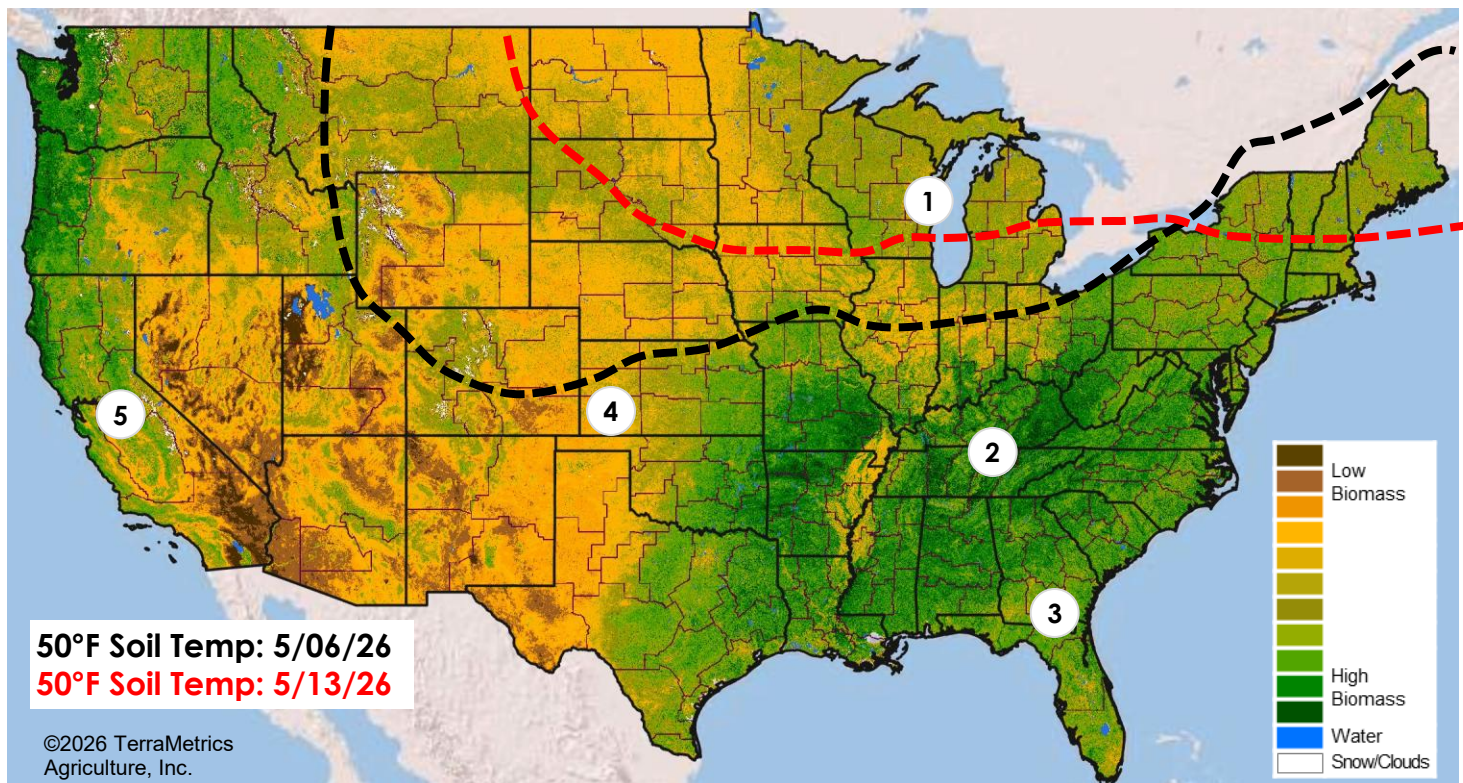


Normalized Differential Vegetation Index | Period 19, April 27 - May 11, 2026

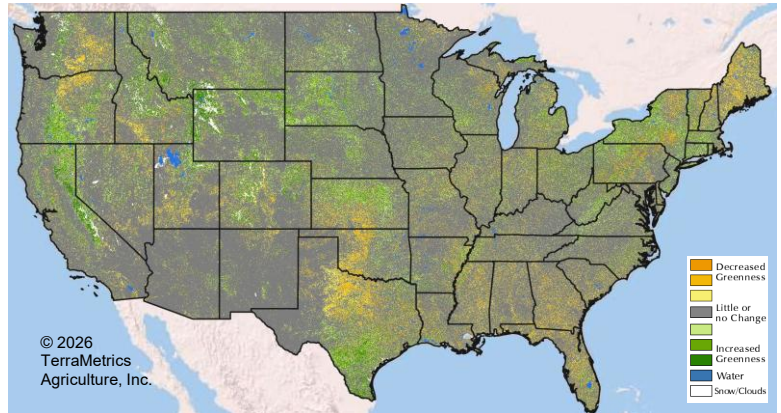


1. The key 50°F soil temperature has made considerable northward progress in the past week, now clearing the majority of the primary Corn Belt states. Still, far northern states are 'feeling the chill' with recent morning freezes keeping producers on the sidelines. As a result, the planting pace of corn and soybeans is lagging. However, the week ahead will be considerably warmer with highs getting back into the upper 70s and 80s, which should help to accelerate the pace of planting and other fieldwork.
2. No such worries for Mid-South states, who are reporting exceptionally robust planting and emergence progress, most notably in Kentucky and Tennessee. Already two to three weeks ahead of schedule, the strong warmup will further boost early development progress.
3. As we projected last week, southern states were the beneficiary of frequent, heavy storms over the past week from the eastern half of Texas on eastward. This has gone along way toward alleviating drought conditions for many. In particular, we've been highlighting the dire drought situation in Georgia and northern Florida. However, the one to three inches reported in the region is well-timed for early developing row and specialty crops. Still, much more is needed to see the crops through the long season ahead.
