



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural
Statistics Service

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 4

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Showers slowed field activities in many areas of the state during the week, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Most farmers welcomed the rain as soil moisture was deficient in many regions. Planting of corn and soybeans continued to make good progress, especially in the northern and east central regions of the state. Corn planting is 6 days ahead of average and soybean planting is 1 day ahead of the average pace. Tillage of fields continued along with spreading of fertilizer in fields dry enough to support heavy equipment. Many early planted corn fields have now emerged. Late weekend rain covered much of the state. Ponding is evident in some fields.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 3.6 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Fifty percent of the intended **corn** acreage is planted compared with 9 percent last year and 34 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 61 percent of the corn acreage is planted in the north, 52 percent in the central region and 23 percent in the south. Eleven percent of the corn acreage has **emerged**, compared with 1 percent last year and 8 percent for the average. Seventeen percent of the **soybean** acreage is planted compared with 2 percent last year and 15 percent for the average.

Eighty-three percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 91 percent last year and 95 percent for the 5-year average. Eight percent of the winter wheat is **headed** compared with 11 percent last year and 16 percent for the average. Winter wheat **condition** improved and is rated 84 percent good to excellent compared with 66 percent last year at this time.

Major activities during the week were tillage of soils, spreading dry fertilizer, spraying chemicals, repairing equipment, moving grain to market, hauling manure, cleaning fence rows, along with taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 10 percent excellent, 57 percent good, 27 percent fair, 5 percent poor and 1 percent very poor. Pastures and forage crops continue to improve aided by the recent rain and warmer temperatures. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Spring calving remains active.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Corn Planted	50	26	9	34
Corn Emerged	11	1	1	8
Soybeans Planted	17	4	2	15
Winter Wheat Jointed	83	75	91	95
Winter Wheat Headed	8	2	11	16

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	5	27	57	10
Winter Wheat 2003	0	2	14	61	23
Winter Wheat 2002	0	6	28	52	14

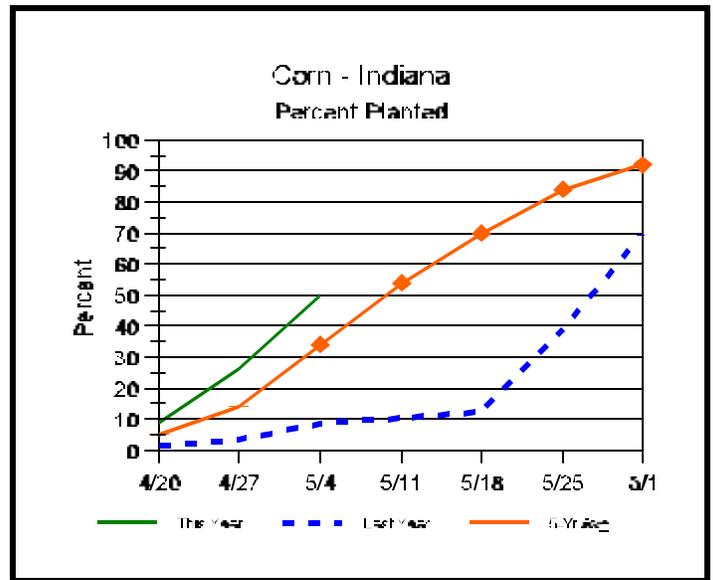
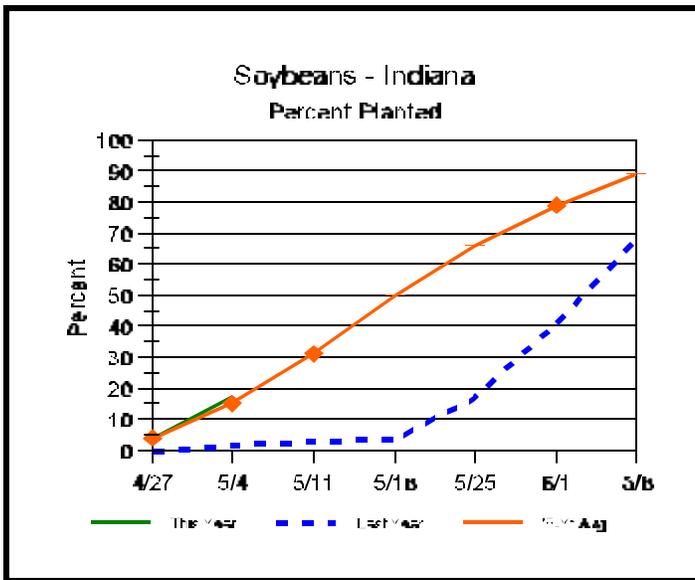
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short		3	0
Short	1	15	0
Adequate	55	59	32
Surplus	38	23	68
Subsoil			
Very Short	6	6	0
Short	16	19	1
Adequate	61	65	47
Surplus	17	10	52
Days Suitable	3.6	4.1	1.1

