Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
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Released: Monday, 3PM May 4, 1998 Vol. 48, #5 West Lafayette, IN 47907

CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 3

Corn and soybean planting made limited progress last week according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Continued rainfall on already saturated soil prevented most farmers from completing any field activities. Much of the planting that has occurred has been done under less than ideal conditions. Corn planting is currently about 10 days behind normal.

CORN AND SOYBEANS

Corn planting advanced to 10 percent complete, well behind 56 percent last year and the 23 percent average for this date. By region, corn planting is 12 percent complete in the north, 12 percent complete in the central, and 4 percent complete in the south. **Soybean planting** is 3 percent complete, behind 20 percent last year and the average of 6 percent. The best progress continued to occur in the west central district.

WINTER WHEAT

Ninety-six percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed**, compared to only 72 percent last year. By region, 95 percent is jointed in the north, 94 percent in the central, and 98 percent in the south. Wheat jointing is about 2 weeks ahead of normal for this date. Twelve percent of the crop is **headed**, primarily in the southwest and south central areas of the state. Wheat heading is about 10 days ahead of normal. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 82 percent good to excellent, compared to 62 percent at this time last year. Some yellowing has occurred in the wettest areas, however no major damage has been reported.

OTHER CROPS

Pasture condition is rated 25 percent excellent, 55 percent good, 19 percent fair and 1 percent poor. Livestock are in good condition with very few problems reported.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 1.6 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 27 percent adequate and 73 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 1 percent short, 46 percent adequate and 53 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Planted	10	3	56	23
Soybeans Planted	3	1	20	6
Winter Wheat Jointed	96	86	72	57
Winter Wheat Headed	12	5	0	2

CROP CONDITION

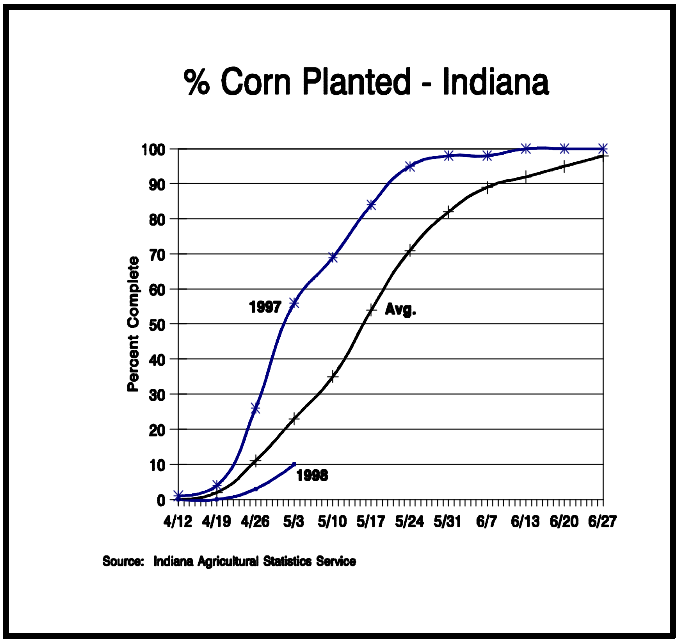
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat 5/3	1	3	14	56	26
Winter Wheat 4/26	0	2	13	58	27
Winter Wheat 1997	1	6	31	51	11
Pasture	0	1	19	55	25

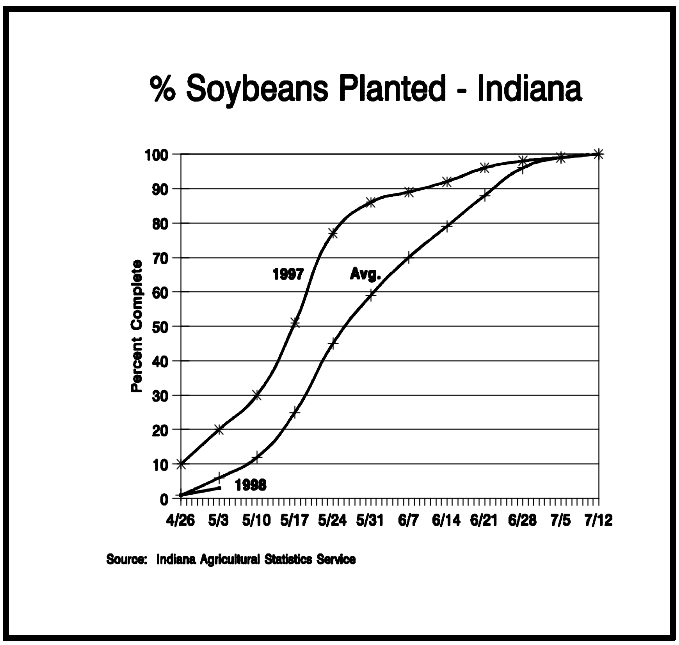
SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	1	12
Adequate	27	52	75
Surplus	73	47	13
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	1	5
Adequate	46	58	87
Surplus	53	41	8

