



News Release

Indiana Weather Summary 2022

April showers brought unsuitable planting conditions and little time for field work. Cold temperatures paired with over-saturated fields left only an average of 1.8 days a week suitable for field work throughout the month of April. Topsoil moisture level ratings averaged 98% adequate or surplus throughout the month. These less than favorable planting conditions delayed planting progress for corn and soybeans which resulted in both crops progressing much behind their respective five-year averages by the end of April. Despite the cold weather delaying winter wheat crop development, winter wheat condition remained stable throughout the month. While awaiting weather suitable for planting, many farmers kept themselves busy with tasks like spring tilling, applying fertilizers and herbicides when possible, and preparing planting equipment.

Unfavorable April weather conditions spilled over into the early weeks of May with the State's average temperature hovering around 55.3 degrees in the first two weeks. Cool, damp weather continued to hinder corn and soybean planting progress with each crop lagging greatly behind their respective five-year averages. Ponding was reported in some areas at this time along with minor flooding near riverbeds. Luckily, mid-to-late May brought unseasonably warm weather that helped corn and soybean planting finally catch up to their respective five-year averages. Corn and soybean emergence was well under way. Winter wheat progress also started to reach its five-year average at the end of May and crop condition remained stable. First cuttings of alfalfa and other began late May. Pasture conditions improved gradually throughout the month.

Rainfall occurred seemingly as needed in the beginning of June as corn and soybean planting wrapped up. Heat and a lack of rainfall helped previously soggy fields to dry but began to leave some fields in need of rain. Warm temperatures benefited winter wheat crop growth, and, by the end of June, winter wheat harvest was in full swing. Nearly all of the corn and soybean crop had emerged by the end of June with condition ratings for both crops remaining stable despite depleting topsoil moisture levels. Hay harvest benefitted from the dry weather with first cuttings all but finished by the end of June.

Dry conditions continued from June into July. Topsoil moisture level ratings averaged only 46 percent adequate or surplus throughout the month. Corn and soybean fields began to show signs of stress and slowed progress due to lack of precipitation. Conditions were great for harvesting alfalfa and other hay, but regrowth started to slow due to lack of adequate rainfall. Intermittent rains mid-July did little to relieve dry fields. Corn silking and soybean blooming progress began to near their respective five-year averages taking full advantage of any intermittent rain to propel crop development progress. Winter wheat harvests wrapped up mid-to late July. For many, pasture conditions were unsatisfactory requiring supplemental hay to support livestock. Despite high heat indexes and dry pastures toward the end of July, livestock were reportedly in relatively good condition. Topsoil moisture remained quite dry by the end of July leaving many throughout the State hopeful for more rain to replenish shorter-than-desired topsoil moisture levels come August.

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