



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 19

Corn planting began this past week, however less than 1 percent of the crop is in the ground according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Normally 2 percent of the corn is planted by this time. Farmers had to contend with heavy rains once again, with some areas reporting as much as 7 inches of rainfall. The southern region of the state appears to have been the hardest hit this time around.

WINTER WHEAT

Seventy percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed**, compared to only 25 percent last year. By region, 54 percent is jointed in the north, 76 percent in the central, and 78 percent in the south. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 87 percent good to excellent, compared to 57 percent at this time last year. The crop is still about two weeks ahead of normal maturity. Continued heavy rains have resulted in ponding in some low-lying wheat fields, however no damage has been reported at this time.

SEED BED PREPARATION

Heavy rainfall during the past week kept most farmers out of the fields once again. Some farmers in scattered locations across the state were able to work in lighter soils by the weekend, while most areas remained too wet to support machinery.

OTHER CROPS

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was rated 13 percent surplus, 80 percent adequate 6 percent short and 1 percent very short. **Pasture condition** was rated 23 excellent, 57 percent good, 18 percent fair and 2 percent poor.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 1.3 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 32 percent adequate and 68 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 2 percent short, 50 percent adequate and 48 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
				Percent
Winter Wheat Jointed	70	42	25	19

CROP CONDITION

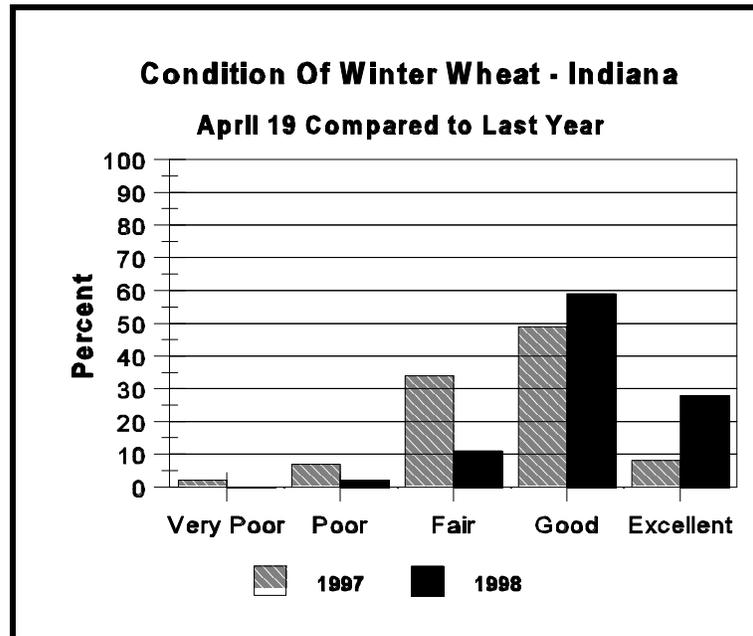
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel- lent
					Percent
Winter Wheat 4/19	0	2	11	59	28
Winter Wheat 4/12	0	1	11	59	29
Winter Wheat 1997	2	7	34	49	8
Pasture	0	2	18	57	23

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
			Percent
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	0	1
Adequate	32	34	73
Surplus	68	66	26
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	1	0
Short	2	4	1
Adequate	50	52	73
Surplus	48	43	26

--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



Nobody Knows the Troubles I've Seen?

- ◆ *Timely diagnoses of crop problems will facilitate timely development and implementation of any rescue or corrective treatments for the current crop*
- ◆ *Timely and accurate diagnoses will help the producer develop management strategies for future cropping seasons to prevent or avoid the problem that occurred this year*

Timely diagnoses of crop problems have always been an important component of well-managed cropping systems. Early-season crop problems, in particular, demand timely diagnoses because crucial evidence often disappears by the end of the cropping season. As today's agriculture moves increasingly toward more site-specific crop management, timely crop diagnoses will become increasingly important also.

In the April 3 issue of the Pest & Crop Newsletter (P&C), Purdue's Plant & Pest Diagnostic Laboratory (PPDL) offered up guidelines relative to the submission of samples to the laboratory for diagnosis by campus specialists. This week I offer additional suggestions from an agronomist's perspective relative to good field troubleshooting techniques.

Do Your Homework!

1. Do your homework, preferably before the season begins. Take the time to "bone up" on crop growth and development plus the common problems that can occur early in the season. If you are aware of what could happen, you won't be surprised when it does.

