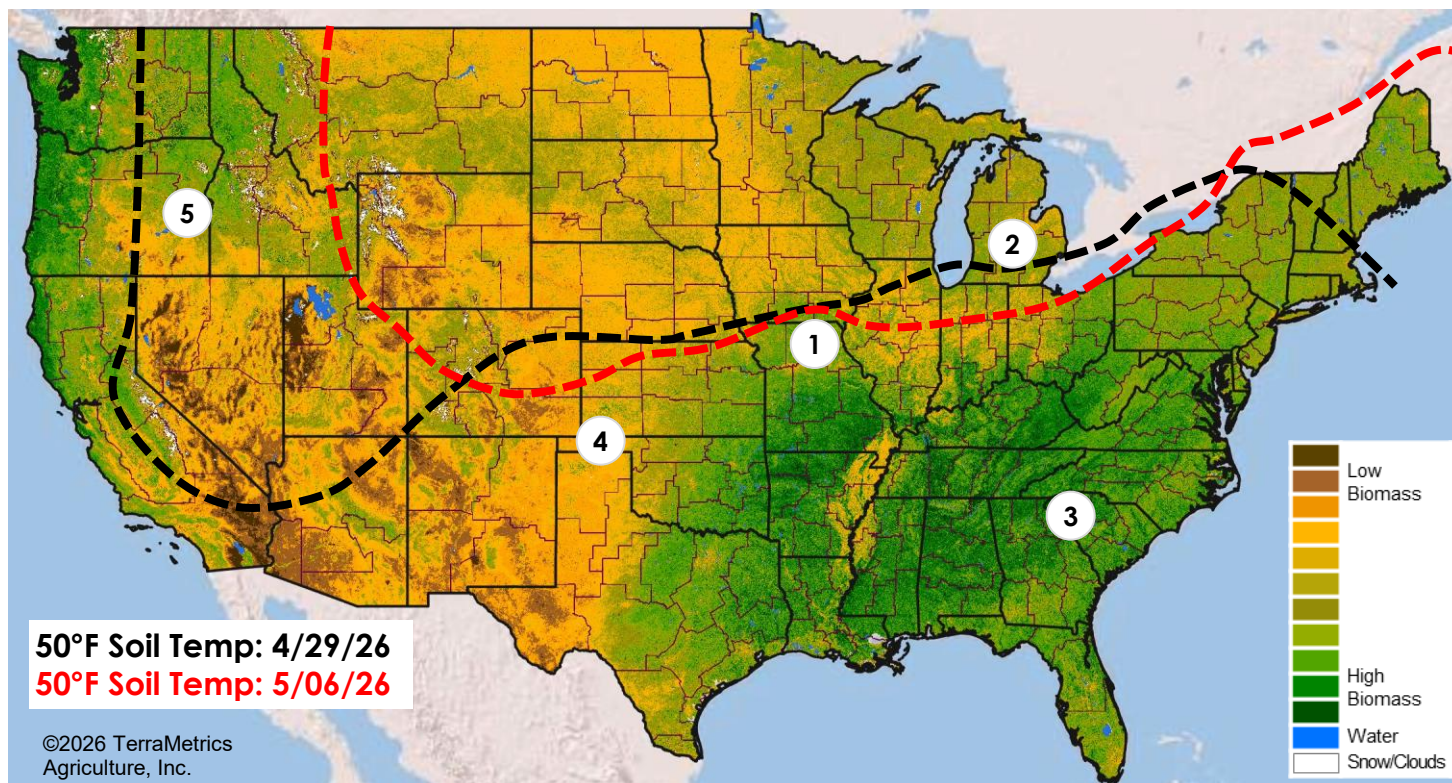


## Normalized Differential Vegetation Index | Period 18, April 20 - May 4, 2026



1. The key 50°F soil temperature has not made much northward progress in the past week, not yet making it through the northern and western portions of the Corn Belt. Surges of cooler than normal temperatures to include frosty mornings across northern states have been the culprit. While some planting has occurred, conditions are not optimal for germination, and continued cooler surges in the near term will not help the situation.
2. Further south and east, the pace of planting and has been very robust, 1-3 weeks ahead of average with emergence of corn and soybeans similarly ahead of schedule. However, there are exceptions, primarily across northern states where the combination of cooler readings and frequent rains have kept producers out of the fields. Most notable is in Michigan where no additional planting got done in the past week. Continued bouts of cooler and wetter weather could further hamper the early challenges.
3. What a difference a week makes! As we noted in last week's report, we were projecting the chance for soaking rains in the parched Atlantic

