USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 2

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

THIS REPORT IS THE FIRST CROP AND WEATHER REPORT FOR THE 2006 GROWING SEASON. A SERIES OF WEEKLY CROP PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE PUBLISHED EACH MONDAY AT 3:00 P.M. ET THROUGHOUT THE CROP SEASON. These reports will cover planting and harvesting activities, crop development, weather data and timely crop management information provided by farmers, FSA, and Purdue University experts. For the earliest possible access, look for these reports on the internet shortly after the 3:00 P.M. release time. Our home page address is located at the bottom of this publication. Follow the links to view the text and Pdf files.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 2.3 days suitable for field work. Some fieldwork was completed earlier in the week on soils that were dry enough to support heavy equipment. Fieldwork will temporarily be put on hold as many areas of the state received rain showers over the weekend. Several cases of wind damage have also been reported.

Five percent of the winter wheat acreage is jointed compared with 3 percent last year and 5 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat condition is rated 75 percent good to excellent compared with 69 percent last year at this time. Wheat growth has been relatively slow, but has greened up in the last two weeks.

Major activities during the week included: hauling grain to market, tillage of soils, applying fertilizer, preparing equipment for planting, hauling manure and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 5 percent excellent, 54 percent good, 29 percent fair, 10 percent poor and 2 percent very poor. Livestock remain in mostly good condition. Feeding of hay continues on some livestock farms.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
		Percent		
Winter Wheat Jointed	5	NA	3	5

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
			Percent		
Pasture	2	10	29	54	5
Winter Wheat 2006	1	3	21	62	13
Winter Wheat 2005	1	6	24	54	15

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	NA	0
Short	4	NA	2
Adequate	61	NA	60
Surplus	35	NA	38
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	NA	0
Short	9	NA	3
Adequate	74	NA	77
Surplus	16	NA	20
Days Suitable	2.3	NA	2.2

CONTACT INFORMATION

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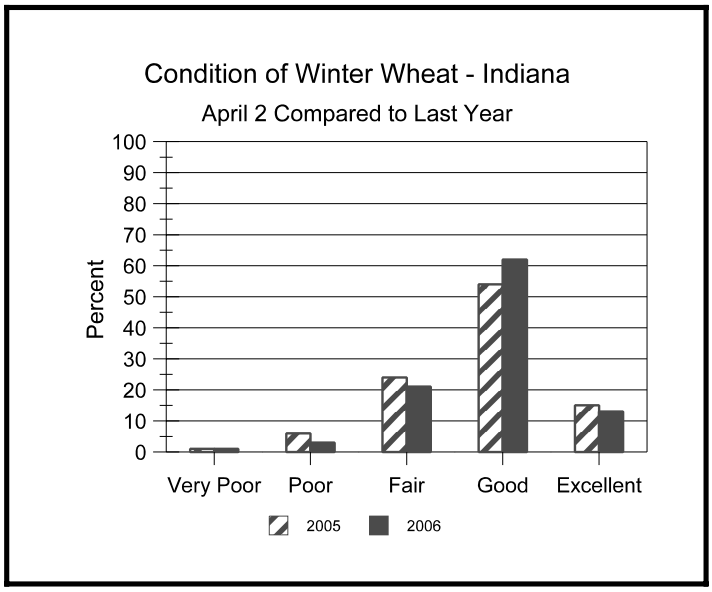
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Broadleaf Weed Control in Winter Wheat

Unlike just a few years ago when there were only a handful of herbicides registered for the control of broadleaf weeds in winter wheat grown in Indiana, there are now a number of herbicides available to control weeds in wheat. The most common broadleaf or perennial weed problems we run into at this time of year in Indiana wheat include chickweed, deadnettle, henbit, dandelion, mustards, field pennycress, shephardspurse, Canada thistle, and wild garlic. Some of the commonly used herbicides, rates, their application timings, and weeds controlled are listed in the table on page 4 at: http://www.entm.purdue.edu/Entomology/ext/targets/p&c/PandC2006/PandC2_2006.pdf.

It is also important to be aware that restrictions exist concerning application timing of these herbicides to avoid crop injury. Phenoxy herbicides, such as 2,4-D and MCPA, control a number of annual broadleaf weeds and are the least expensive of these herbicides to use. However, proper application timing of the growth-regulating herbicides 2,4-D, MCPA and Banvel is critical to avoid crop injury and possible yield losses. These herbicides can cause substantial crop injury and yield loss in small grains if applied before tillering begins or after development of the grain heads has been initiated.

The exact time at which grain heads have been initiated is not easy to determine, but this event always just precedes stem elongation. The occurrence of stem elongation can be easily detected by the appearance of the first node or "joint" above the soil surface, commonly referred to as the "jointing stage." Pinch a wheat plant stem at the base between the thumb and forefinger and slide your fingers up the stem. The presence of a node or joint will be felt as a hard bump about an inch above the soil surface. Slicing the stem lengthwise with a sharp knife will reveal a cross section of the hollow stem and solid node. If jointing has occurred, applications of 2,4-D, MCPA and Banvel should be avoided because crop injury and yield loss are likely. Research from the University of Missouri Weed Science program has shown a 3 to 6 bushel per acre yield loss from 2,4-D and Banvel applications to wheat after the jointing stage.

MCPA alone at labeled rates should be applied before jointing. However, the amount of MCPA applied in Bronate, a combination of bromoxynil and MCPA, is low enough to permit later applications.

