Warm and dry weather across much of Minnesota created favorable conditions for fieldwork during the week ending May 6, 2018, according to USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 4.4 days suitable for fieldwork. While some areas in northern Minnesota still report having frost in the ground, last week’s warmer temperatures allowed farmers in many areas to apply anhydrous and dry fertilizer to fields, conduct tillage activities, and plant small grains, potatoes and sugarbeets.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 71 percent adequate and 22 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 4 percent short, 83 percent adequate and 13 percent surplus.

Minnesota’s spring wheat was 27 percent planted, 5 days behind last year and 12 days behind the five-year average. Oats were also reported as 27 percent planted, 2 weeks behind last year and 16 days behind average. Planting of the barley crop was reported as 15 percent complete, 5 days behind last year and 16 days behind average.

Corn planting was 9 percent completed, 9 days behind last year and 16 days behind average. Soybeans were 1 percent planted, 4 days behind last year and 10 days behind average.

Potato planting was reported as 28 percent complete, 8 days behind last year and 5 days behind average. Sugarbeet planting was reported as 50 percent complete, 5 days behind last year and 3 days behind average.

Pastures are starting to green up in much of the state with some producers moving cattle to pastures in southern Minnesota. Pasture conditions were rated 5 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 42 percent good and 4 percent excellent.
Minnesota Temperatures and Precipitation for the week ending May 6, 2018

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
April 30, 2018 to May 06, 2018

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
April 30, 2018 to May 06, 2018

Growing Degree Days can be found at https://mygeohub.org/groups/u2u/gdd
Temperature and Precipitation Maps, courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, are available at: http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE/