



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 9

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Field activities were hindered again this week by rain in many areas of the state, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Some spraying and spreading of fertilizer occurred on fields that were dry enough to support heavy equipment, with the most progress made in the northern part of the state. Planting of corn has been delayed by the cool, wet soil conditions.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 2.0 days suitable for field work. Virtually none of the intended corn acreage has been planted compared with 2 percent last year and 1 percent for the 5-year average. Only a few scattered fields of corn have been reported to be planted. Seeding of oats is underway.

Fourteen percent of the winter wheat acreage is jointed compared with 14 percent last year and 16 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat condition is rated 78 percent good to excellent compared with 69 percent last year at this time. The winter wheat is reported to have good color and growth at this point.

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

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 5 percent excellent, 59 percent good, 30 percent fair, 4 percent poor and 2 percent very poor. Livestock remain in mostly good condition. Calving is still active on many cattle operations. Feeding of hay continues on some livestock farms. Hay supplies are reported to be 7 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Planted	0	NA	2	1
Winter Wheat Jointed	14	5	14	16

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	2	4	30	59	5
Winter Wheat 2006	1	3	18	63	15
Winter Wheat 2005	1	6	24	58	11

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	3	4	7
Adequate	56	61	71
Surplus	41	35	21
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	1
Short	8	9	4
Adequate	73	74	81
Surplus	18	16	14
Days Suitable	2.0	2.3	4.3

CONTACT INFORMATION

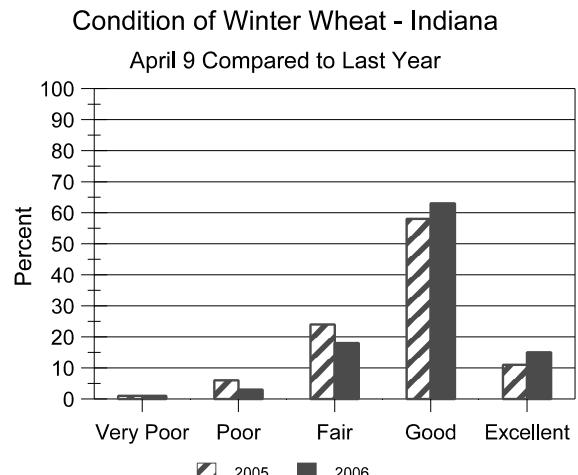
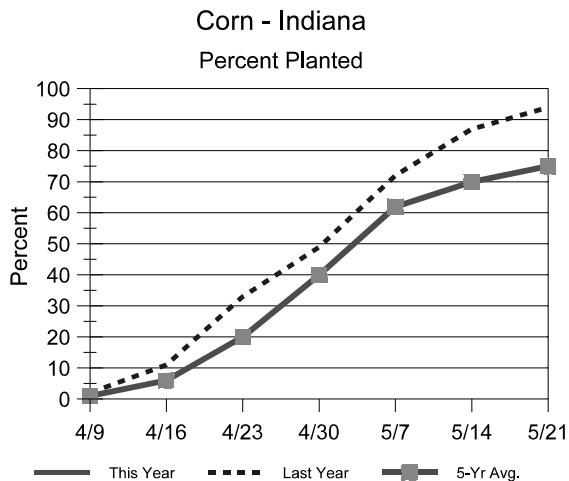
--Greg Preston, Director

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

Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Get Ready for Weeds in Early Roundup Ready Corn

Farmers switching to corn hybrids engineered to withstand Roundup brand herbicide could be in for an early season shocker: weeds growing alongside their crop.

As more producers choose Roundup Ready corn they might have to become accustomed to the unfamiliar sight of weeds at crop emergence, said Bill Johnson, a Purdue University weed scientist. In addition to their unsightliness, the weeds could take valuable nitrogen away from the corn, resulting in yield losses.

In many conventional corn systems, producers apply atrazine-based herbicides before the crop is planted, thereby keeping weeds at bay until the corn is several inches high. With Roundup Ready corn, some farmers are likely to abandon these preplant soil-applied herbicides and spray Roundup later in the season, Johnson said.

"In a system where we don't use soil-applied herbicides we're going to have weeds emerging with the corn," Johnson said. "If there is nitrogen in that field, weeds will utilize it and enhance their growth rates early in the growing season. The weeds could become very competitive with the corn."

"Essentially, we could be fertilizing the enemy, giving it a competitive advantage and allowing it to grow more quickly, which may cause it to outgrow the Roundup technology that we're using to control it if we have a prolonged period of wet weather after planting that keeps the sprayers out of the field."

Research conducted by Johnson indicates that annual grass weeds such as foxtail, crabgrass and fall panicum are adept at absorbing nitrogen.

"We find that early in the year grass weeds take up nitrogen at approximately the same rate as corn," Johnson said. "That continues until the grass weeds are about 4 inches tall, and then the weeds go into a period where they accumulate nitrogen very rapidly -- more rapidly than corn at that point. By the time the weeds are a foot tall, if you look at the amount of nitrogen in grass on a per-area basis, they can contain three times as much nitrogen as the corn can at that time."

Weeds don't have to take up much nitrogen to cut into corn yields, Johnson said.

"It does appear that there is a relatively low threshold level of nitrogen that can be present in grass weeds to cause yield losses," he said. "What we have seen in our research across a number of different weed species is by the time the weeds have between 10 pounds and 20 pounds of nitrogen per acre in their above-ground biomass, that appears to be a threshold level at which we start seeing yield reduction in corn. We've observed that across foxtail, shattercane, waterhemp and giant ragweed infestations.

"If you have that much nitrogen in the above-ground biomass, you probably have about that much in the below-ground biomass, as well. So we may be representing only about half the amount of nitrogen that's in the weeds."

