



Vegetation index. Credit: NOAA

# May 2016

Moon phases are Universal Time (UT)

 NEW MOON
  FIRST QUARTER
  FULL MOON
  LAST QUARTER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																						
1	2	3 GOES-11 launched, 2000	4	5	6 	7																																																																						
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13 	14 NOAA-12 launched, 1991																																																																						
15	16	17 SMS-1 launched, 1974	18	19	20 NOAA-18 launched, 2005	21 																																																																						
22 GOES-5 launched, 1981	23 GOES-9 launched, 1995	24 GOES-13 launched, 2006	25	26	27	28																																																																						
29 	30 Memorial Day	31			<p>APRIL</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	<p>JUNE</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																						
26	27	28	29	30																																																																								

## Monitoring vegetative health

Data from the Visible and Infrared Imaging and Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) sensor aboard the NASA/NOAA Suomi NPP satellite is able to detect subtle differences in the greenness of Earth's vegetation. More vegetated areas absorb more visible light and reflect more near-infrared light back into space. VIIRS can detect these relative differences, which are used to create vegetation indices. The darkest green areas are the lushest in vegetation, while the pale colors are sparse in vegetation cover either due to snow, drought, rock, or urban areas. Because vegetation greatly affects the runoff, surface temperature, and relative humidity of an area, more complex weather forecasts are beginning to integrate vegetation dynamics into numerical models.

Vegetation health during the tenth year of mega-drought in the Western U.S. is shown in these Suomi NPP satellite images.



Credit: NOAA/NASA