



# News Release

August 12, 2020

## Indiana Weather Summary 2020

The 2020 spring planting season was exceptionally more favorable than the previous year. Cool temperatures and below average precipitation throughout April made for ideal conditions for fieldwork and planting. By the end of the month, corn and soybean plantings were off to a quick start, ahead of the five-year average, though the cooler temperatures kept winter wheat progress slightly behind schedule.

The colder weather continued into May, with the average temperature for the first two weeks at only 51.8 degrees, 7.1 degrees below normal for the State. While planting progress was not hindered much by the cool weather, concerns of damage in winter wheat and early-planted soybeans arose after frost events in the first half of the month. Heavy rains in the latter half of the month also raised concerns, but by the end of May, crop conditions remained favorable with 68% of corn and 69% of soybeans rated in good to excellent condition.

Warmer and drier weather took hold in June, allowing corn and soybean planting to mostly wrap up by the middle of the month, slightly ahead of schedule. Corn and soybean emergence also progressed ahead of schedule, with 94% of corn emerged by June 14, compared to the 86% five-year average. Drought concerns arose after the first three weeks of the month saw precipitation levels well below normal. However, significant rain events near the end of the month helped to replenish moisture levels. By the month's end, topsoil moisture levels were at 65% adequate to surplus, compared to 97% at the end of May.

July welcomed even more hot and dry weather, which aided winter wheat maturation and harvest progress, but again brought about drought concerns in corn and soybeans. The dry weather pushed winter wheat harvest ahead of schedule, with 96% of the crop harvested by July 19, compared to the five-year average of 89%. Sporadic and scattered rainfall in the first half of the month did little to maintain soil moisture, with topsoil and subsoil moisture levels reaching a low of 54% adequate to surplus by July 13. The hot and dry weather also slowed pasture growth and caused concern for heat stress in livestock.

Thankfully, timely rain events in the last two weeks of July helped to ward off drought concerns and improve crop conditions. By the end of July, 93% of corn was silking and 87% of soybeans blooming, both ahead of the five-year average. Hay harvest remained more or less on schedule, with second cuttings wrapping up and third cuttings getting underway by the end of the month. Crop conditions improved over the month, thanks in large part to the late-month rainfall, with corn and soybeans reported at 67% and 68% good to excellent condition, respectively.

