



Arctic Sea Ice Decline

In 2007, the sea ice extent dropped to a historical minimum, 58% below the average of the last thirty years, and a whopping 24% less than the previous record low of 2005.

Sea ice minimum in 2007, compared to 1979. Source: NASA.



Floods

The North American continent is regularly affected by floods. In the USA alone the 50 biggest floods of last century caused more than 8,850 deaths and 57 billion dollars worth of damage.

Spring Flood in New Hamburg, Ontario, Canada in April 2008. Source: Dave Bentley, New Hamburg Independent.



Leaving Town

Americans are increasingly moving away from big urban centres to exurbs, fast growing commuter communities on the metropolitan fringe with more space and more affordable housing.

Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. Source: Woods Hole Massachusetts.



Genetically modified Crops

have been widely adopted by American farmers. In 2007, half of the world's 120 million hectares of genetically engineered crops were located in the USA.

More than 90% of US cotton and soybeans are genetically modified. Source: wikipedia.org



Hurricane Alert

In the Atlantic, the frequency and intensity of landfalling storms has been increasing over the last 50 years, possibly because of global change.

Katrina was one of the most powerful and deadly hurricanes to strike the US. Source: NOAA/NASA GOES Project.

10 YEARS OF IMAGING NORTH AMERICA SPOT VEGETATION



This unique image is a composite of all daily images recorded for 10 years by the VEGETATION instruments on-board satellites SPOT-4 and SPOT-5. The bathymetry and the polar areas are derived from the Blue Marble next-generation. Capitals and other major cities (> 1,5 million inhabitants) are shown. More info: <http://eoedu.belspo.be/vgt10>
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Prepared by C. Mather, E. Van Bogaert, M. Alarcon and P. Defourny
Université catholique de Louvain (UCL-ELI / Geomatics)