

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update July 3, 2024

Here are updates from the MSU Extension Field Crops team in Southwest Michigan. If you have any items you would like me to include in future email updates - whether events you want others to know about or topics you would like to have addressed - please send me an [email](#) or [call](#) the office.

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Free SW MI No-Till Field Day & Soil Pit - Friday, July 19

There will be a soil pit! There will be free lunch! But wait, there's more! Join us for an interactive field day about no-till systems and their challenges and successes. This event is offered free of charge thanks to the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and the Farmers for Soil Health program. It will be held at 93599 County Road 652, Marcellus, MI 49067, on Friday, July 19. One MAEAP Phase 1, one RUP (commercial 1A and private core) and 3 CCA credits (2 soil and water management, one IPM) will be available. Check out [this article](#) about it for more information.

Van Buren County - South Haven Recycle Roundup

Join us at the South Haven Department of Public Works Facility (1199 8th Ave, South Haven) on Saturday, August 3, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Bring any of these items and proof of Van Buren County residency or land ownership (i.e. drivers license, tax bill): Household hazardous waste (cleaners, lightbulbs, pesticides, batteries, etc.), oil-based paint, paper for shredding, electronics, foam (Styrofoam™/polystyrene), passenger & semi tires (RSVP required).

Tire registration is required at least two-days in advance by calling or filling out this [form](#)!
Be sure to watch out for follow-up communication!

For questions, contact Recycling Coordinator Kalli Marshall at ResourceRecovery@VanBurenCD.org or by calling 269-633-9314. Check out our other collection events at VanBurenCD.org/van-buren-county-recycling-collections/ including our tire and electronics event in Pine Grove Township on August 15!

MAEAP Growing Green Field Day - Tuesday, July 30

The Branch County and St. Joseph County Conservation Districts will present a MAEAP field day at Little Hands Garden (442 Gilead Lake Rd., Bronson, MI 49028) on July 30. RSVP to the Branch County Conservation District at <https://www.branchcd.org/> or 517-278-2725 ext. 5.



JOIN US FOR
GROWING GREEN

BRANCH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MAEAP

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Featured speakers:

- Christine Charles - Water Simulator
- Nicolle Ritchie - Nitrogen Use Efficiency
- Dairy Doo
- Patrick Gordon - Produce Safety
- Chelsy and Harlie - MAEAP Update

July 30, 2024
At Little Hands Garden
8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
442 Gilead Lake Road
Bronson MI 49028

RSVP @ [BRANCHCD.ORG](https://www.branchcd.org/)
OR CALL 517-278-2725 EXT 5

Free lunch is provided!

Satisfies MAEAP Phase I Credit

POTATOES: Mid-Michigan Agronomy Field Day Wednesday, July 31

Mid-Michigan Agronomy will host a field day on July 31, 2024, at their research farm 18561 G Drive N, Marshall, MI. The field day starts at 8 am and will cover some of the potato research being done there.

RSVP to:

Shannon.schafer@midmichagronomy.com or 517-881-1749

Or

Robert.schafer@midmichagronomy.com or 517-242-3477



Save the date!

2024 Mid-Michigan Agronomy Field Day
July 31, 2024
8:00 am

Mid-Michigan Agronomy Potato and Row Crop Research Farm
18561 G Drive N
Marshall, MI 49068

Feel free to invite your colleagues that are interested.

RSVP:
Shannon.schafer@midmichagronomy.com or 517-881-1749
Robert.schafer@midmichagronomy.com or 517-242-3477

If you would like to present in front of your trial please contact Rob.

POTAOTES: Montcalm County Potato Field Day – Thursday, August 8

MSU Extension and the Michigan Potato Industry Commission (MPIC) will host a field day on August 8, 2024, at the Montcalm Research Center, 4629 W. McBride Rd, Lakeview, MI. Check-in begins at 8 am. The MPIC research committee meeting will be held in the afternoon. Registration is free but it is required to attend. Register at: https://events.anr.msu.edu/2024_Montcalm_County_Field_Day



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MICHIGAN POTATOES
MICHIGAN POTATO INDUSTRY COMMISSION



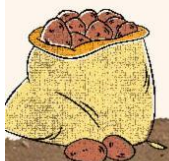
MSU EXTENSION AND THE MICHIGAN POTATO INDUSTRY COMMISSION ARE EXCITED TO HOST:

THE 2024 Montcalm County Potato Field Day

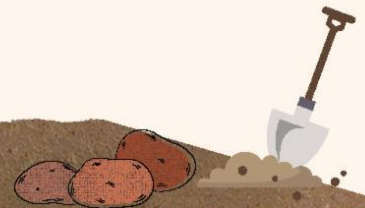
on Thursday, August 8th at the Montcalm Research Center Located at 4629 W. McBride Rd. Lakeview, MI

AGENDA

- 8:00 - 8:30:** Check-in with coffee and light refreshments (registration is required prior to attending event)
- 8:30 - 8:45:** Welcome & Introduction by MSUE Field Crops Educator, Steve Whittington
- 9:00 - 9:45:** Breakout Session 1 - Water Stewardship & Irrigation Efficiencies Discussion featuring: a well upgrade discussion and live irrigation monitoring showcase by Todd Feenstra of Midwest Water Stewards, irrigation efficiencies discussion with MSUE Irrigation Specialist Dr. Younsuk Dong, and a MiWATT Tool discussion and showcase with MSUE Educator Lyndon Kelley
- 10:00 - 10:45:** Breakout Session 2 - Morgan's Compost Trial Demonstration featuring: a discussion of composting in potato systems for improve disease control & increased yields. A focus on early-die management, verticillium wilt, weed suppression, and microbial comparisons
- 11:00 - 11:45:** Breakout Session 3 - Harvest and post-harvest handling discussion and demonstration featuring: proper handling techniques at harvest, equipment for proper storage, safe field handling techniques, commercial pathogen maintenance, season conditions and the effect on plant physiology and more
- 12:00 - 1:00:** Lunch and closing remarks
- 1:30 - 3:30:** Michigan Potato Industry Commission Research Committee Meeting - Douglas Twp. Hall



