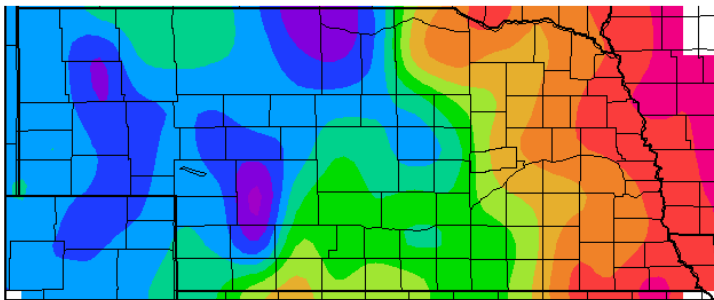
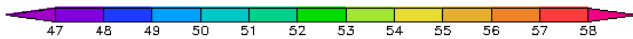
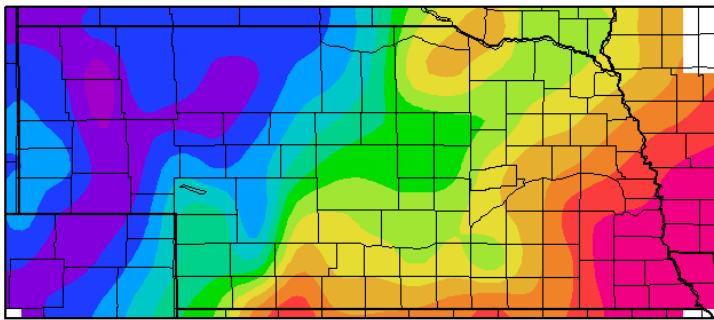


**Average soil temperatures rising slowly: PRE's should be applied ASAP**  
**May 19, 2014**

Seven day average soil temperatures at 4" depths under bare soils range from 47F to 58F and are 4 to 12F cooler than average. However, soil temperatures may be higher on any specific area depending on soil type, moisture, southern exposure, distance to a heat sink like a sidewalk, etc. Crabgrass germinates when soil temperatures are sustained between 55 and 60F, thus preemergence herbicides (PRE) for crabgrass should be applied as soon as possible. However, applications of PRE's should be held off even later on newly-seeded areas or apply the PRE's Tupersan (siduron) or Tenacity (mesotrione) now, which are safe on seedlings. Or you can wait and use postemergence herbicides like Tenacity or quinclorac-containing products (Drive, Quinstar, Quinclorac, etc.) after germination of annual grasses. Do not use Tenacity on seedlings of creeping bentgrass though.

**Zac Reicher, Professor, Turfgrass Science, [zreicher2@unl.edu](mailto:zreicher2@unl.edu)**



**Figure 1 (top). Seven day average soil temperatures (4" depth) as of May 18.**  
**Figure 2 (bottom). Departure from normal seven-day average soil temperatures as of May 18.**

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 <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/cropwatchsoiltemperature>