



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY
 1148 AGAD BLDG, ROOM 223
 WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47907-1148
 Phone (765)494-8371 (800)363-0469

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 12

Field activities were hampered again this week by wet soil conditions according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Heavy mid-week rains drove farmers out of the fields after they were able to complete limited field operations earlier in the week. There have been a few isolated reports of corn planting, however less than 1 percent of the crop has been planted statewide.

WINTER WHEAT

Forty-two percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed**, compared to only 11 percent last year. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 88 percent good to excellent, compared to 66 percent at this time last year. The crop is about two weeks ahead of normal maturity due to mild weather. Recent heavy rains have caused ponding in some low-lying wheat fields, however no damage has been reported at this time.

SEED BED PREPARATION

Field preparation remains very slow due to continued wet soil conditions across most of the state. Some farmers were able to apply anhydrous early in the week on lighter soils.

OTHER CROPS

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was rated 12 percent surplus, 84 percent adequate and 4 percent short. **Pasture condition** was rated 17 excellent, 57 percent good, 24 percent fair and 2 percent poor. Continued warm temperatures combined with moist soil conditions have resulted in rapid pasture growth.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 2.0 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 34 percent adequate and 66 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 1 percent very short, 4 percent short, 52 percent adequate and 43 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Winter Wheat Jointed	42	25	11	9

CROP CONDITION

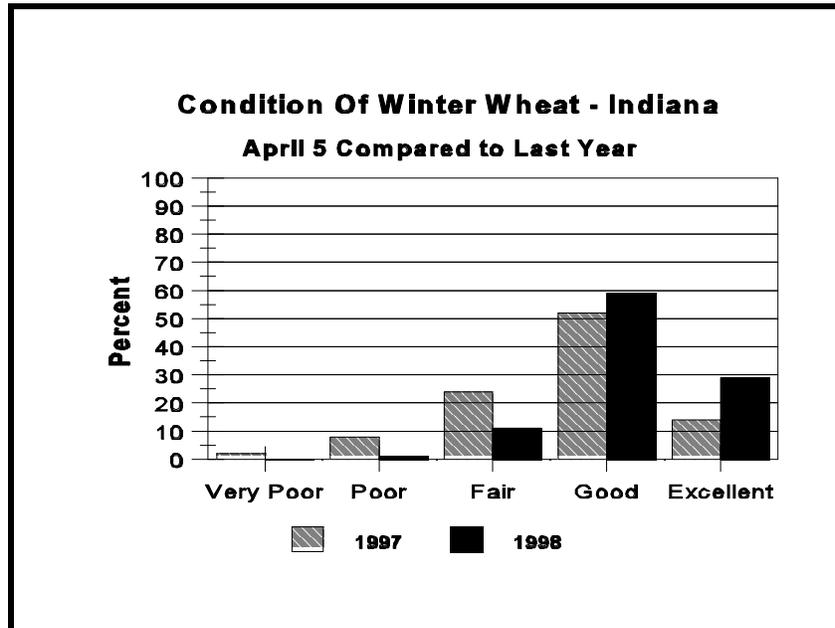
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Winter Wheat 4/12	0	1	11	59	29
Winter Wheat 4/5	0	2	18	63	17
Winter Wheat 1997	2	8	24	52	14
Pasture	0	2	24	57	17

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	1	3
Adequate	34	53	68
Surplus	66	46	29
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	2	0
Short	4	10	2
Adequate	52	69	69
Surplus	43	19	29

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
 --Lance Honig, Agricultural Statistician
 E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
<http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html>

Crop Progress



The Black Cutworm Cometh! . . .Should we Panic?

- ◆ *Black cutworm moths are beginning their annual invasion*
- ◆ *Moths arriving mid- to late April pose the greatest threat to corn*
- ◆ *Pre-plant or planting time insecticides are usually a poor investment for black cutworm control*
- ◆ *Scout fields to determine if a rescue treatment is needed*

One of the most often asked questions by producers during winter meetings has to do with managing black cutworms in corn. Apparently many marketers of agricultural insecticides have also heard these questions and have seized the opportunity to blitz the airways with fear mongering advertisements related to this pest! Should one really be concerned about cutworms for this growing season? Hopefully, the following will shed some light on this.