Good references include How a Corn Plant Develops (Sp. Rpt. 48, Iowa State Univ.), How a Soybean Plant Develops (Sp. Rpt. 53, Iowa State Univ.), Corn & Soybean Field Guide (ID-179, Purdue Univ.), Field

Crops Pest Management Manual (IPM-1, Purdue Univ.), Purdue's CD-ROM program: Corn Growth, Development and Diagnostics - Germination to Knee High (CD-AY-1), Modern Corn Production (Samuel R. Aldrich, Walter O. Scott, Robert G. Hoelt), and Modern Soybean Production (Walter O. Scott & Samuel R. Aldrich). The latter two books are out of print, but may be available via the Web at <http://www.amazon.com>, the online book store.

Also check out the following Purdue sites on the World Wide Web. These Web sites offer not only agronomic information from Purdue specialists, but also from other sites around the Midwest.

Corn Growers Guidebook

<http://www.agry.purdue.edu/agronomy/ext/corn/>

Soybean Management Information

<http://www.agry.purdue.edu/agronomy/ext/soybean/>

Small Grains Information

<http://www.agry.purdue.edu/agronomy/ext/smgrain/>

Purdue Forage Information

<http://www.agry.purdue.edu/agronomy/ext/forages/index.html>

Document Everything!

2. Document thoroughly every operation and input applied to each field. Organize previous years' records, including custom application records, so that they are easily accessible when historical information is required for crop problem diagnoses. Lack of such documentation is often the most frustrating part of troubleshooting crop problems. Even the best troubleshooter can be stumped if the crucial piece to the puzzle is missing.

(Continued on Page 4.)

Average Daily Values for week ending Monday morning April 20, 1998

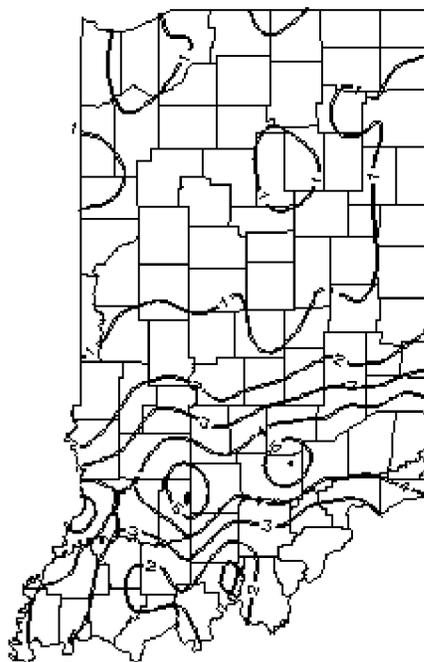
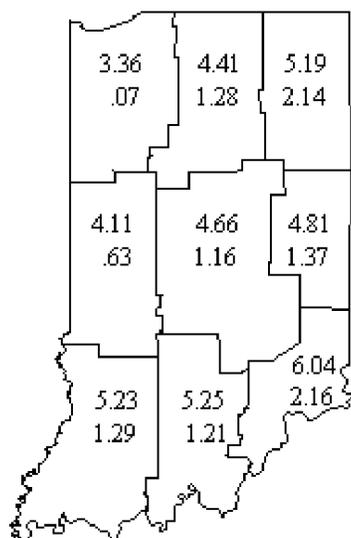
Area	Station	Air			Precipitation			Growing Degree Days		
		Temperature			Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1	Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1
		Max	Min	DN						
NW	Wanatah	63	39	+2	1.30	3.08	+0.66	49	104	+42
	Kentland	63	43	+2	.96	2.92	+0.64	51	125	+37
	Winamac	63	42	+2	.89	3.09	+0.74	51	110	+20
NC	South Bend	61	41	+1	.66	2.67	+0.20	42	97	+29
	Waterford Mills	63	41	+2	.32	2.43	+0.21	52	110	+30
NE	Prairie Heights	62	42	+5	.83	3.48	+1.24	48	113	+60
	Columbia City	61	41	+2	.69	3.87	+1.55	45	111	+38
	Fort Wayne	62	43	+2	1.22	4.70	+2.52	47	115	+35
	Bluffton	62	43	+1	1.23	4.86	+2.46	47	116	+26
WC	West Lafayette	63	44	+3	.47	2.55	+0.20	53	124	+38
	Perrysville	62	43	-2	1.11	2.64	-0.11	50	136	-6
	Crawfordsville	62	43	+2	.91	3.25	+0.93	51	136	+48
	Terre Haute 8s	65	46	+2	1.41	3.80	+1.28	62	165	+47
C	Tipton	61	43	+2	.71	3.25	+0.76	44	114	+32
	Indianapolis	62	45	+0	1.21	3.64	+1.20	51	137	+21
	Indian Creek	64	45	+2	1.92	4.29	+1.78	58	151	+34
EC	Farmland	62	43	+3	1.31	4.26	+1.96	48	122	+44
	Liberty	64	43	+2	2.42	4.77	+2.25	52	134	+13
SW	Vincennes	65	46	+1	5.05	6.59	+4.04	63	165	+32
	Dubois	65	44	+0	3.34	5.20	+2.40	60	161	+31
	Evansville	66	46	-1	4.05	6.09	+3.40	63	169	+10
SC	Bedford	66	43	+1	5.39	8.40	+5.74	61	159	+30
	Louisville	66	48	+0	3.33	4.42	+1.61	65	189	+31
SE	Butlerville	65	45	-1	5.37	8.52	+5.80	60	159	+3

