Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 14

Rain slowed field activities in some areas. Portions of the state received heavy amounts along with strong damaging winds, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Recent warm weather and showers have helped germination and emergence of early planted corn and soybeans. Corn planting is more than two weeks ahead of average. Soybean planting has surpassed the record high established in 1988 by 2 days. This places soybeans more than 2 weeks ahead of average.

CORN AND SOYBEANS

Eighty-six percent of the **corn** acreage is planted compared with 81 percent last year and 49 percent for the 5-year average. Corn planted is 3 days behind the record pace established in 1988. By area, corn planting is 87 percent complete in the north, 88 percent complete in the central and 77 percent complete in the south. Fifty-two percent of the corn crop has **emerged** compared with 29 percent last year. Fifty-seven percent of the **soybean** acreage is planted compared with 45 percent last year and 23 percent for the average. By area, soybean planting is 59 percent complete in the north, 60 percent complete in the central and 46 percent complete in the south.

WINTER WHEAT

Fifty-seven percent of the winter wheat acreage is **headed** compared with 44 percent last year and 35 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 77 percent good to excellent, compared with 85 percent at this time a year ago.

OTHER CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

Pasture condition was rated 14 percent excellent, 49 percent good, 27 percent fair, 8 percent poor and 2 percent very poor. Livestock are in mostly good condition.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 4.1 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 10 percent short, 77 percent adequate and 13 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 12 percent very short, 36 percent short, 47 percent adequate and 5 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
		Percent		
Corn Planted	86	66	81	49
Corn Emerged	52	15	29	NA
Soybeans Planted	57	29	45	23
Soybeans Emerged	22	NA	10	NA
Winter Wheat Headed	57	27	44	35

CROP CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Winter Wheat 5/14	1	4	18	52	25
Winter Wheat 5/7	1	3	17	53	26
Winter Wheat 1999	0	2	13	56	29
Pasture	2	8	27	49	14

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	4	1
Short	10	17	14
Adequate	77	69	69
Surplus	13	10	16
Subsoil			
Very Short	12	17	1
Short	36	37	12
Adequate	47	42	78
Surplus	5	4	9

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
–Andrea Buchanan, Agricultural Statistician
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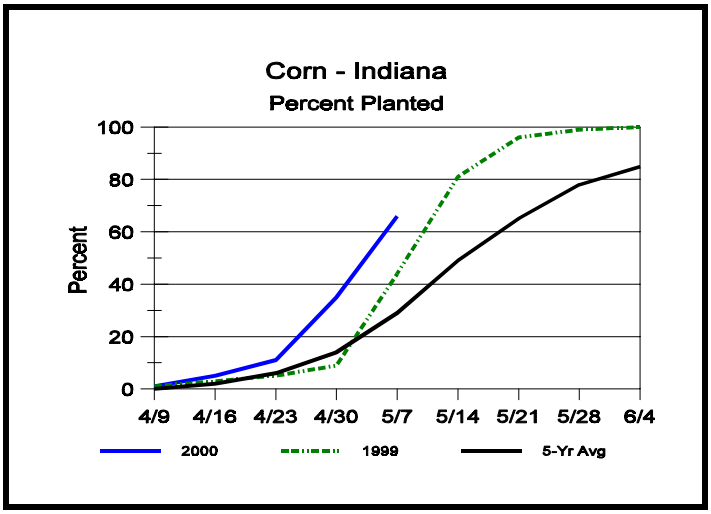
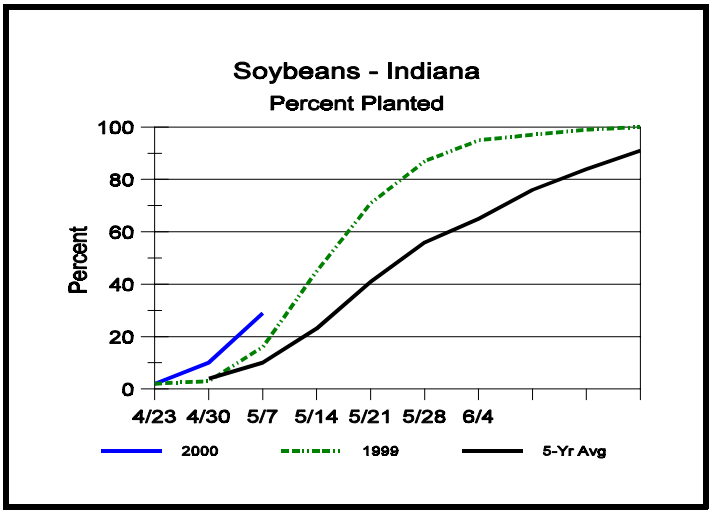
Crop Progress





Insects

Corn Flea Beetle Making Their Presence Known

- Several corn flea beetle calls have come in
- Most corn will outgrow damage
- Field corn under environmental stress with 5 or more beetles per plant may need treating
- Seed, sweet, and popcorn highly susceptible to Stewart's disease needs protection from feeding

There is no doubt that the mild winter has contributed to the high numbers of corn flea beetles being observed. This tiny (1/16"), shiny black beetle feeds on corn leaves by stripping off the top layer of plant tissue. This feeding leaves gray to brown lines or "tracks" etched on the leaf surface. Heavily infested plants may appear gray as their leaves shrivel and die.

On seedling dent corn, control may be necessary if 50 percent of the plants inspected show severe corn flea beetle feeding damage (plants begin to look silvery or whitish, or leaves begin to die), approximately 5 or more corn flea beetle per plant are found, and poor growing conditions are causing slow corn growth (e.g., cool temperatures, dry soils, herbicide damage). Normally, once a corn plant reaches the growth stage V5, it is no longer susceptible to significant corn flea beetle damage. Therefore, sampling for corn flea beetle typically will not be necessary once the plants have 5 leaves.

