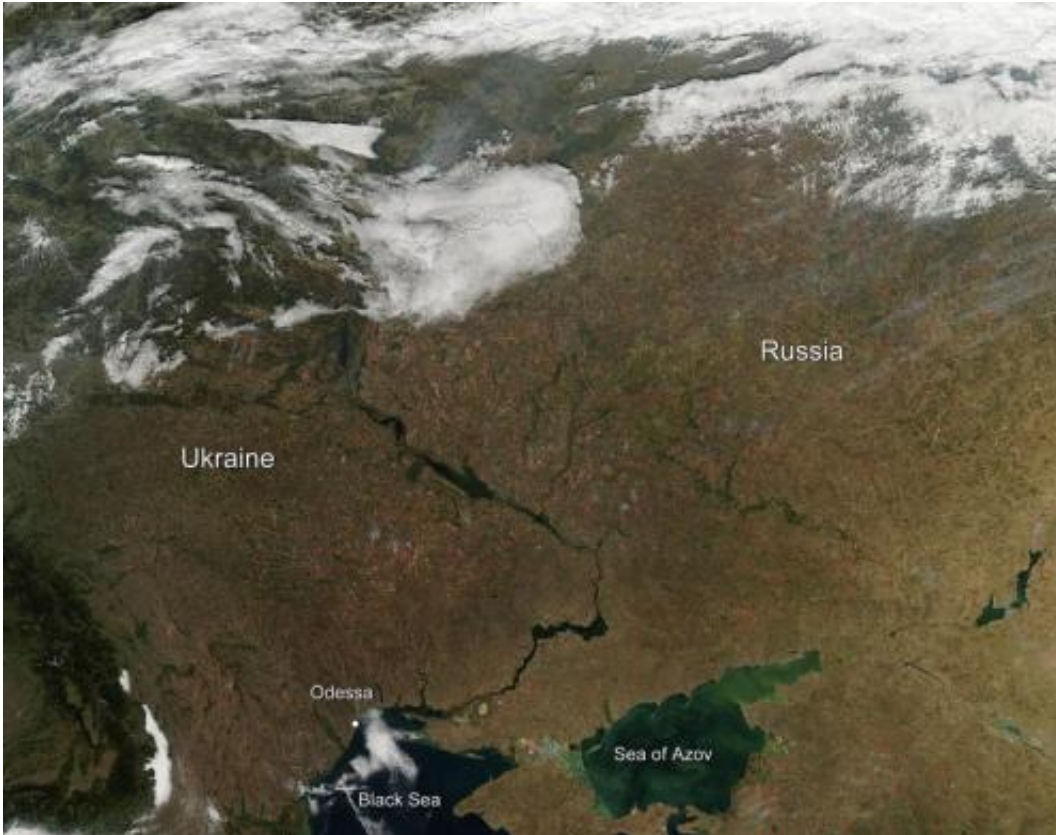


# Fires dot the Ukraine countryside

October 14 2014

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This natural-color satellite image was collected by the MODIS instrument aboard the Aqua satellite on Oct. 11, 2014. Credit: Jeff Schmaltz, MODIS Rapid Response Team.

Numerous fires (marked with red dots) are burning in the Ukraine, likely as a result of regional agricultural practices. The body of water at the lower left of this true-color Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) image is the Sea of Azov. The Sea is

bordered by Ukraine to the northwest, west and southwest and by Russia to the northeast, east, and southeast. To its left is the Black Sea.

The location, widespread nature, and number of fires suggest that these fires were deliberately set to manage land. Farmers often use fire to return nutrients to the soil and to clear the ground of unwanted plants. While fire helps enhance crops and grasses for pasture, the fires also produce smoke that degrades [air quality](#). Each hot spot, which appears as a red mark, is an area where the thermal detectors on the MODIS instrument recognized temperatures higher than background. When accompanied by plumes of smoke, as in this image, such hot spots are diagnostic for fire.

This natural-color satellite image was collected by the MODIS instrument aboard the Aqua satellite on October 11, 2014.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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