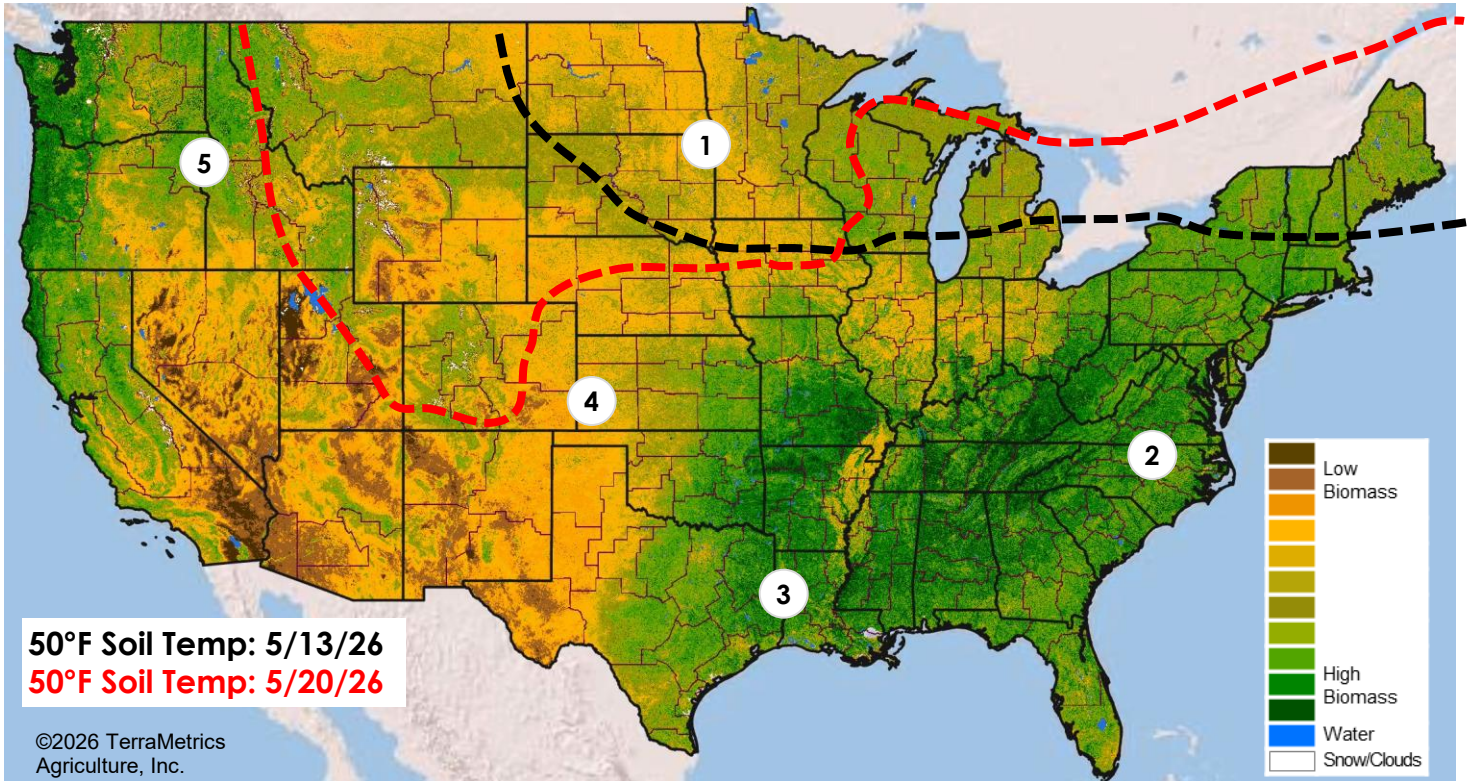


## Normalized Differential Vegetation Index | Period 20, May 4 - May 18, 2026



**50°F Soil Temp: 5/13/26**  
**50°F Soil Temp: 5/20/26**

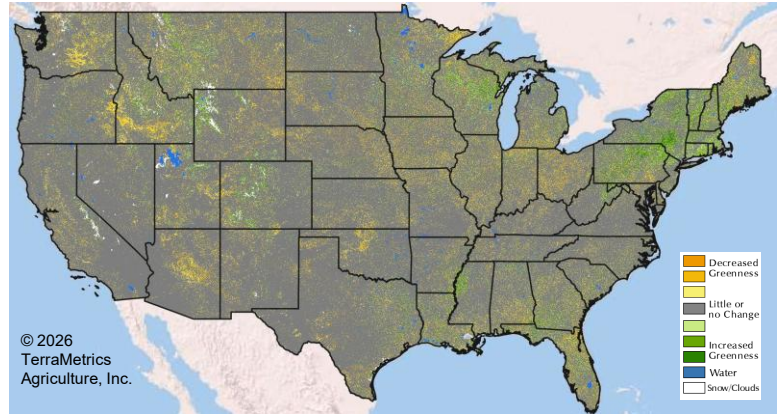
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1. The key 50°F soil temperature has cleared most of the U.S. However, a cool and wet week across north-central states currently has soils sub-optimal for planting and early germination of spring crops. Spotty frost and freeze have contributed as well. These conditions are expected to last through the next several days before a significant warmup as we approach the Memorial Day holiday. After that, the chance for frost and freeze will greatly diminish.
2. The DelMarVa and Carolinas regions are overly dry and soil moisture deficits run deep. As a result, planting and emergence of cotton, peanuts, and other specialty crops are running behind typical pace across the region. There does appear to be some relief in the near-term forecast with showers and storms possible, which will help recharge topsoil. However, much more is needed as the heat of summer approaches.
3. Texas and the lower Mississippi Valley region have gotten off to a decent start to the season as summer crops are developing at a rapid pace and reported quite healthy. However, it appears a very wet period is in store for at least the next two weeks across this region. While going a long way toward alleviating any drought conditions, it could very well mean the heightened potential for localized flooding and replant in the wettest spots.
4. We have been reporting regularly on the dire situation with the Western High Plains winter wheat crop, and the Greenness evidence supports those challenges. However, we've been following guidance for some time that supports a more sustained chance of beneficial showers and storms as we head into late May and June. While this will be hugely beneficial for early developing summer crops, it's likely 'too little too late' for much of the late-stage wheat crop, and yields are likely to be substandard.
