



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 18

Farmers continued to prepare fields and plant corn and soybeans early in the week before showers halted field activities in most areas of the state, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Four percent of the intended **corn** acreage is planted compared with 2 percent for the 5 year average. Less than 1 percent of the corn was planted at this time last year. One percent of the **soybean** acreage has been planted.

WINTER WHEAT

Fifty-two percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed**, compared with 66 percent last year and 28 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 84 percent good to excellent, compared with 87 percent at this time a year ago.

SEED BED PREPARATION

Field preparation continued to make good progress early last week. Tilling of soils, applying pesticides and fertilizer, preparing equipment along with planting corn and soybeans were the major activities taking place. Weekend rain caused ponding and flooding in low lying areas of some fields.

OTHER CROPS

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was rated 27 percent surplus, 69 percent adequate and 4 percent short. Pastures are growing and providing sufficient feed for livestock. **Pasture condition** was rated 13 percent excellent, 59 percent good, 22 percent fair, 5 percent poor and 1 percent very poor. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Calving and lambing continued.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 3.5 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 4 percent short, 50 percent adequate and 46 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 1 percent very short, 10 percent short, 61 percent adequate and 28 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year
				Avg
Percent				
Corn Planted	4	2	0	2
Wheat Jointed	52	23	66	28

CROP CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-
					lent
Percent					
Winter Wheat	0	2	14	59	25
Winter Wheat	0	2	18	64	16
Winter Wheat	0	2	11	59	28
Pasture	1	5	22	59	13

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last
			Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	1	0
Short	4	8	0
Adequate	50	73	32
Surplus	46	18	68
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	3	0
Short	10	13	2
Adequate	61	74	50
Surplus	28	10	48

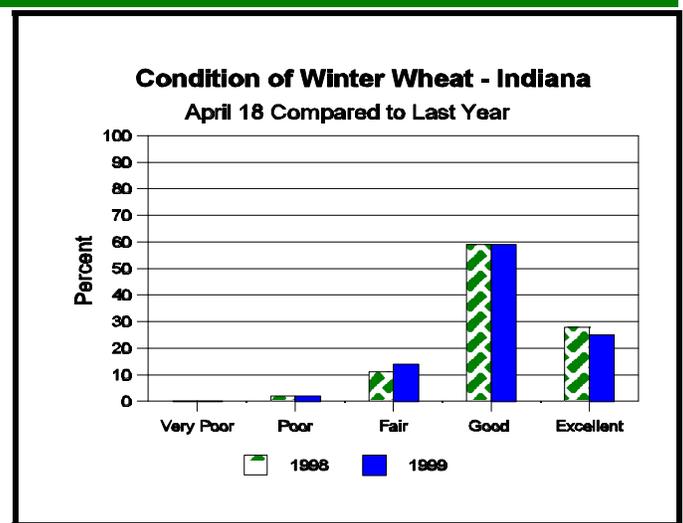
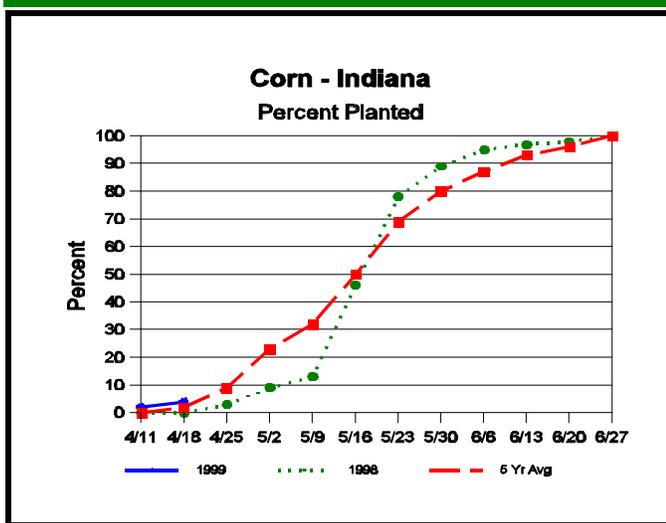
--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician