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Marestail - Will it Be a Problem This Year?

Last summer, there were a number of product performance issues related to poor herbicide activity on marestail. There are a number of reasons why this occurred and the purpose of this article is to provide an overview of these reasons and an update on the current status of marestail in Indiana.

Reasons why marestail was difficult to control in 2002:

- 1) Marestail is a weed which can emerge both in the fall and in the spring. In essence, it is both a winter and a summer annual. Fall emerging marestail will have a more extensive root system than those that emerge in the spring. Plants with more established root systems can be difficult to control because of resprouting from meristems in the lower part of the stem and roots. This occurs if systemic herbicides are not translocated to these meristems in high enough quantities to inhibit growth. Larger or older plants will have a larger number of active meristematic areas in the plant, thus effective herbicide translocation to all meristems becomes very important.
- 2) Glyphosate products (Roundup, Touchdown, Glyphomax and others) are relatively weak on large marestail. These products provide fairly good control of small (4 inch or less) seedlings, but control falls off pretty dramatically when marestail is more than 4 inches tall. Many of the control failures with glyphosate products were on plants sprayed when they were greater than 1 foot tall. In many of the same fields, glyphosate was the only product used. The addition of

2,4-D or FirstRate / Amplify to glyphosate would have improved control of larger marestail.

- 3) Weather conditions. Typically, weeds growing in very wet or very dry soils have slower rates of metabolism than weeds growing in less extreme conditions. It is highly likely that the reduced rate of metabolism of weeds growing in these conditions resulted in compromised herbicide activity. We observed this with glyphosate on common lambsquarter in 2002 as well. Common lambsquarter, much like marestail, is difficult to control with glyphosate when it is more than 4 inches tall. So the combination of reduced plant metabolism, plus the fact that glyphosate efficacy on large marestail is variable anyway resulted on control failures.
- 4) Glyphosate-resistant marestail has been confirmed in Jackson, Bartholomew and Jefferson counties and is suspected in several other counties in southern Indiana. Glyphosate resistant marestail has also been confirmed in Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. It appears initially that this problem will continue to grow because of widespread adoption of glyphosate use in soybean and the potential for growth in use of glyphosate in corn. In addition, marestail seed is well suited to dispersal by wind. Once a population is established, it will spread very quickly if resistant plants are allowed to go to seed.

The Good News. Our observations so far this year is that the marestail populations are lower than they were last year. There are a number of reasons for this.