DN = departure from normal.

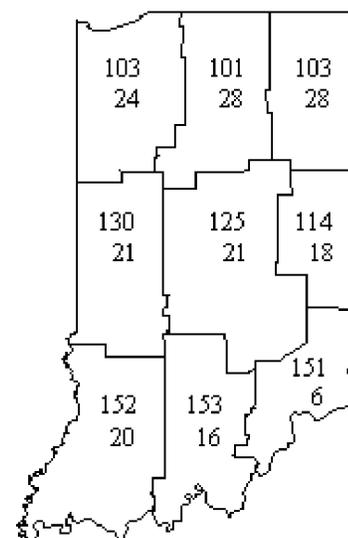
Growing Degree Days = daily mean - 50 (below 50 adjusted to 50, above 86 adjusted to 86.)

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

Rainfall for Past 4 Weeks
and Departure from Normal



Growing Degree Days
and Departure since April 1



Troubles (continued)

Go For a Walk!

3. Once you have done your homework and organized your records, there is no substitute for walking your fields and monitoring crop progress. Ideally, producers should do the walking themselves since they have the most vested interest in the outcome of the growing season. If you do not favor that form of exercise, then hire a crop scout that you trust will do a thorough job. Regardless of who actually does the walking, begin at the time of crop emergence and continue regularly throughout the early season.

Call the Doctor!

4. As soon as possible after a crop problem is recognized, diagnose the cause(s). Diagnostic evidence often disappears quickly, especially with early season problems. Plant parts decompose, insects disappear, soil conditions change, damaged plant parts become masked by new growth, etc. If you cannot make the diagnosis, then bring in the "hired guns" as soon as possible to make their determinations. Potential "hired guns" include industry agronomists, industry technical representatives, private crop consultants, county Extension staff, and university Extension specialists. If you want to ensure unbiased diagnoses, then concentrate on the latter three categories of "hired guns". Remember that a list of Purdue campus specialists was offered in the April 10 issue of the P&C Newsletter (pg 6).

Document Everything Again!

5. Don't hesitate to document the evidence and accompanying situations when you first recognize that a crop problem exists. Good tools for documenting symptoms include still cameras (instant, regular, or digital), video cameras, tape recorders and notepads. Remember to document not only the symptoms themselves, but the timing of their occurrence, their relative position in the field, the appearance/development of unaffected plants, the pattern of their occurrence, obvious presence and identity of insects, and any other factor that may be important to the diagnosis of the cause(s) of the problem.

Submit Samples!

6. If you intend on submitting samples to Purdue's Plant & Pest Diagnostic Laboratory (PPDL) for diagnosis, remember the guidelines suggested in the April 3 issue of the P&C Newsletter (pg 10). As a reminder, the P&PDL can be contacted at 1155 LSPPS, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1155; phone #765-494-7071; Web site at <http://www.btny.purdue.edu/ppdl/>

Bottom Line

Timely diagnoses of crop problems will facilitate timely development and implementation of any rescue or corrective treatments for the current crop. Additionally, timely and accurate diagnoses will help the producer develop management strategies for future cropping seasons to prevent or avoid the problem that occurred this year.

--Bob Nielsen, Purdue University, Corn Specialist