Black cutworms do not overwinter in the Midwest. Instead, they are brought here on wind currents sweeping into the Midwest from south Texas and northern Mexico. It is purely speculative to say that the black cutworm will be a problem this year.

The adults have started to arrive in the state, see "Black Cutworm Adult Pheromone Trap Report." These data will continue to be collected by our cooperators and will be made available on a weekly basis during the early growing season.

Arrival of moths in March and early April usually means nothing, especially after the cold temperatures we received recently. Comparing moth captures and crop damage observed in previous years indicates that moth flights of mid- to late April are the ones to watch. Significant moth captures during this time, along with the use of heat units to predict the beginning of larval activity, gives us an indication of potential severity of the problem and locations of concern. Thus, we are able to predict with some degree of accuracy when and where crop damage is likely to occur.

Should one treat for black cutworm before or at planting? If you are predicting that the factors necessary for a black cutworm outbreak will exist for this season, like in 1994 and 1978 (the last major black cutworm outbreak years), then pre-treatment may help in some fields. However, with this approach, you are guessing that a problem will exist and may apply the insecticide days to weeks before it is needed, if needed at all. Many producers who took this approach in 1994 experienced stand losses, replant situations, and rescue applications.

We continue to recommend that producers not be unduly influenced by advertisements. The tried, true, and **economic** approach to black cutworm management is to scout fields, determine infestation and damage levels, and use a rescue treatment if needed. Scouting, treatment thresholds, and control information are given in Extension Publication E-48, "Cutworms in Corn" (Rev.6/97).

--John Obermeyer and Larry Bledsoe, Purdue University

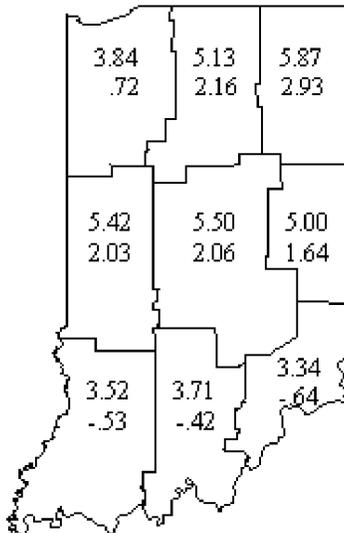
Average Daily Values for week ending Monday morning April 13, 1998

Area	Station	Air Temperature			Precipitation			Growing Degree Days		
		Max	Min	DN	Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1	Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1
NW	Wanatah	59	38	+3	1.03	1.78	+0.23	40	55	+24
	Kentland	63	42	+5	1.31	1.96	+0.50	49	74	+26
	Winamac	60	40	+2	1.31	2.20	+0.69	40	60	+10
NC	South Bend	59	42	+4	1.13	2.01	+0.40	38	55	+20
	Waterford Mills	60	37	+1	1.16	2.11	+0.68	38	58	+16
NE	Prairie Heights	61	40	+6	1.88	2.65	+1.21	42	65	+40
	Columbia City	61	41	+5	2.45	3.18	+1.68	42	66	+28
	Fort Wayne	61	40	+3	2.97	3.48	+2.08	43	68	+26
	Bluffton	61	41	+3	3.09	3.63	+2.08	46	69	+19
WC	West Lafayette	62	44	+5	1.35	2.08	+0.58	49	71	+24
	Perrysville	64	46	+3	.70	1.53	-.24	61	87	+4
	Crawfordsville	65	38	+4	1.77	2.34	+0.85	56	86	+38
	Terre Haute 8s	67	46	+6	1.36	2.39	+0.77	65	103	+36
C	Tipton	61	41	+4	1.96	2.54	+0.94	43	70	+26
	Indianapolis	64	45	+4	1.67	2.43	+0.84	54	86	+19
	Indian Creek	65	44	+4	1.48	2.37	+0.76	58	93	+26
EC	Farmland	62	41	+5	2.17	2.95	+1.46	47	75	+34
	Liberty	63	40	+2	1.81	2.35	+0.72	50	83	+13
SW	Vincennes	67	46	+5	.57	1.54	-.11	65	102	+24
	Dubois	66	43	+2	.59	1.86	+0.01	62	102	+25
	Evansville	66	47	+2	1.07	2.04	+0.27	68	106	+11
SC	Bedford	66	40	+2	1.62	3.01	+1.27	59	98	+22
	Louisville	68	50	+4	.15	1.09	-.75	79	124	+29
SE	Butlerville	66	42	+0	2.14	3.15	+1.35	58	99	+5