As a final note, many wheat fields in Indiana contain wild garlic and wild onion. Although not considered as strong competitors with a wheat crop, wild garlic (Allium vineale) and wild onion (Allium canadense) are both responsible for imparting a strong odor to beef and dairy products. Wheat producers and grain elevator operators are very familiar with dockages that occur with the presence of wild garlic or onion bulbs in their harvested grain. Found throughout Missouri, wild garlic is a native of Europe, while wild onion is native. Despite the fact that these perennials both occur in similar habitats, wild garlic occupies the majority of small grain settings, including wheat.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday April 2, 2006

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2006 thru April 2, 2006				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	72	25	45	-2	0.50	3		0.15	-0.07	1	8	+4
Francesville	71	23	45	+3	0.74	3		0.00	-0.22	0	7	+5
Valparaiso_AP_I	72	24	47	+5	0.10	2		0.00	-0.24	0	9	+7
Wanatah	71	21	46	+4	0.41	2	47	0.00	-0.24	0	7	+5
Winamac	72	24	46	+3	0.75	2	43	0.00	-0.22	0	8	+6
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	71	23	45	+2	0.71	4		0.06	-0.18	1	8	+6
South_Bend	72	21	46	+4	0.26	4		0.05	-0.20	2	8	+6
Young_America	71	25	47	+4	1.27	3		0.52	+0.30	1	8	+6
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	70	20	44	+3	0.46	3	40	0.01	-0.23	1	8	+8
Fort_Wayne	70	22	47	+4	0.63	3		0.38	+0.16	1	8	+6
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	73	24	45	-2	1.71	4		0.72	+0.48	1	11	+7
Perrysville	76	26	47	+3	0.78	2	46	0.00	-0.24	0	11	+8
Spencer_Ag	74	24	46	-1	0.98	3		0.65	+0.38	1	12	+8
Terre_Haute_AFB	74	25	49	+2	1.00	3		0.24	-0.01	1	12	+8
W_Lafayette_6NW	73	25	48	+5	0.70	2	48	0.00	-0.22	0	8	+6
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	73	26	49	+3	1.38	4		0.97	+0.71	1	11	+7
Greenfield	70	25	47	+2	1.19	4		0.83	+0.58	1	8	+6
Indianapolis_AP	73	29	50	+4	1.55	4		1.19	+0.93	1	11	+7
Indianapolis_SE	71	26	46	+1	1.01	4		0.51	+0.28	1	9	+5
Tipton_Ag	70	25	45	+2	1.02	4	43	0.74	+0.50	2	8	+6
East Central(6)												
Farmland	70	25	46	+4	0.79	4		0.44	+0.22	1	8	+6
New_Castle	68	27	46	+4	0.73	3		0.54	+0.29	1	7	+5
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	78	27	52	+2	0.49	3		0.40	+0.12	1	14	+6
Freelandville	74	29	49	+1	0.64	3		0.12	-0.14	1	11	+5
Shoals	76	23	48	+1	0.89	3		0.57	+0.28	1	11	+5
Stendal	76	34	52	+4	0.48	3		0.09	-0.21	1	16	+10
Vincennes_5NE	75	29	49	+2	0.73	3	42	0.07	-0.19	1	12	+6
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	76	28	49	+1	0.97	3		0.74	+0.42	1	11	+5
Oolitic	75	24	47	+0	1.60	3	48	1.38	+1.10	1	10	+6
Tell_City	78	33	52	+3	0.44	1		0.44	+0.11	1	19	+11
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	74	25	47	+3	0.60	3		0.38	+0.12	1	10	+8
Greensburg	72	25	47	+1	0.66	4		0.48	+0.20	1	8	+4
Scottsburg	76	30	50	+3	1.92	3		1.73	+1.44	1	9	+3

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.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com

Broadleaf Weed Control in Winter Wheat (Continued)

Control measures for wild onion and wild garlic will differ. Producers, consultants and industry personnel will want to make certain that they are able to distinguish between these two weed species. The vegetative leaves of wild garlic are linear, smooth, round and hollow (flowering stems are solid). A major difference with wild onion is that its leaves are flat in cross section and not hollow. Another varying feature are the underground bulbs. Wild garlic's bulbs have a thin membranous outer coating while wild onion's bulbs have a fibrous, net-veined coating.

Harmony Extra (thifensulfuron + tribenuron) is the herbicide most commonly used for control of garlic in wheat, plus it controls a relatively wide spectrum of other broadleaf weeds and possesses a fairly wide application window. Harmony GT (thifensulfuron) also has activity on wild garlic, but is considered to be slightly weaker than Harmony Extra. Peak is also labeled and effective on wild garlic in wheat, but it is fairly persistent in soil. The Peak label does not allow one to plant double crop soybean following wheat harvest in Indiana. Wild onion is controlled with 2,4-D. Keep in mind that both of these weeds are perennials and the full labeled rate is needed for adequate control.

Over the last couple of years, dandelion infestations in wheat have increased dramatically, particularly in the eastern part of Indiana. The best dandelion control is usually obtained with fall applications of glyphosate before wheat is planted. So keep this in mind for fields that will be planted to wheat in coming fall. For this spring, the best approach to dandelion management in wheat will be the higher rates of 2,4-D, Stinger, or Curtail. Stinger will have the widest application window and can be applied up until the boot stage.

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