Corn flea beetle may also transmit the bacterium that causes Stewart's wilt as it feeds. This can be a serious problem, especially on sweetcorn and seed corn inbreds. In sweetcorn, the disease may result in ears that are smaller than normal, or some infected plants may die. In seed production fields, severe leaf blight may cause lightweight chaffy ears, plus increase the likelihood of stalk rots. The beetles alone are seldom severe enough to kill plants although in combination with the disease, such as noted above for sweetcorn, they may. In seed production fields where highly susceptible inbreds are utilized, treatment is probably justified if corn flea beetles are noted.

Armyworm in Corn and Wheat

- Moths lay eggs on grassy crops and weeds
- Corn can be quickly consumed when grass cover crop is destroyed
- Wheat defoliation and head clipping can result

Spring flying armyworm moths prefer to lay their eggs on dense grassy vegetation (e.g., wheat and grass cover crops) and the hatched larvae will feed on both corn and wheat.

Corn - Corn that has been no-tilled into or growing adjacent to a grass cover crop (especially rye) should be inspected immediately

(Continued on Page 4.)

Weather Data

Week ending Sunday May 14, 2000

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2000 thru May 14, 2000				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	86	40	64	+6	0.98	5		5.80	+0.10	19	250	+45
Wanatah	87	38	64	+7	1.35	5	67	5.84	+0.37	16	249	+78
Wheatfield	86	38	65	+7	3.13	5		6.90	+1.57	17	272	+85
Winamac	86	41	65	+6	1.57	4	69	5.28	+0.03	12	275	+54
North Central (2)												
Logansport	84	42	66	+7	0.91	2		3.51	-1.65	18	277	+62
Plymouth	87	39	64	+5	1.16	5		6.25	+0.67	18	259	+24
South_Bend	87	38	65	+8	1.06	5		5.41	+0.17	21	271	+81
Young_America	86	42	67	+9	1.52	3		3.66	-1.50	13	335	+120
Northeast (3)												
Bluffton	84	42	67	+8	1.55	4	65	4.58	-0.69	15	301	+76
Fort_Wayne	86	42	67	+9	1.37	5		4.25	-0.67	15	302	+100
West Central (4)												
Crawfordsville	84	36	66	+6	1.22	3	65	3.70	-2.24	16	256	-17
Perrysville	84	40	66	+6	1.71	5	69	4.33	-1.37	14	302	+50
Terre_Haute_Ag	84	41	67	+6	1.40	3	69	5.13	-0.85	16	364	+72
W_Lafayette_6NW	89	40	66	+7	0.81	4	64	2.98	-2.57	15	321	+100
Central (5)												
Castleton	83	42	67	+6	1.81	4		6.31	+0.46	22	324	+60
Greenfield	83	42	67	+7	1.42	3		6.49	+0.43	21	335	+89
Greensburg	83	44	68	+9	1.25	3		7.44	+1.15	20	336	+76
Indianapolis_AP	83	40	68	+8	1.46	2		5.81	+0.29	19	371	+90
Indianapolis_SE	82	42	67	+7	1.35	2		5.91	+0.06	16	326	+62
Tipton_Ag	84	40	65	+8	1.73	3	64	3.85	-1.83	15	270	+78
East Central (6)												
Farmland	84	49	68	+10	1.67	5	62	7.09	+1.83	20	293	+108
New_Castle	80	38	64	+6	1.11	3		6.05	-0.08	20	234	+44
Southwest (7)												
Dubois_Ag	86	40	68	+7	1.48	3	72	5.85	-0.50	20	402	+81
Evansville	88	42	70	+7	0.40	3		3.30	-2.92	16	452	+51
Freelandville	85	44	68	+7	1.52	3		5.80	-0.39	13	365	+52
Shoals	85	41	68	+7	2.01	4		5.22	-1.28	19	349	+44
Vincennes_5NE	85	42	67	+6	1.44	3		4.79	-1.40	19	365	+52
South Central (8)												
Bloomington	85	42	67	+6	2.08	3		6.27	+0.15	17	336	+26
Tell_City	86	48	70	+7	0.72	4		5.79	-1.25	15	413	+46
Southeast (9)												
Scottsburg	85	43	69	+7	1.67	3		7.19	+0.95	16	380	+63

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

for armyworm feeding. Hatched larvae will move from the dying grasses to emerging/emerged corn. Armyworm feeding gives corn a ragged appearance, feeding from the leaf margin toward the midrib. Damage may be so extensive that most of the plant, except the midrib and stalk, is consumed. A highly damaged plant may recover if the growing point has not been destroyed. If more than 50% of the plants show armyworm feeding and live larvae less than 1-1/4 inches long are numerous in the field, a control may be necessary. Larvae greater than 1-1/4 inches will soon be pupating and controls are futile because the damage has already been done. If armyworm are detected migrating from border areas or waterways within fields, spot treatments in these areas are possible if the problem is identified early enough.

Wheat - Examine plants in different areas of a field, especially where plant growth is dense. Look for flag leaf feeding, clipped heads, and armyworm droppings (excrement) on the ground. Shake the plants and count the number of armyworm on the ground and under plant debris. On sunny days, the armyworm will take shelter under crop residue or soil clods. If counts average approximately 5 or more per linear foot of row, the worms are less than 1-1/4 inches long and not parasitized or diseased, and leaf feeding is evident, control may be justified. If a significant number of armyworm are present and they are destroying the leaves, or the heads, treat immediately.

– John Obermeyer, Rich Edwards, and Larry Bledsoe, Purdue University

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