--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 Planting Date Paradox

The April 27 issue of the Indiana Weekly Weather & Crops Report (Vol. 48, No. 4) told us that the state's corn planting progress as of April 26 was only 3 percent complete, compared to 26 percent last year and 11 percent average completion during the past five years. Fear-mongers among us have already begun to wail about the effects of a late start to planting on the crop's yield potential. This fear, coupled with the uncertain and unpredictable effects of El Niño this coming summer, encourages some to write off the 1998 corn crop altogether.

How important a predictor of statewide corn yield is planting date? Interestingly enough, the planting date effect on yield is somewhat paradoxical.

It is true that for any given field, delayed planting beyond early May will likely result in lower corn yields due to a number of factors: shorter growing season, insect and disease pressure, moisture stress during pollination, etc. However, if one reviews the data for average statewide planting dates and corn yield for the past fifteen years, there is NOT a strong relationship between the date by which half of the state's corn is planted and the statewide average corn grain yield. In fact, only about 3 percent of the variability in statewide corn grain yield during the past fifteen years is related to planting date.

So what's the deal? Why do agronomists preach about the importance of timely planting and yet the statewide statistical data do not appear to substantiate this importance? Let me try to explain.

Simply put, planting date is not a single predictor of absolute yield in a given field for a given year. In other words, although we know that early-planted corn will usually yield more than later-planted corn, the exact yield level is dependent on a host of other yield-influencing factors. Therefore, it is possible for early-planted corn in one year to yield more than, less than or equal to later-planted corn in another year depending on the exact mix of yield-influencing factors for each year.

(Continued on Page 4.)

Average Daily Values for week ending Monday morning May 4, 1998

Area	Station	Air Temperature Max	Air Temperature Min	Air Temperature DN	Precipitation Past Week	Precipitation Since April 1	Precipitation DN Since April 1	Growing Degree Days Past Week	Growing Degree Days Since April 1	Growing Degree Days DN Since April 1
NW	Wanatah	62	44	-1	.63	4.98	+.82	45	212	+59
	Kentland	63	49	+1	2.39	5.73	+1.76	56	246	+49
	Winamac	63	48	+0	1.39	5.41	+1.40	54	233	+32
NC	South Bend	62	48	+1	1.20	4.27	+.18	50	201	+38
	Waterford Mills	63	47	+0	1.16	3.94	+.19	53	235	+52
NE	Prairie Heights	63	48	+3	1.32	5.08	+1.22	53	229	+91
	Columbia City	62	48	+1	1.49	5.64	+1.69	52	222	+51
	Fort Wayne	62	48	+1	1.72	6.75	+3.01	54	227	+46
	Bluffton	62	47	-1	.93	6.11	+2.06	50	233	+33
WC	West Lafayette	64	47	+0	2.71	5.80	+1.68	56	249	+56
	Perrysville	65	51	-1	2.80	5.93	+1.15	64	268	-17
	Crawfordsville	65	47	+0	1.53	5.28	+1.25	60	259	+62
	Terre Haute 8s	66	51	+1	2.71	6.99	+2.54	68	310	+66
C	Tipton	63	45	-1	1.80	6.13	+1.83	53	225	+40
	Indianapolis	65	51	+0	1.80	5.82	+1.63	68	269	+29
	Indian Creek	66	50	+1	2.29	6.96	+2.51	66	285	+43
EC	Farmland	63	49	+2	1.58	6.51	+2.54	57	243	+65
	Liberty	65	49	+1	1.70	7.10	+2.66	61	260	+11
SW	Vincennes	65	51	-1	2.97	9.84	+5.29	65	295	+26
	Dubois	64	49	-2	3.24	9.20	+4.39	59	285	+26
	Evansville	64	53	-3	4.16	10.69	+6.03	61	302	-7
SC	Bedford	65	49	+0	3.46	13.58	+8.95	61	276	+17
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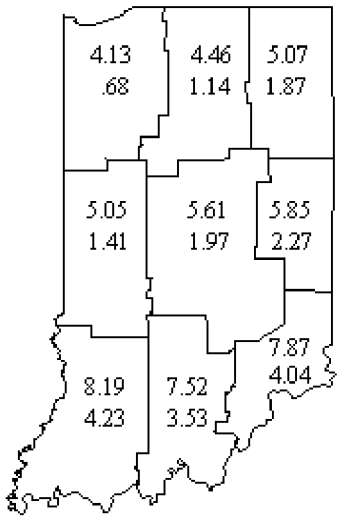
DN = departure from normal.
Growing Degree Days = daily mean - 50 (below 50 adjusted to 50, above 86 adjusted to 86.)