--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician

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Crop Progress



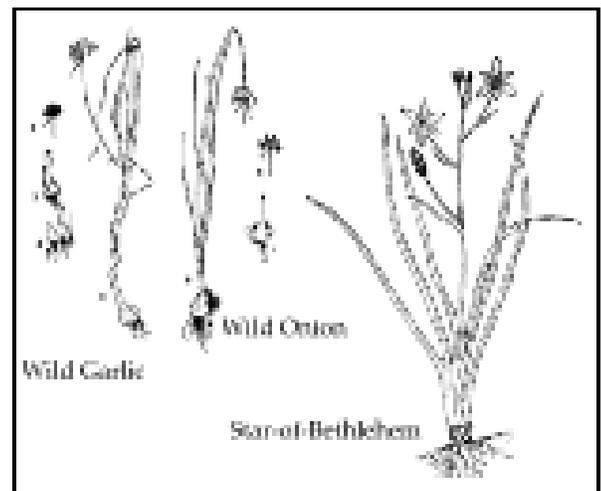
Wild Garlic, Wild Onion, and Star-of Bethlehem

- Understanding and identifying the weeds
- They are hard to control

Several samples and telephone calls have been received in the last two years about these weeds growing in no-tilled fields. They are members of the lily family, and thus are not controlled by any of the grass herbicides even though they look like a grass. All three are perennial species that like to grow in undisturbed areas, which make them ideal for no-tilled fields. Wild onion is the least common species found in crops, but it is usually the most common of the three found in lawns. Particularly in the southern part of the state, star-of-Bethlehem can be a problem in lawns and other areas such as golf fairways and parks. While wild garlic has traditionally been the most common species found in fields in the state, star-of-Bethlehem is the one that seems to be increasing the most in the last few years. This is probably due to one of two factors. One, it is spreading in no-tilled fields, or two, most people can already identify wild garlic but are not sure about the garlic looking weed they find increasing in their field. Star-of-Bethlehem at first looks like wild garlic, but upon close examination, you will see that the leaves are flattened with usually a light green to white midvein, and there is no garlic smell to the plant or the bulbs. It will bloom in mid-April to mid-May and have a single six-petal, white flower (like a star) on the top of the stalk. This plant, unlike wild garlic, will die back to the ground by mid-season and will not grow again until late fall or early spring of the next year.

All three species are tolerant to normal use rates of glyphosate, and wild garlic and star-of-Bethlehem are tolerant to 2,4-D. Wild onion is controlled with 2,4-D. In wheat, Harmony Extra is excellent on wild garlic, but star-of-Bethlehem is somewhat tolerant to this herbicide. Harmony Extra is labeled for early preplant to soybeans and will control wild garlic but not star-of-Bethlehem. However, there is a 45 day waiting period before planting soybeans, so it is too late to use it this year. Canopy XL can be used as a burndown for wild garlic, but is weak on star-of-Bethlehem. Unfortunately for no-till, all of these species respond to tillage, and under tilled conditions they will not survive. Below are line drawings that will describe all three species.

