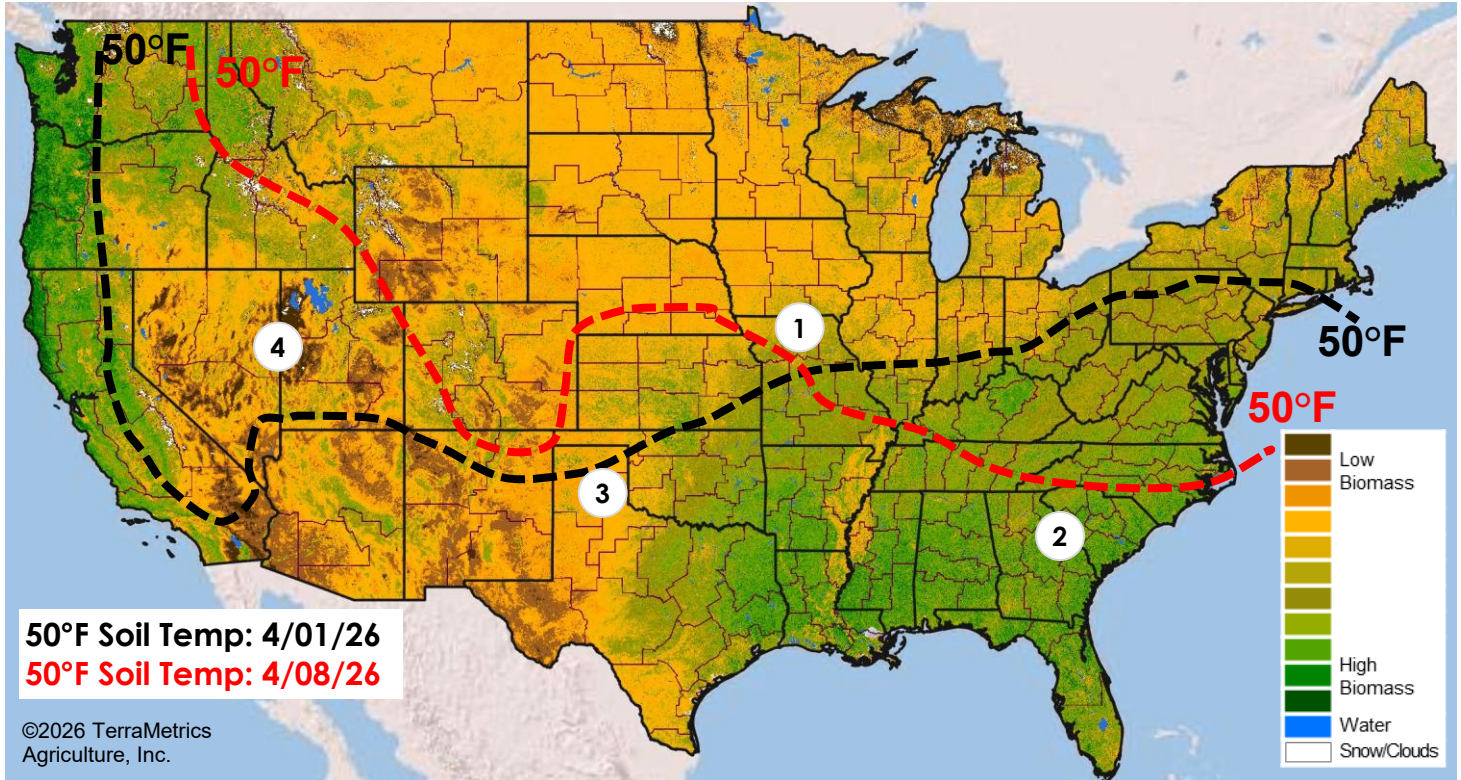


Normalized Differential Vegetation Index | Period 14, March 23 - April 6, 2026



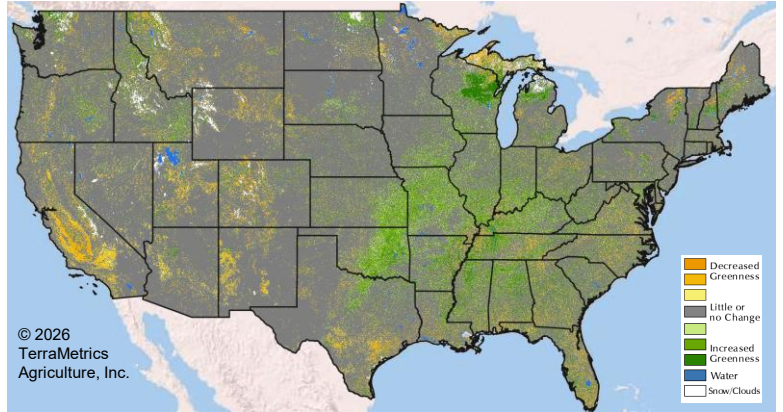
1. The key 50°F soil temperature reading has pushed further north across the Plains and much of the Intermountain West. This should ensure accelerated spring crop planting where field conditions allow. Further east, however, it has actually sagged southward well to the south of the primary Corn Belt region given the recent stretch of very cold days. This is fairly typical of early spring given wide swings of temperature. A warm period over the next week should have soil temperatures rising again.
2. While the southeast Atlantic coastal region reported some beneficial showers over the past week, it remains an area that is overly dry with Severe (D3) drought in place for most of the region. The short-term forecast does not favor producers there as the dry conditions are expected to continue, exacerbating the already poor conditions for spring crop emergence and early development.
3. We continue to monitor the winter wheat areas of the Western High Plains, as the crop clearly

- continues to suffer from very dry conditions. The latest USDA Crop Progress report has between 40 to 55 percent of the crop in Poor to Very Poor condition for the 5 state region of NE, KS, CO, OK, and TX. However, there is very good news on the horizon. A complex of large storms first entering western states are expected to bring considerable rains to this large region over the next week or so. Projections suggest several inches of rain are possible, which would go a long way toward alleviating drought conditions and getting the crop back on track. Next week's update should bring a more favorable assessment.