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday May 4, 2003

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation					
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg	April 1, 2003 thru May 4, 2003					
							4 in	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
Northwest (1)													
Chalmers_5W	84	36	58	+2	1.34	4	57	4.44	+0.29	15	190	+41	
Valparaiso_AP_I	76	37	56	+2	1.45	3		3.77	-0.71	11	183	+74	
Wanatah	78	33	55	+3	1.43	3	60	4.21	-0.08	12	151	+65	
Wheatfield	80	34	56	+3	1.66	3		4.19	-0.05	10	188	+95	
Winamac	79	38	59	+4	0.68	2	58	2.90	-1.25	11	198	+81	
North Central(2)													
Plymouth	79	33	57	+2	1.55	2		3.84	-0.54	10	171	+44	
South_Bend	75	37	58	+5	1.17	3		4.06	-0.20	11	196	+98	
Young_America	84	39	60	+6	0.33	4		2.01	-1.94	14	209	+96	
Northeast (3)													
Columbia_City	77	32	57	+4	0.41	3	57	2.62	-1.46	13	162	+78	
Fort_Wayne	78	35	58	+4	0.92	3		3.18	-0.64	10	175	+70	
West Central (4)													
Greencastle	81	38	59	+2	0.23	3		2.66	-1.64	14	205	+37	
Perrysville	84	35	60	+4	0.57	3	59	3.14	-1.25	11	237	+98	
Spencer_Ag	82	41	62	+6	0.63	3		3.52	-1.09	12	233	+88	
Terre_Haute_AFB	81	40	61	+4	0.20	3		3.25	-1.21	12	250	+81	
W_Lafayette_6NW	83	36	60	+5	1.60	4	60	4.14	-0.09	15	225	+107	
Central (5)													
Eagle_Creek_AP	81	42	61	+4	0.71	3		2.37	-1.85	12	247	+89	
Greenfield	81	40	61	+6	0.55	4		3.31	-1.27	13	228	+96	
Indianapolis_AP	81	44	62	+5	0.92	4		3.00	-1.22	12	254	+96	
Indianapolis_SE	82	39	61	+5	0.36	2		3.12	-1.19	10	232	+86	
Tipton_Ag	82	36	59	+5	0.87	2	61	2.41	-2.00	9	172	+75	
East Central (6)													
Farmland	81	36	60	+7	0.60	3	58	1.99	-2.06	10	191	+100	
New_Castle	80	35	59	+5	0.28	3		1.62	-3.01	10	165	+69	
Southwest (7)													
Evansville	82	47	65	+4	0.47	2		4.07	-0.55	12	328	+74	
Freelandville	80	45	63	+6	0.55	2		3.67	-0.82	11	276	+88	
Shoals	83	39	63	+6	0.73	2		4.03	-0.71	9	283	+99	
Stendal	81	46	65	+6	0.59	1		4.58	-0.51	10	314	+98	
Vincennes_5NE	83	44	64	+6	0.48	2	60	3.51	-0.98	11	288	+100	
South Central(8)													
Leavenworth	82	42	63	+6	0.64	3		4.10	-1.09	14	289	+99	
Oolitic	80	39	63	+7	0.54	2	63	3.93	-0.67	11	266	+106	
Tell_City	83	44	67	+7	0.41	2		5.06	-0.39	10	374	+146	
Southeast (9)													
Brookville	82	36	62	+7	0.10	1		2.07	-2.35	9	247	+123	
Milan_5NE	81	39	62	+7	0.64	4		3.24	-1.18	14	235	+111	
Scottsburg	82	38	63	+5	0.76	3		6.39	+1.65	12	267	+78	

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

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

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

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Marestail - Will it Be a Problem This Year? (Continued)

- 1) The past fall was relatively dry and seedlings did not emerge.
- 2) The past winter was relatively harsh compared to previous years. While I was at the University of Missouri conducted studies to monitor winter weed populations in the fall, winter and early spring months. I was relatively surprised by the relatively high rate of mortality of many winter annual weeds, even during relatively mild winters. Typically, henbit and chickweed populations were 50 to 75% lower in the spring compared to the previous fall. So, it is highly likely that any marestail that emerged in the fall would have suffered a similar fate, which would further reduce populations.
- 3) Spring has been relatively dry in many parts of the state, so spring emergence of marestail is low.
- 4) 2,4-D provides good control of marestail and is one of the cheapest herbicides we have. In some areas of the state, there is/was a reluctance to use 2,4-D as part of a burndown program for no-till crop production. Crop advisors, representatives with companies that sell glyphosate products, and Purdue University extension specialists have taken an active

role in educating our clientele about this issue over the winter months. It appears initially, that much more 2,4-D is being used as a component of the burndown program. This is a wise strategy as it provides another mode of action on this and other weeds and will slow the development of more resistant weed populations.

So, to answer our question above, it appears that the marestail problems are of a lower magnitude so far this year. But weather conditions which prevent spraying and/or soil preparation over the next couple of weeks could result in a different story. Stay tuned

Final Comment. Weed Scientists at Purdue University are very concerned about this issue and will be monitoring the distribution and spread of glyphosate-resistant marestail in Indiana. If you think you have a suspect population, please contact your county Extension Educator. We will be collecting seed later this summer and fall from across the state for glyphosate tolerance screening and would to collect seed from as many populations as we can manage.

Bill Johnson, Glenn Nice, and Tom Bauman, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Purdue University.

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