Rainfall for the Past 4 Weeks
and Departure from Normal



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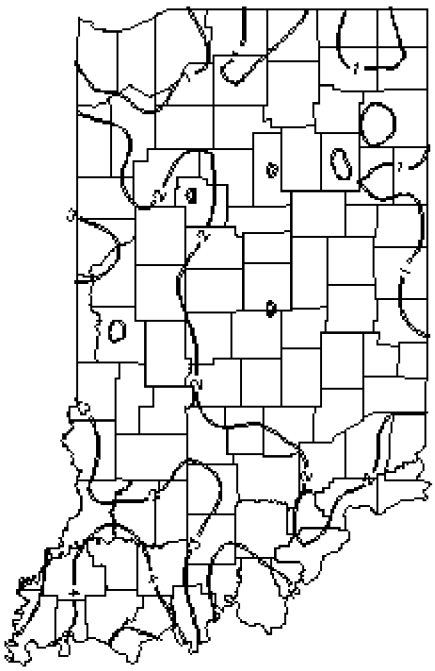

Growing Degree Days
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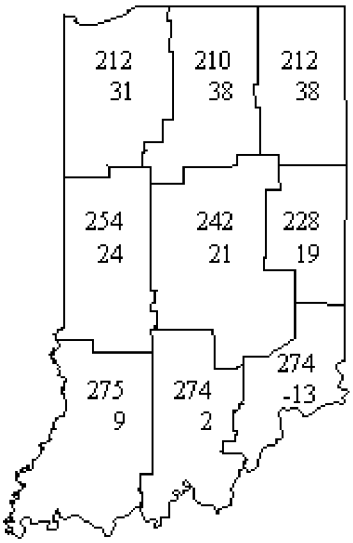
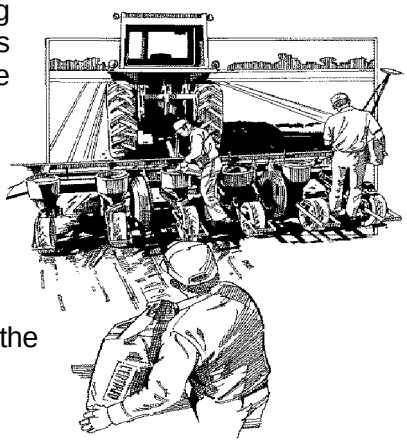


The above information is provided by Ken Scheeringa, Indiana State Climatologist (765)494-8105
E-mail: kscheeringa@dept.agry.purdue.edu http://shadow.agry.purdue.edu

Planting Paradox (continued)



For example, the crop years 1996 and 1997 represent the latest and earliest planting dates in the past fifteen years. The dates by which half of the state's corn crop was planted in 1996 and 1997 was May 28 and May 2, respectively. Yet, the average statewide corn yields were identical at 123 bushels per acre each year (Indiana Agricultural Statistical Service).

Bottom Line: Don't get carried away about the influence of planting date on total corn production. While important, planting date is only one of many yield-influencing factors for corn.

For other information about corn, take a look at the Corn Growers Guidebook on the World Wide Web at http://www.agry.purdue.edu/agronomy/ext/corn/

--Bob Nielsen, Professor of Agronomy, Purdue University

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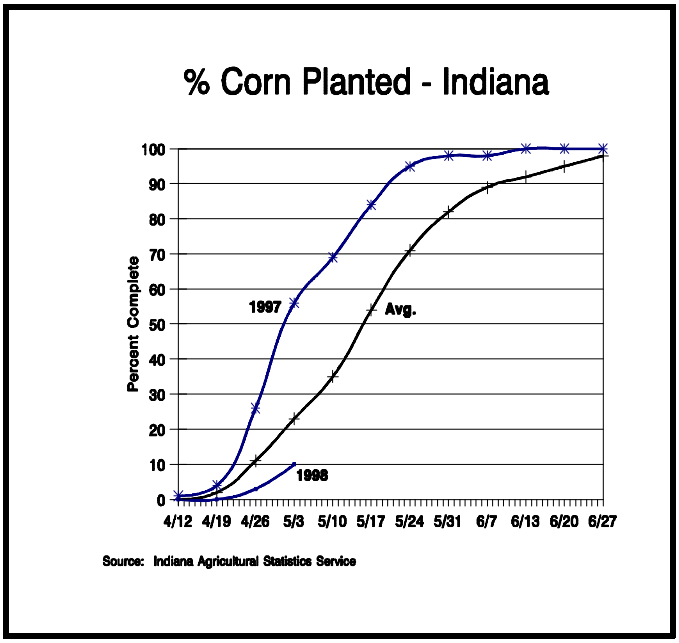