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday April 9, 2006

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data										Accumulation				
	Air Temperature					Precip.			Avg	4 in	Precipitation		April 1, 2006 thru April 9, 2006		
	Temperature		Precip.		Soil	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	GDD	Base	50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total				DFN
Northwest (1)															
Chalmers_5W	72	21	45	-4	1.16	3		1.31	+0.29	4	11				-8
Francesville	72	22	44	-2	0.68	3		0.68	-0.38	3	9				-2
Valparaiso_AP_I	64	25	45	-2	0.44	2		0.44	-0.70	2	16				+6
Wanatah	65	21	43	-2	0.76	3	48	0.76	-0.34	3	7				-2
Winamac	74	24	45	-2	0.25	1	45	0.25	-0.81	1	12				+1
North Central (2)															
Plymouth	70	24	45	-3	0.50	3		0.56	-0.56	4	11				-2
South_Bend	63	23	44	-3	0.41	4		0.46	-0.70	6	15				+6
Young_America	74	27	46	+0	0.76	3		1.28	+0.29	4	15				+5
Northeast (3)															
Columbia_City	74	26	45	+1	0.43	2	47	0.44	-0.64	3	12				+5
Fort_Wayne	75	27	47	+2	0.65	3		1.03	+0.04	4	20				+11
West Central (4)															
Greencastle	77	28	49	-2	1.68	3		2.40	+1.32	4	26				+4
Perrysville	75	26	48	+0	1.42	2	49	1.42	+0.28	2	23				+6
Spencer_Ag	77	29	49	+1	2.46	4		3.11	+1.93	5	27				+9
Terre_Haute_AFB	77	28	50	+1	2.12	3		2.36	+1.26	4	38				+15
W_Lafayette_6NW	76	24	46	+0	0.76	3	51	0.76	-0.28	3	18				+7
Central (5)															
Eagle_Creek_AP	74	30	49	+0	0.79	4		1.76	+0.65	5	27				+7
Greenfield	75	29	48	-1	1.47	4		2.30	+1.14	5	18				+4
Indianapolis_AP	78	32	50	+2	1.07	4		2.26	+1.15	5	34				+14
Indianapolis_SE	76	29	47	-2	1.31	4		1.82	+0.75	5	18				+0
Tipton_Ag	73	27	46	+0	1.03	5	46	1.77	+0.63	7	14				+5
East Central (6)															
Farmland	74	25	46	+1	0.56	3	46	1.35	+0.30	4	13				+4
New_Castle	77	29	47	+2	0.98	4		1.52	+0.36	5	17				+8
Southwest (7)															
Evansville	81	33	55	+2	0.53	3		0.93	-0.29	4	60				+18
Freelandville	78	32	51	+1	1.32	4		1.44	+0.31	5	36				+8
Shoals	81	28	51	+1	1.33	4		1.90	+0.66	5	38				+11
Stendal	81	34	54	+3	1.53	3		1.62	+0.27	4	59				+26
Vincennes_5NE	80	31	52	+3	1.43	5	50	1.49	+0.36	6	48				+20
South Central (8)															
Leavenworth	79	33	53	+3	1.51	4		2.25	+0.82	5	43				+14
Oolitic	78	30	50	+1	1.87	5	51	3.25	+2.05	6	25				+3
Tell_City	79	36	54	+2	1.12	4		1.56	+0.11	5	53				+15
Southeast (9)															
Brookville	80	29	48	+2	1.46	4		1.84	+0.70	5	25				+11
Greensburg	79	30	49	+1	1.53	3		2.01	+0.82	4	25				+7
Scottsburg	80	28	51	+0	2.04	5		3.77	+2.50	6	34				+6

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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Get Ready for Weeds in Early Roundup Ready Corn (Continued)

Farmers who plant Roundup Ready corn need to make timely applications of the herbicide in order to prevent possible yield losses, Johnson said.

"A Roundup Ready system can be very effective but the importance of the proper application timing of glyphosate -- or Roundup -- is going to be much more important in corn than it is in soybeans," he said. "In corn if we miss that optimal application window by just a couple of days we're looking at a 1-2 bushel yield loss per day."

Annual grass weeds should be controlled before they reach 4 inches in height, or about 23 days after planting when corn is at the V2 to V3 leaf stages, Johnson said.

Other strategies for controlling early season grass weeds in Roundup Ready corn include:

- Continue using soil-applied residual herbicides -- "For atrazine premixes, utilizing anywhere from about a one-half to full labeled rate at or slightly before planting and then following up with glyphosate post-emergence, is very effective," Johnson said.
- Perform two post-emergence applications of Roundup -- "Target the first application when grass weeds are 3-4 inches tall and make a second application before corn has eight collars or is 30

inches tall," Johnson said. "This strategy is less desirable than using a soil-applied herbicide followed by glyphosate because we're putting a lot of selection pressure out there for glyphosate-resistant weeds. This strategy also depends on your ability to get over your corn twice with a sprayer."

Farmers should scout their fields 2-3 weeks after an initial post-emergence herbicide treatment, Johnson said. "Get into the field and pull back some of the residue and see if weeds are germinating," he said. "Remember that the first application of glyphosate will not provide any residual activity on weeds unless it is tank mixed with another herbicide that has residual activity."

To learn more about early season weed control in Roundup Ready corn and weed uptake of nitrogen, read Johnson's Extension publication, "Nitrogen Accumulation by Annual Grass Weeds in Roundup Ready Corn Production." The publication can be downloaded from the Purdue Weed Science Web site, located at <http://www.btny.purdue.edu/weedscience/>.

For more information on post-emergence weed management in corn, refer to pages 37 and 38 of the 2006 Weed Control Guide for Ohio and Indiana. The guide can be downloaded at <http://www.btny.purdue.edu/Pubs/WS/WS-16/>.

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