Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 24

Farmers had another productive week, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Both corn and soybean planting have moved ahead of the 5-year average progress. Some early planted crops will need to be replanted due to soil crusting, ponding, and bug damage.

CORN AND SOYBEANS

Corn planting advanced to 83 percent complete, behind 95 percent last year, but ahead of the 71 percent average for this date. By region, corn planting is 89 percent complete in the north, 89 percent complete in the central, and 59 percent complete in the south. Forty-four percent of the corn is **emerged**. By region, 49 percent is emerged in the north, 49 percent in the central, and 23 percent in the south. **Soybean planting** is 51 percent complete, well behind 77 percent last year, but 6 percent ahead of the average. By region, soybean planting is 65 percent complete in the north, 53 percent complete in the central, and 24 percent complete in the south. Sixteen percent of the soybean crop is **emerged**. By region, 21 percent is emerged in the north, 16 percent in the central, and 6 percent in the south.

WINTER WHEAT

Ninety percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **headed**, well ahead of 45 percent last year and more than 2 weeks ahead of normal. By region, 81 percent is headed in the north, 91 percent in the central, and 96 percent headed in the south. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 82 percent good to excellent, compared to 71 percent at this time last year. Heavy winds in isolated areas over the weekend flattened some wheat.

OTHER CROPS

Pasture condition is rated 25 percent excellent, 57 percent good, 17 percent fair and 1 percent poor. Transplanting of **tobacco** is 21 percent complete. First cutting of **alfalfa** is 33 percent complete.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 5.8 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 2 percent very short, 14 percent short, 62 percent adequate and 22 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 79 percent adequate and 14 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Planted	83	51	95	71
Corn Emerged	44	15	NA	NA
Soybeans Planted	51	21	77	45
Soybeans Emerged	16	6	NA	NA
Winter Wheat Headed	90	67	45	46

CROP CONDITION

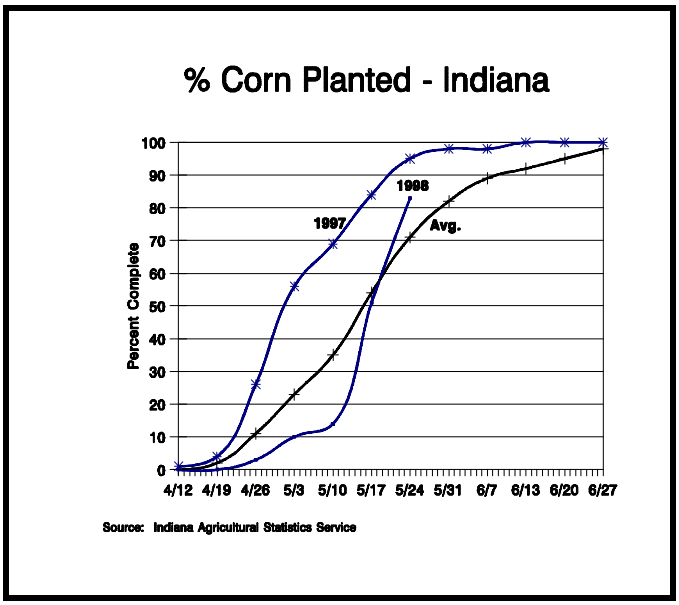
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat 5/24	0	3	15	58	24
Winter Wheat 5/17	1	1	16	56	26
Winter Wheat 1997	1	3	25	58	13
Pasture	0	1	17	57	25

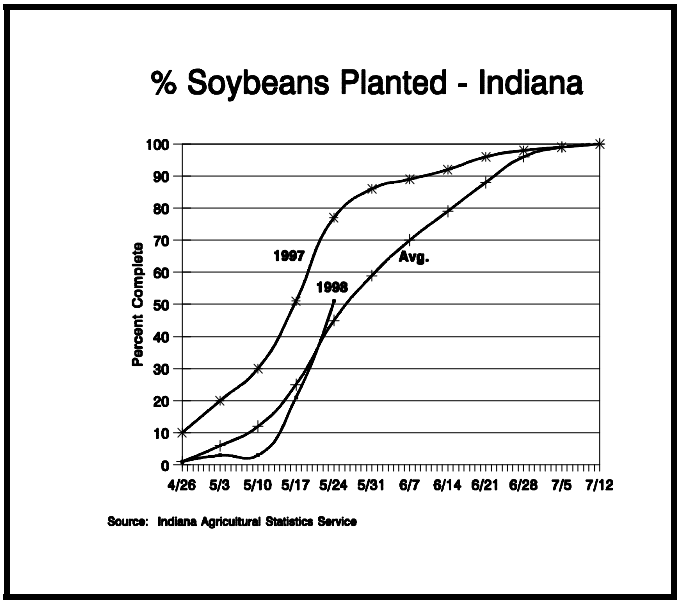
SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	0	4
Short	14	1	22
Adequate	62	69	64
Surplus	22	30	10
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	0	1
Short	6	1	11
Adequate	79	69	79
Surplus	14	30	9