5. The winter wheat crop in the Pacific Northwest, however, is currently faring much better as the key heading phase is now underway. However, it is worth watching as the region has been drier of late and forecast to continue so. Areas further south across the West will benefit from an increase in showers and storms, improving crop and rangeland health.

**Vegetation Index Difference Maps | Period 20, May 4 - May 18, 2026**

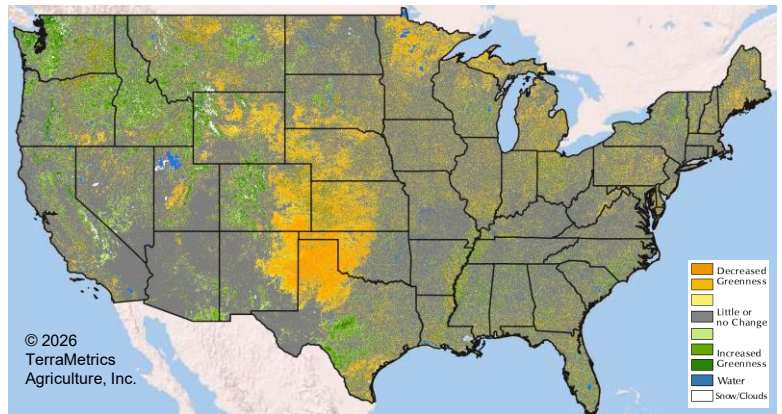
**Change from Last Week**

Greening appears to be at a lesser pace this week, although there remains evidence of that across much of the Northeast and northern Corn Belt regions. Recent periods of heat have certainly supported that trend. Also, it is somewhat greener across the Deep South and Florida given recent rains, which have been very beneficial in alleviating drought. Unfortunately, the Plains wheat areas are still struggling, and drier weather across the West is causing pockets of trouble.



**Change from Last Year**

Early Greenness trends in and around Corn Belt states are looking quite mixed, although decreased Greenness is evident in portions of the Northeast and Northern Plains. Western states continue to trend greener overall with range and grasslands thriving. However, the majority of the Plains wheat area continues to greatly suffer from increased drought conditions, although recent rains did help in spots.



**Change from Normal**

This comparison also shows much broader and more considerable 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, and moisture reserve, despite drier conditions of late, are still good overall. Conditions clearly remain very poor for winter wheat and other biomass from western Nebraska on south into the Texas Panhandle.

