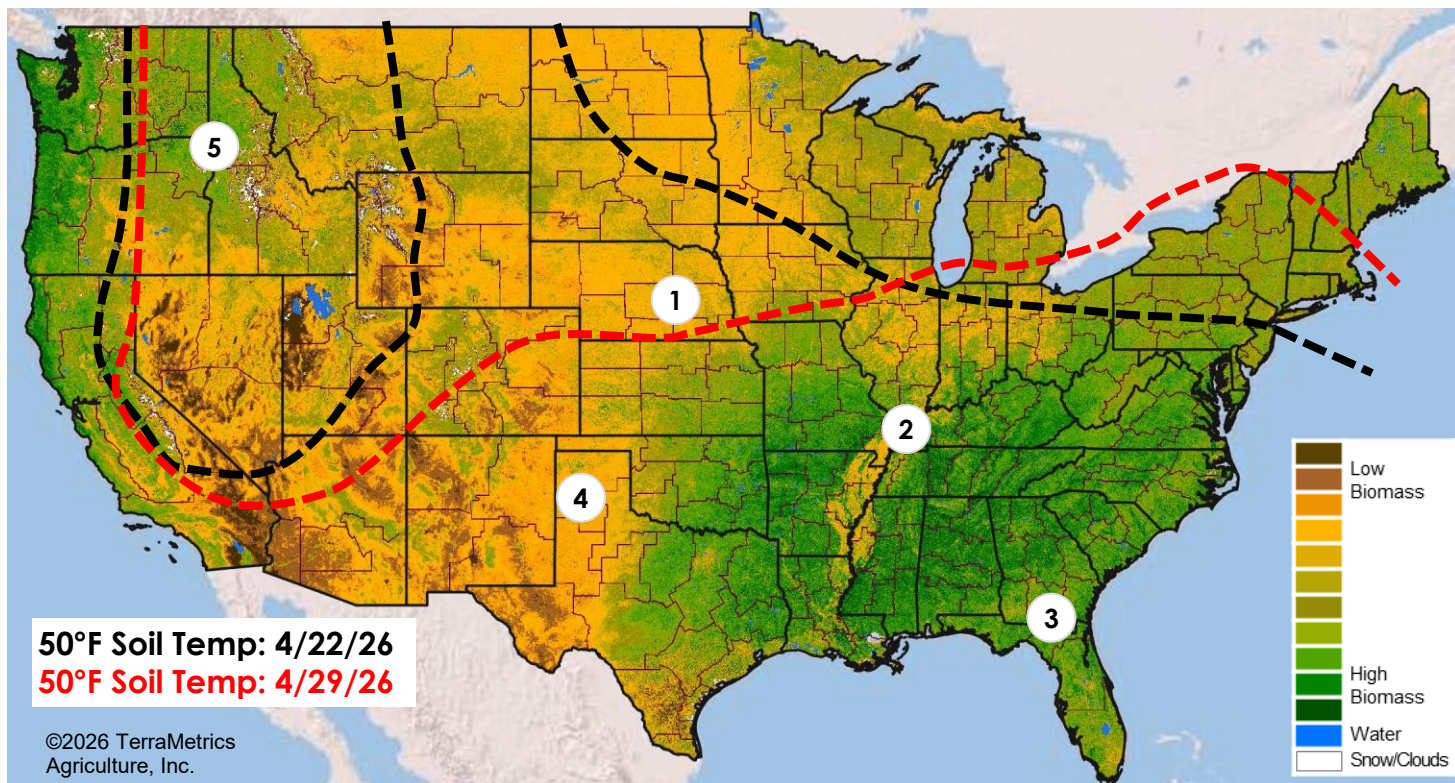


## Normalized Differential Vegetation Index | Period 17, April 13 - April 27, 2026



1. The key 50°F soil temperature has dropped much further south from the prior week across the Plains, now lying along the Kansas-Nebraska border. A week of much cooler temperatures has been responsible. On the plus side, notable rains fell across portions of parched western Nebraska and Dakotas. Further east, soil temperatures are now optimal for early crop germination across the majority of the Corn Belt region stretching into the Northeast.
2. Early planting pace has been running well ahead of normal for most states, particularly across the lower Corn Belt and Mid-South where the pace is two to even three weeks ahead of typical given periods of very warm temperatures and adequate rains so far this Spring. Early emergence has been equally accelerated.
3. Conditions have been getting increasingly bad for Southeast Atlantic states given the prolonged lack of moisture. Drought is firmly established, with D3 Extreme to D4 Exceptional covering much of the region. The worst conditions are in southern Georgia and northern Florida, where numerous wildfires have been reported of late.

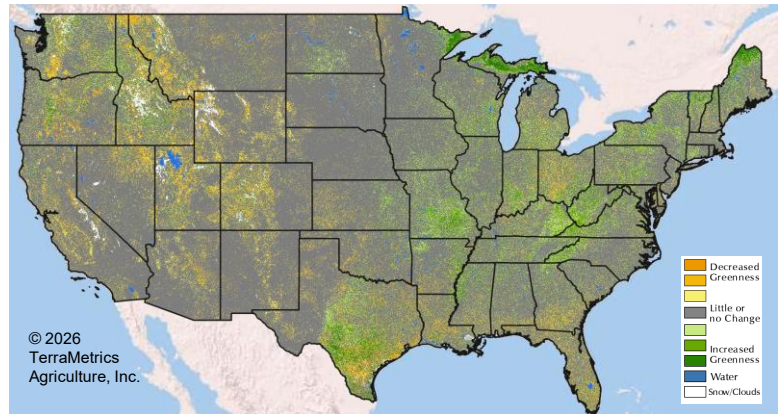
There is, however, good news in the near-term forecast as scattered rains are expected to fall at times over the next few days. While it won't be nearly enough to fully reverse the situation, any moisture would be helpful.

