



CLIMATE FACT CHECK: MAY 2025 EDITION

Climate claims go bananas! Debunking claims that global warming is impacting crop yields, wildfires, hurricanes, droughts & floods

May 12th: Climate crisis threatening banana production?

Claim: In early May, *The Guardian* [reported](#) that climate change is wiping out banana production in Latin America. They say, "Rising temperatures, extreme weather and climate-related pests are pummeling banana-growing countries such as Guatemala, Costa Rica and Colombia, reducing yields..."

**The
Guardian**

Fact-Check: Data from the United Nations' [Food and Agricultural Organization](#) (FAO) reveal that banana yields have increased in [Costa Rica](#) and [Guatemala](#) since 1961. In fact, Guatemala observed a record high banana harvest in 2023. Banana yields in Colombia have [decreased](#), however, but not due to climate change.

May 19th: Minnesota fire seasons are becoming more severe?

Claim: The *New York Times* (NYT) ran a [long story](#) claiming that the "[l]atest wildfires underscore that the warming climate is also making disasters more likely in Minnesota as wildfire season... is becoming longer and more severe."

The New York Times

Fact-Check: Wildfire frequency and burn acreage in Minnesota have been decreasing for the last 20 years, reaching a record low in 2022, according to [data](#) from the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC).

May 21st: Global wheat yields are 10% lower now?

Claim: In May, *Carbon Brief* [reported](#) on a [new study](#) published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, which claims that global wheat yields are “[a]round 10% lower now than they would have been without the influence of climate change...”



Fact-Check: Data from the United Nations' [Food and Agricultural Organization](#) (FAO) reveal that global [wheat yields have increased](#) by 233% since 1961. Therefore, the claim that yields are lower than they would be otherwise is difficult to discern, much less ascribe to climate-related stresses. In fact, carbon dioxide is plant food and research shows that significant factor in the growth in wheat yields has been the increased in atmospheric carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

May 22nd: Climate change is supercharging hurricanes?

Claim: *CNN* [ran a piece](#) claiming that the staff cuts to NOAA and FEMA by the Trump administration “[c]ould leave tens of millions of Americans more vulnerable... as human-caused climate change is super-charging storms...”



Fact-Check: [Satellite data](#) show that there has been no measurable increase in global tropical cyclone frequency or intensity since at least 1980. This is backed by [peer-reviewed research](#).

May 24th: Climate change responsible for Australia droughts and floods?

Claim: The Guardian [claims](#) that the recent flooding in New South Wales (NSW) and drought in southern Australia are “[f]ingerprints of a warming planet.”



Fact-Check: Recent weather patterns in Australia have nothing to do with climate change. The [Southern Annular Mode](#) has been [positive since March](#), which results in higher pressure over southern Australia that dries the air and land out, while enhanced easterly flow over eastern Australia increases rainfall. Over half of the rainfall in NSW was from Severe Tropical Cyclone Alfred in March, which was an anomaly, not climate-related.

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- [Now will you support the Green New Deal?! CBS News: 'Climate change could drive surge in foreclosures and lender losses, new study finds'](#)
- [CBS News: 'How climate change is increasing complication risks for pregnant women' – Claims climate change nearly doubled the average number of 'pregnancy heat-risk days'](#)
- [NY Times: 'A woman sued oil and gas companies over her mother's death in a heat wave' – 'It's the first wrongful death case targeting fossil fuel companies over their role in global warming'](#)

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- [Wrong, New York Times, Climate Change Didn't Cause Minnesota's Wildfires](#)
- [Wrong, The Guardian, There Is No Evidence Climate Change Is Harming Bananas](#)
- [Human extinction is a baseless climate scare, Slate](#)