--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





Black Cutworm, Still a Threat to Late Planted Corn

- To assess for black cutworm damage, a random survey was conducted
- Several pests were observed, including black cutworm
- Fields yet to be planted and/or emerged need to be scouted

In *Pest & Crop #7*, we reported in the article "Using Heat Units to Scout for Black Cutworm" that many variables determine whether black cutworm will be a problem. Thus far (5/21), we have not received a call alerting us to black cutworm damage. Because 300 heat unit accumulations (base 50°F) had occurred in the southern half of the state since intensive moth flights, Ron Blackwell took a tour of east central Indiana on May 20 to randomly survey emerged corn fields and assess for black cutworm damage.

What did he find? Planting and crop emergence is going at a snail's pace! In the fields emerged he found several pests causing sub economic damage; pests that were observed and doing some damage were corn flea beetle, slugs, and a few black cutworm larvae starting to cut plants (just as the heat unit model predicted!).

Because of the minor damage observed, does this mean black cutworm won't be a problem? Remember, timing is everything! Obviously, up to this time, the weather conditions and planting progress have not favored the black cutworm's growth and development on Indiana's corn crop. However, the chapter on black cutworm in the 1998 production book is not finished. Emerging corn fields, no matter how late, need to be assessed for cutworm damage. Referring to the last several week's "Black Cutworm Adult Pheromone Trap Report," it is obvious that moths arrive over an extended period of time (actually throughout the season). Late planted corn could emerge in sequence with a later arriving moth flight. Remember, granular soil insecticides are not very effective in preventing cutworm damage. Further food for thought is that cutworms, in unique situations, can cause economic damage to soybeans.

What is the moral of this story? The same as it always has been - scout your fields, be informed pest managers, and consider thresholds in your pest management decisions!

--John Obermeyer, Ron Blackwell and Larry Bledsoe, Purdue University Entomologists

Average Daily Values for week ending Monday morning May 25, 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

