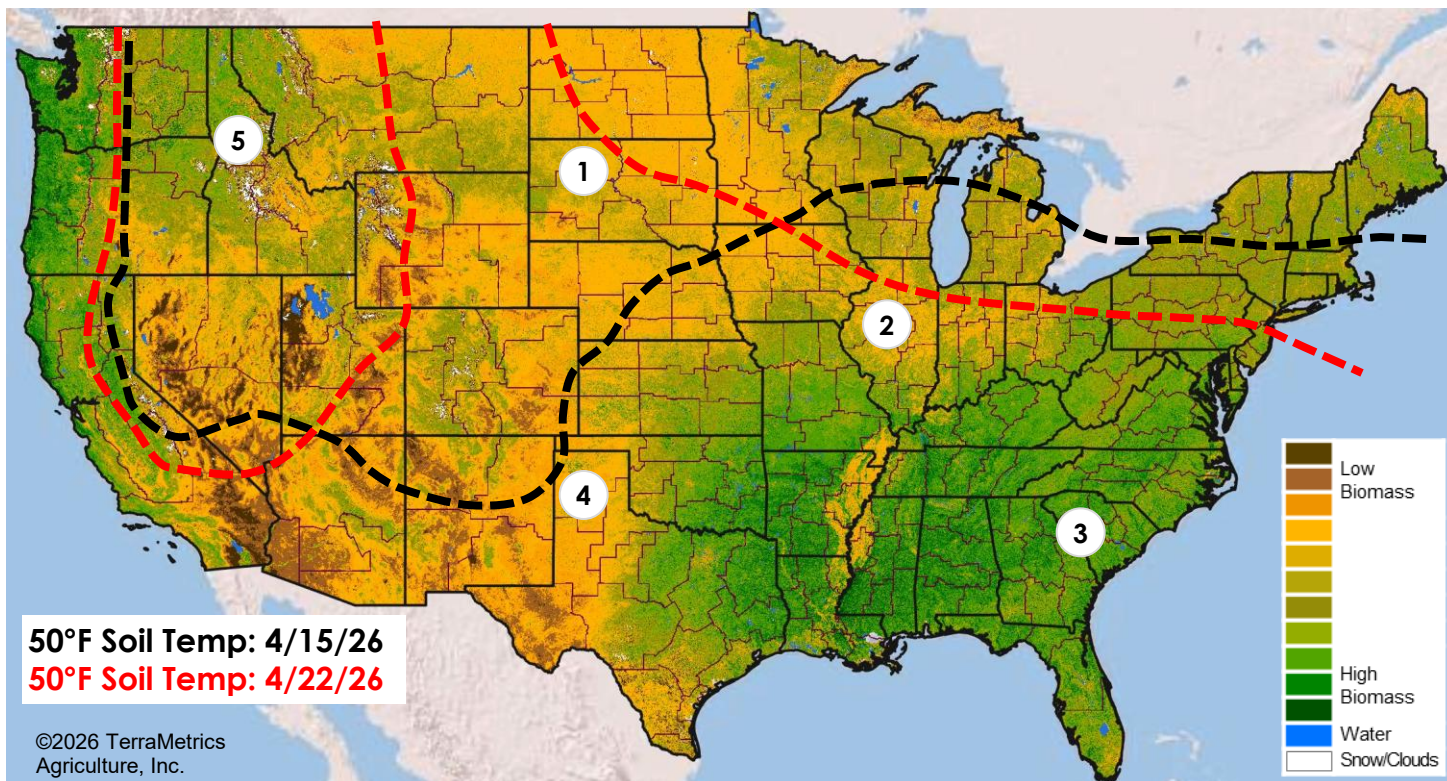


Normalized Differential Vegetation Index | Period 16, April 6 - April 20, 2026



1. The key 50°F soil temperature has surged well north across the Plains, now reportedly making it to the Canadian border across the western Dakotas. Grass and rangelands have responded well given overall warmth and occasional rains. However, this could be a temporary situation as much cooler weather is expected in the area right into May. Further east, soils have cooled somewhat across the northern portions of the Corn Belt and Northeast, although planting has yet to begin in those areas.
2. We've not been referencing severe weather of late given the relative lack of storms since mid-March. However, the past week has been a strong reminder that we are in heart of severe weather season. A multi-day outbreak of tornadoes, strong winds, and large hail pummeled western and central Corn Belt states into the eastern Plains. While early planted summer crops have not yet emerged for many, areas of winter wheat would have taken a beating in the worst hit areas. Expect more repeat episodes in the weeks to come.
3. We referenced last week the parched conditions