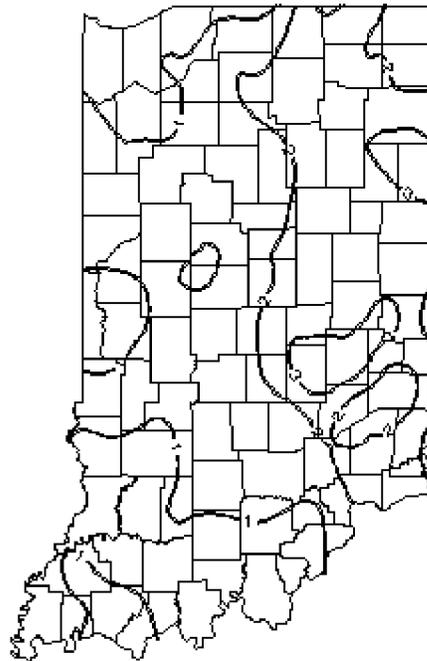
DN = departure from normal.

Growing Degree Days = daily mean - 50 (below 50 adjusted to 50, above 86 adjusted to 86.)

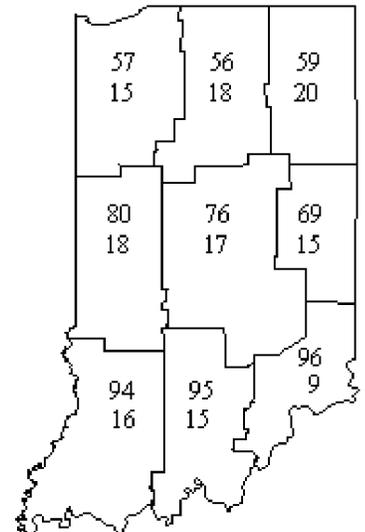
Rainfall for Past 4 Weeks
and Departure from Normal



Rainfall of 1 Inch or More
for Past 7 Days
as of Monday morning



Growing Degree Days
and Departure since April 1



The April 8 Chapter and Verse on the Indiana Wheat Crop

◆ *We're very nervous, the wheat crop looks great!!*

Since we last reported, we've had excellent growing conditions for wheat over most of the state. The forecast for the next week is for temperatures at or above normal with a lot of clear, bright sunny skies. If this materializes, the conditions should be ideal for wheat growth. Wheat is growing very rapidly in the southern part of the state with reports that the flag leaf should be out in about 10 days. Wheat across the northern one-third of the state is now jointing with the growing point from one-fourth inch to 2 plus inches above the soil. Based on our observations, the wheat crop looks extremely good at this time with very few reported problems.

We are still receiving calls from northern Indiana related to top dressing wheat with nitrogen. If wheat has not yet been top dressed it should be done as soon as possible, soil conditions permitting. Even though wheat in northern Indiana has started to joint, nitrogen should be applied at the originally planned rate if application is made within the next week. Use dry materials if possible or streamer bars when using 28 percent liquid material. Liquid materials sprayed over the top at this stage of growth will result in extensive leaf burn and will place unnecessary stress on the wheat plant.

--Chuck Mansfield and Ellsworth P. Christmas, Purdue University

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