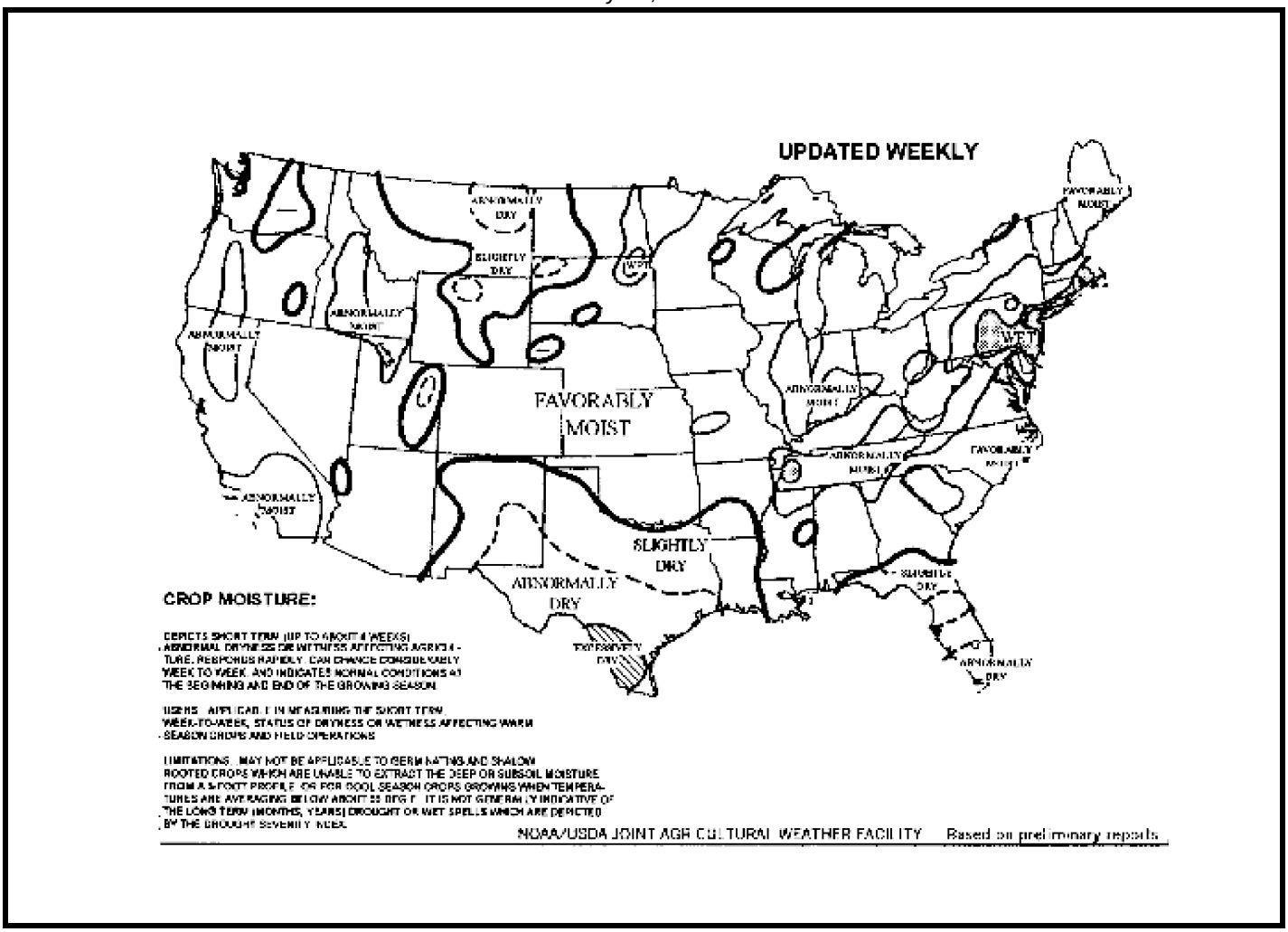
Weather Table & Maps Unavailable

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

Crop Moisture

(Short Term, Crop Need vs. Available Water in 5-ft. Profile)

May 16, 1998



Potential for Nematode Damage to Corn and Soybeans This Year

- Cool, wet weather has delayed planting
- Might expect higher than normal soil temperatures early in growing season
- Less damage to corn by needle nematode; more damage to soybeans by SCN

Needle nematode (Longidorus breviannulatus) can cause early season stunting and yellowing of corn grown in sandy, light textured soils. This nematode causes extensive damage when sandy soils are cool and wet while corn seedlings are small and have relatively limited root systems. During this period, corn plants remain stunted and often have yellowed foliage. Once soil temperatures rise, and the surface soil becomes hot and dry, needle nematode stops feeding and disappears, and corn seedlings resume more normal growth. Therefore, if sandy soils become hot and dry rapidly in the coming weeks, we expect little, if any, damage from needle nematode. If you suspect needle nematode damage in your corn fields, samples collected up to 2 months after planting should still contain the nematode (if it really is causing the damage).

The story for soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is somewhat different. Late planted soybeans will be germinating in soil where the temperature may be slightly higher than usual. This elevated soil temperature is ideal for the rapid development of SCN. Eggs in the cysts will hatch, the juveniles will be more active thus moving rapidly into growing soybean roots, and their life cycle will be completed in a relatively short period of time. Heat and dry soil will put additional stress on plants with root systems already damaged by SCN feeding and development. So, if you know that SCN is present in your fields, it would be advisable to plant an SCN resistant variety. Soil samples for SCN can be collected at any time of the year; however, white females may be observed on soybean roots about 4-6 weeks after planting.

If you have questions about these, or any other kinds of nematodes, you can call 765/494-4611. If you are uncertain about whether plant parasitic nematodes are the cause of some type of unsatisfactory crop growth, you might consider sending a soil sample to: Nematology Laboratory, Department of Entomology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1158.

--John Ferris and Jamal Faghihi, Purdue University

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