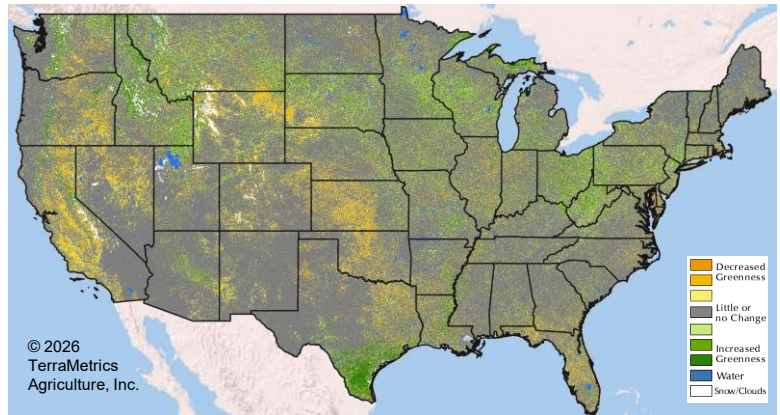
Southeast states. That was realized over this past weekend as a slow-moving front brought considerable rains to the region, boosting very dry soils and allowing for wildfire containment. Better yet, expect a repeat performance in the coming days as another frontal boundary will stall over the region with the potential for several inches of rain to fall. This will be a real game-changer for producers in the region.

4. While there have been scattered showers of late, the Plains wheat area from western Nebraska to the Texas Panhandle continues to deal with significant drought conditions and a crop that is not doing well. Poor to Very Poor conditions are being reported for Nebraska (67 percent) with Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas reporting 56, 49, and 44 percent, respectively. There's not much relief expected short term, but there are better moisture chances possible later in May.
5. Conversely, the wheat crop in the Pacific Northwest is doing quite well. Washington state is reporting 84 percent Good to Excellent (G-E) conditions. Idaho's crop is reported even healthier at 87 percent G-E.

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

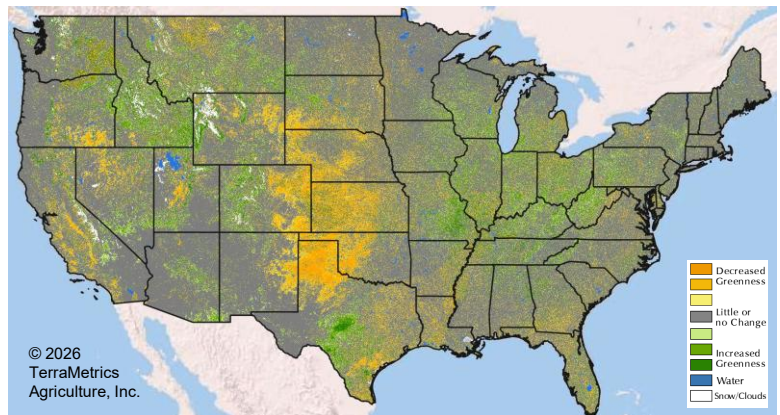
**Change from Last Week**

Widespread greening continues across Corn Belt and more northern states. 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 remain hurting from very dry conditions. Greenness progress has slowed for California and the Far West, although moisture reserves are still good overall. South Texas benefited from much-needed rains.



**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. Western states continue to trend greener overall with range and grasslands thriving, although there are scattered pockets of trouble. The majority of the Plains wheat area continues to greatly suffer from increased drought conditions, although recent rains could help. Biomass health in much of Texas is improving given a week of good rains.



**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, and moisture reserves are good. Conditions clearly remain very poor for winter wheat and other biomass from western Nebraska on south into the western half of Texas, although recent showers may help.