4. Except for the Southwest, western states have benefited overall from above normal warmth and regular rains. The week ahead looks very unsettled with a series of storms overspreading the region to include the parched Southwest. High elevation snow is also likely, with the boost in snowpack improving irrigation reserves.

Vegetation Index Difference Maps | Period 14, March 23 - April 6, 2026

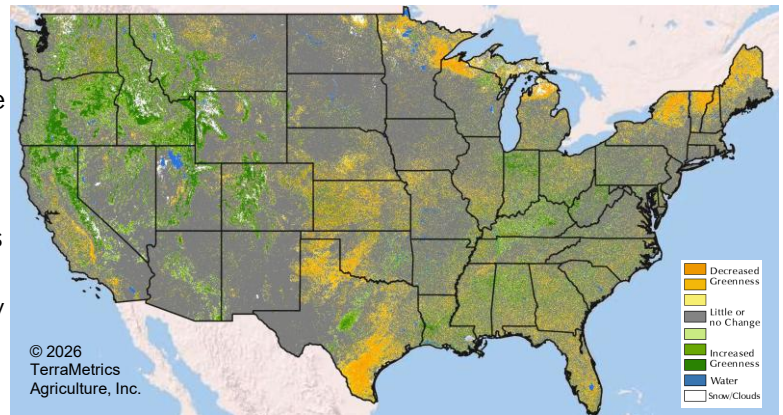
Change from Last Week

Widespread greening continues across southern and eastern states given bursts of above normal warmth and copious rainfall. The majority of this is turf and deciduous vegetation. 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 pockets of decreases now seen. Southern California and the Southwest biomass in particular is looking quite poor.



Change from Last Year

Early Greenness trends from the Corn Belt on south continue to be quite mixed. Western states continue to trend much greener with range and grasslands thriving much earlier than last year given the very warm Spring. Conversely, the Plains wheat areas are greatly suffering from increasing drought conditions along with periods of 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 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 but remaining exceptionally bad in the western half of Texas.

