

Soils still cool, no rush on preemergence herbicides for crabgrass April 21, 2014

Average soil temperature at 4 inch depths range are still 1F - 6F cooler than normal. Seven day (average) soil temperatures at four inches under a bare soil range from a 43.0F in Concord to 50.3F in Red Cloud. Cool soils will slow germination and growth of seedlings as mentioned in last week's Turf iNfo

(http://turf.unl.edu/pdfctarticles/April_14_cold_little_effect_on_seeding.pdf). Cool soils also are slowing development of weeds such as crabgrass. Crabgrass germinates when soil temperatures are sustained between 55 and 60F, thus preemergence herbicides for crabgrass can still be effectively applied for the foreseeable future.

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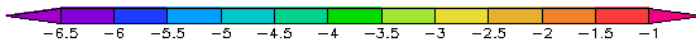
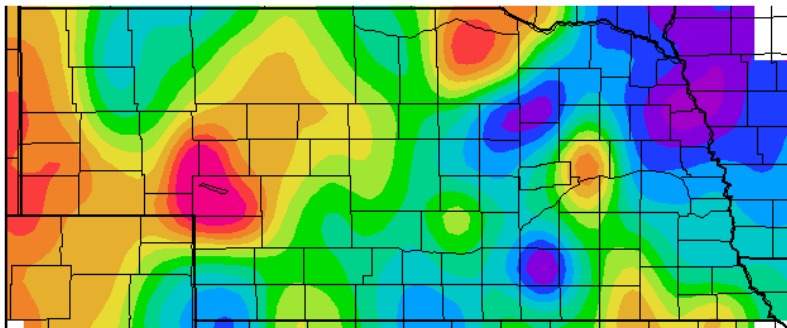
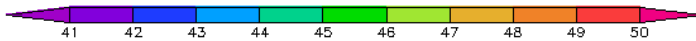
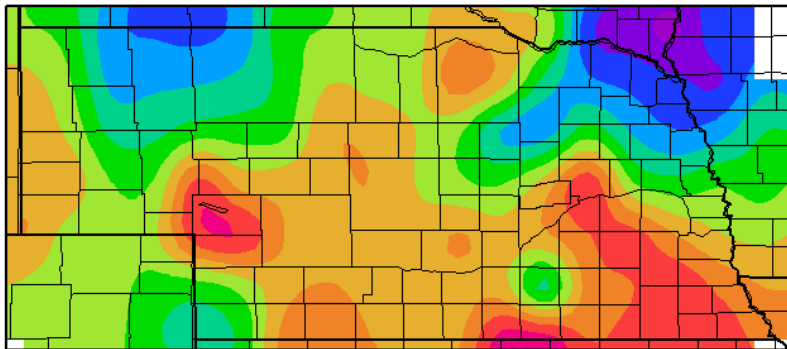


Figure 1 (top). Seven day average soil temperatures ending 4/20/15 (4" depth under bare soil).

Figure 2 (bottom). Departure from normal seven-day average soil temperatures as of 4/20/15.

Maps courtesy of Al Dutcher, State Climatologist, and original maps as well as soil temperature updates throughout the state of NE can be found at <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/cropwatchsoiltemperatureetchsoiltemperature>