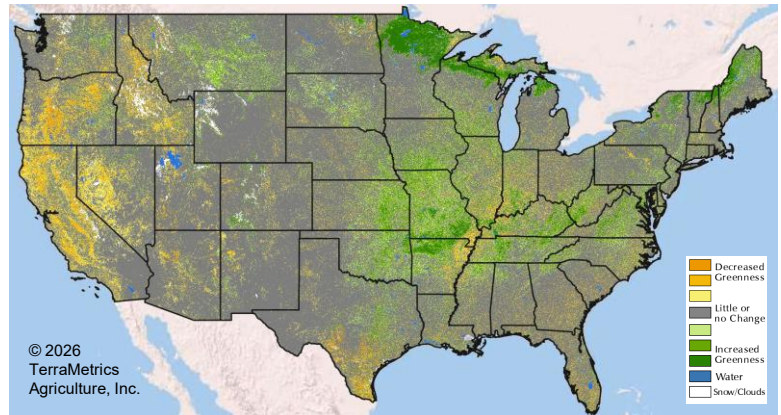
across the Atlantic Southeast from Florida to Virginia. Severe to Exceptional drought is firmly entrenched over this large area and crops that have been planted are suffering where irrigation is not occurring. However, there is very good news in the near term forecast. Beginning this weekend into next week, a stalled frontal boundary will produce periods of showers and storms, some heavy, which will go a long way toward boosting moisture levels and alleviating drought conditions.

4. There have been no new positive developments for the parched wheat areas of the Western High Plains. Regular storms passing the region are simply 'drying out' with the heavier rains falling just east of the area. Short term forecasts are not promising.
5. The northwest quadrant has benefited from frequent storms traversing the area and moisture levels have been quite robust. This has been great news for the winter wheat crop in the region, reported healthy and thriving. That trend will continue, although limited sun and cooler weather could have late development lagging.

Vegetation Index Difference Maps | Period 16, April 6 - April 20, 2026

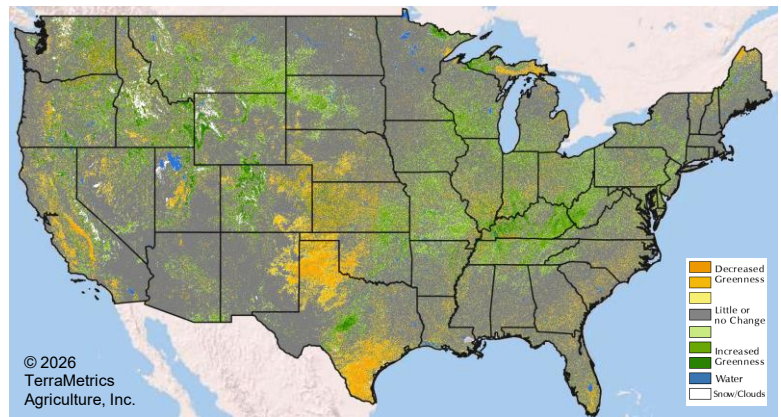
Change from Last Week

Widespread greening continues across southern and eastern states given recent periods of above normal warmth and adequate rainfall. The majority of this is turf and deciduous vegetation, but also early emergence of row crops further south. This extends back into the Plains, but east of the primary wheat areas, which are hurting from lack of moisture. Greenness progress has slowed for most of the West, with large decreases now seen across the Far West, although moisture reserves are still good.



Change from Last Year

Early Greenness trends in and around Corn Belt states are now trending more consistently green given bouts of warmth and regular rains. However, there remains evidence of trouble for Florida north into the Carolinas given above normal heat and little to no rain in recent weeks. Western states continue to trend greener overall with range and grasslands thriving much earlier than last year given the very warm Spring. Conversely, much of the Plains wheat area is greatly suffering from increasing drought conditions.



Change from Normal

This comparison also shows much broader greening for a good portion of the Corn Belt and Northeast states as turf and deciduous vegetation growth hastens. The Northwest has benefited from the very warm winter and early spring, although adverse impacts of the earlier strong heat episode can still be seen over portions of the Southwest. Conditions are clearly very poor for winter wheat and other biomass from western Nebraska on south into the western half of Texas. While northern and eastern parts of the state has seen good rains, south Texas has been missed and greatly suffering.