4. The wheat areas of the Western High Plains continue to struggle with the majority of the crop from Nebraska to Texas reported in Poor to Very Poor condition. Light showers fell over a good portion of Kansas and Oklahoma this past weekend, but not nearly enough to make much of a difference. There is suggestion of better moisture chances as we head toward late May and into June, although this may be 'too little, too late' for more advanced crops.
5. California agriculture is off and running as adequate soil moisture reserves remain quite good. The pace of wheat and cotton development has been robust and crops are reported healthy overall. As the typical dry season approaches, reservoirs are at above normal capacity, so significant irrigation reserves will be very helpful.

Vegetation Index Difference Maps | Period 19, April 27 - May 11, 2026

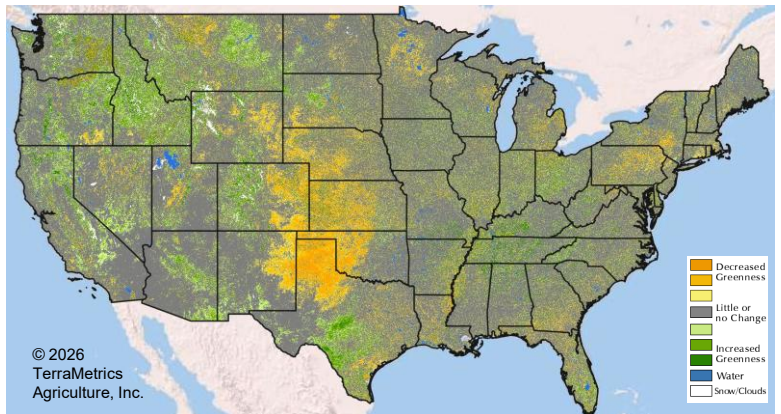
Change from Last Week

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 mainly east of the primary wheat areas, which remain hurting from very dry conditions. The northern half of Kansas, however, is notably greener given recent showers. Biomass in western states continues to flourish.



Change from Last Year

Early Greenness trends in and around Corn Belt states are now trending more consistently green, although less green 'pockets' are evident in portions of the Northeast, Southeast, 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 reserves are good. Conditions clearly remain very poor for winter wheat and other biomass from western Nebraska on south into the Texas Panhandle.