4. Speaking of dire conditions, we continue to focus on the parched Western High Plains where the winter wheat crop is greatly suffering. How bad is it? The Nebraska crop is at 65 percent Poor to Very Poor, with Oklahoma and Texas at 45 and 56 percent, respectively. Pretty bad indeed. There are chances for scattered rains for parts of the region in the forecast, although amounts are likely to be on the lighter side.
5. Conversely, winter wheat is doing quite well in the Pacific Northwest region. Rains have been quite regular in recent weeks keeping soils well-watered. Crop health is reported as 92 and 87 percent Good to Excellent for Washington and Idaho, respectively. All good news as the crop will soon be heading. Expect yield potential to be very good.

**Vegetation Index Difference Maps | Period 17, April 13 - April 27, 2026**

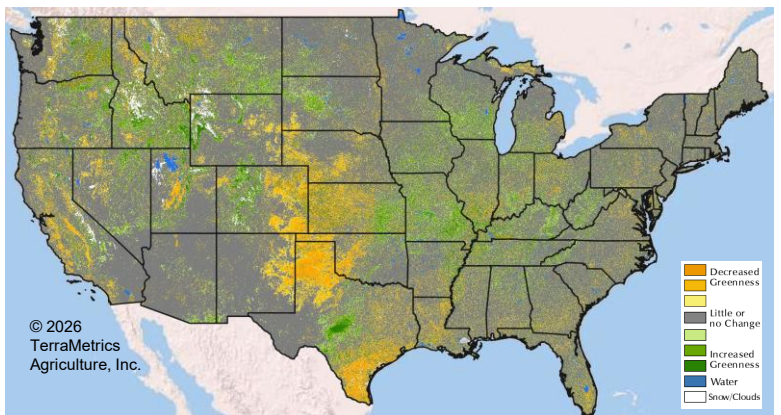
**Change from Last Week**

Widespread greening continues across southern and eastern states given recent periods of above normal warmth and adequate rainfall. The majority of this remains turf and deciduous vegetation but also increasing early emergence of row crops. 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, although moisture reserves are still good overall.



**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 South Carolina 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 increased 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, along with early row crop emergence. 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.