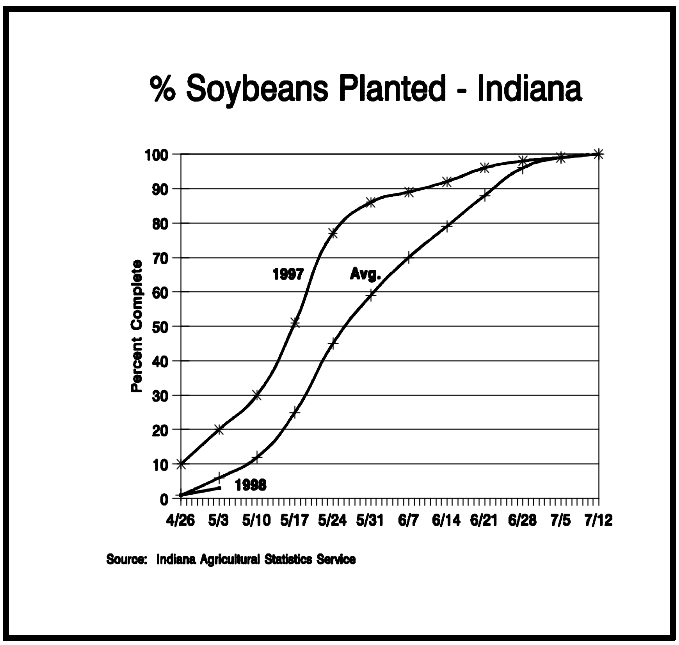

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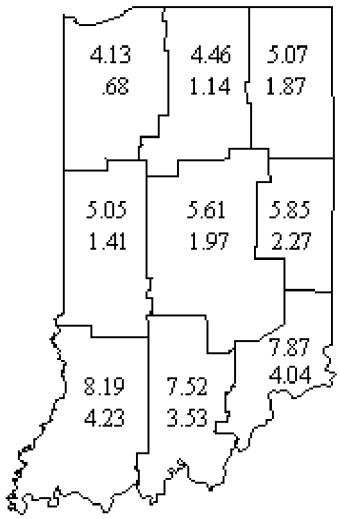

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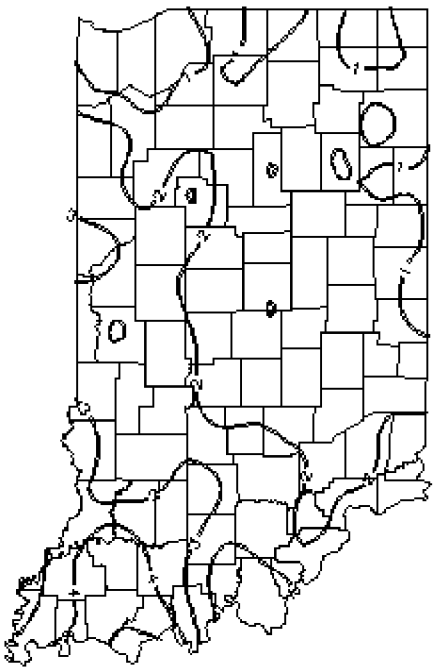

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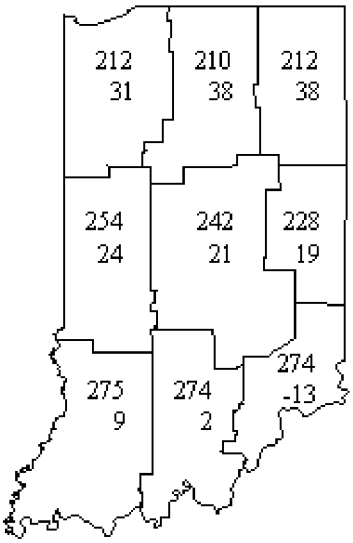

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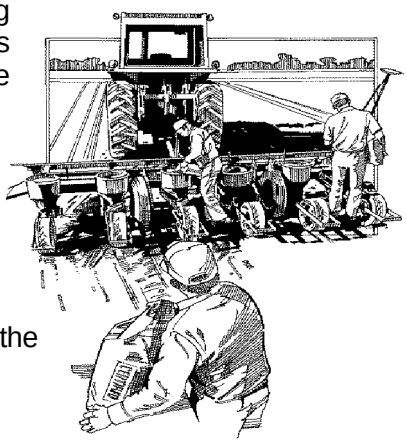

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