--Thomas N. Jordan, Weed Science, Purdue University



Weather Data

Week ending Sunday April 18, 1999

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in. Soil Temp	April 1, 1999 thru April 18, 1999				
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Precipitation		GGD Base 50°F		
							Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
Bloomington	65	36	46	-8	0.76	4		2.61	+0.33	10	105	+40
Bluffton	65	33	46	-4	0.88	3	48	1.95	-0.29	8	85	+51
Butlerville	65	32	47	-8	0.73	5	57	3.25	+0.81	13	99	+16
Castleton	65	35	47	-5	1.85	5		3.04	+0.89	13	106	+60
Crawfordsville	64	29	43	-10	1.25	4	49	1.93	-0.51	9	60	+8
Dubois_Ag	66	30	47	-8	0.43	4	51	2.63	+0.12	10	127	+53
Evansville	65	35	50	-7	0.35	2		2.86	+0.47	8	153	+53
Farmland	67	31	45	-4	1.67	5	48	2.90	+0.77	13	77	+55
Fort_Wayne	65	32	47	-3	1.61	3		3.09	+1.08	11	78	+50
Freelandville	63	36	46	-8	0.73	4		2.79	+0.56	9	103	+35
Greenfield	64	35	46	-5	1.46	5		2.65	+0.31	13	81	+43
Indianapolis_AP	64	36	48	-5	1.17	5		2.40	+0.21	13	116	+65
Indianapolis_SE	64	34	45	-7	1.34	5		3.01	+0.86	14	86	+40
Logansport	64	35	46	-5	1.94	5		3.38	+1.35	11	66	+35
New_Castle	63	33	44	-5	1.63	4		2.83	+0.44	12	63	+39
Perrysville	62	33	46	-6	2.16	4	46	3.21	+0.90	8	96	+52
Plymouth	66	32	45	-6	1.23	3		4.16	+1.87	9	75	+39
Scottsburg	67	33	49	-6	0.32	3		2.49	-0.02	8	111	+43
Shoals	70	32	47	-7	0.84	5		2.43	+0.02	9	105	+38
South_Bend	64	30	44	-5	1.19	3		3.62	+1.29	10	83	+58
Tell_City	67	38	50	-6	0.57	2		1.92	-0.97	4	141	+53
Terre_Haute_Ag	66	36	49	-5	1.02	3	51	2.68	+0.41	9	126	+68
Tipton_Ag	65	33	44	-6	1.49	4	48	2.23	-0.08	9	66	+42
Valparaiso_Ag	64	30	46	-4	1.54	5		2.82	+0.47	9	81	+50
Vincennes_5NE	64	36	48	-6	0.94	5	52	3.77	+1.54	11	116	+48
Wanatah	66	23	42	-7	1.19	3	51	2.84	+0.57	10	49	+27
W_Lafayette_6NW	66	32	46	-4	2.49	4	51	3.76	+1.61	9	87	+54
Wheatfield	64	31	45	-3	1.69	4		3.51	+1.24	10	76	+53
Winamac	65	32	45	-6	1.73	5	50	3.57	+1.37	10	85	+53
Young_America	66	32	45	-5	2.15	5		2.85	+0.82	10	66	+35

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GGD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Soil Temperature, Corn Emergence & Stand Problems

The usual small percent of corn has already been planted throughout the state in recent weeks. Corn requires approximately 125 growing degree units (GDUs) from planting to emergence and should be calculated from soil temperatures, not air temperatures. Even though soil temperatures have been reasonably favorable for corn germination and emergence since April 1, few, if any, areas of the state have yet accumulated enough GDUs since April 1 for corn to emerge let alone since any more recent planting dates. Therein lies the risk associated with early planted corn in Indiana.

Obviously, delayed corn emergence increases the exposure of the seed and young seedlings to soil-borne insects and diseases plus surface crusting of the seedbed. It is not uncommon for early April-planted corn to take two to four weeks to emerge. Once emerged, another week or so passes before significant nodal root development occurs at the crown of the seedling. Until these roots develop, corn seedlings are extremely vulnerable to seed or mesocotyl damage from disease, wireworm, seedcorn maggot, and white grub. Additionally,

slow germination and mesocotyl elongation increases the risk of underground leafing out due to soil crusting. The limited seed reserves of small sized seed (let's say 2000 seeds per pound or smaller) can also contribute to the susceptibility of early planted corn to these risks.

Bottom line: It would be prudent to be walking early planted fields of corn and monitoring the progress of germination and emergence. Make sure your rotary hoe is readily accessible and in working order. Be prepared to replant if significant stand loss appears imminent.

Don't forget, this and other timely information about corn can be viewed at the Chat 'n Chew Café on the World Wide Web at <http://www.kingcorn.org/chatchew.htm>. For other information about corn, take a look at the Corn Growers' Guidebook on the World Wide Web at <http://www.kingcorn.org>

–Bob Nielsen, Corn & Sorghum Prod & Mgmt.,
Purdue University

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