CEU CREDITS AVAILABLE: 2
RUP CREDITS AVAILABLE: 2
THIS EVENT IS A MAEAP PHASE I EVENT



Registration is free but required to attend. Register here: https://events.anr.msu.edu/2024_Montcalm_County_Field_Day/

Field Crops Update

More soybeans entered R1 this week. If applying a fungicide for white mold, the application should occur between R1 and R3. There are many factors that affect white mold development, including the presence of inoculum, row spacing, canopy, weather conditions and more. The Sporecaster app integrates many of these factors and is one way to calculate white mold risk. Soybean aphid scouting should occur as soybeans approach and enter reproductive stages.



Corn varies throughout the region from early vegetative stages to tasseling. Low levels of tar spot were confirmed last week in Monroe County. When scouting for tar spot, watch for small black dots, slightly raised in appearance, on corn leaves. Tar spot is often confused with insect droppings, so wipe the leaf (preferably with a little bit of moisture) to make sure the black dot is actually a lesion. For single-application control of tar spot, spraying should occur between VT and R3. The Tarspotter app shows high risk for tar spot development in corn between V10 and R3.

Winter wheat has either been harvested or is at Feekes 11.4, which is when the kernel is ready to harvest. An early harvest this year gives some growers the opportunity to double-crop soybeans following wheat. The article [Considering double-crop soybeans after a winter cereal this year?](#) reviews the considerations for double-cropping soybeans, including soil moisture, weed control, soybean maturity group and timing. If not considering double-cropped soybeans, consider establishing a diverse warm season cover crop mixture.

Potatoes have finished flowering on most acres. As vines begin to lay over, vine rot risk increases. High humidity, heat, and frequent precipitation/irrigation further the risk. **Colorado potato beetle** (CPB) summer adults have been confirmed in early planted fields, and second-generation larvae are close behind. If managing second-generation CPB populations, use chemicals with a different mode of action than was used on the first-generation populations. **Aphid** scouting should begin for early planted potatoes and continue throughout the season.

Alfalfa and **forages** continue with the second cutting in many areas.

Western Bean Cutworm moths are present in the state. Bucket traps in Berrien, Branch and St. Joseph Counties have caught the following:

Date	Berrien	Cassopolis	Centreville 1	Centreville 2	Sturgis	Union City 1	Union City 2
6/24	2	0	6	9	0	5	3
7/1	1	81	29	46	29	61	4

Weekly Crop Water Use for Field Crops in Michigan

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY		Extension		
Crop	Growth stage	Estimated weekly crop water use for field crops in Michigan (in/week)		
		Week of July 1st - 7th		
		Constantine	Entrican	Hart
Corn	V6	0.49	0.47	0.56
	V8	0.70	0.68	0.80
	V10	0.95	0.92	1.08
	V12	1.25	1.21	1.43
	VT	1.38	1.33	1.57
Soybeans	V2 2nd node	0.63	0.61	0.71
	V3 3rd node	0.75	0.73	0.86
	R1 Beginning bloom	1.25	1.21	1.43
	R2 Full bloom	1.38	1.33	1.57
<p>This table presents projected potential crop evapotranspiration values for field crops in Michigan and does not account for precipitation obtained during the week of calculation. The procedure used for the calculation was based on the FAO-56 single crop coefficient approach: https://www.fao.org/4/X0490E/x0490e0b.htm#TopOfPage. Reference evapotranspiration values were obtained from https://enviroweather.msu.edu/.</p>				
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During the vegetative stages, crop water use is low; however, it is essential to monitor for water deficits. As some corn enters the VT stage and soybeans reach R1, crop water use begins to increase and often exceeds precipitation amounts. Avoiding water stress in corn during early reproductive stages, such as tasseling, silking, and pollination, is crucial, as it can significantly impact yield potential. During this period, root depth increases rapidly from 18 to 48 inches, increasing the amount of soil water available for plant development.

For soybeans, peak water use occurs later during the pod-filling stage, but it is still important to reduce water stress during flowering. During this time of the year, corn water use exceeds precipitation amounts. In potatoes, water use is low during vine layover; thus, providing excess irrigation can increase the risk of pathogens and water-rotted tubers.

The table above presents estimated crop water use for various field crops across three locations in Michigan. This data helps irrigation management decisions by showcasing potential crop evapotranspiration, calculated based on reference evapotranspiration and crop coefficients for each crop growth stage. It is crucial to note that crop water use values vary across regions due to differences in weather conditions, growth stages, agronomic practices, and soil properties.

When using these values for irrigation scheduling, be mindful that they assume all applied irrigation water will be utilized by the plants without any loss. Additionally, these values do not account for any precipitation that may occur during the week of calculation. For more tools and information on irrigation scheduling tools, please refer to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/irrigation/uploads/files/FS03-IrrigationSchedulingTools07.19.pdf>

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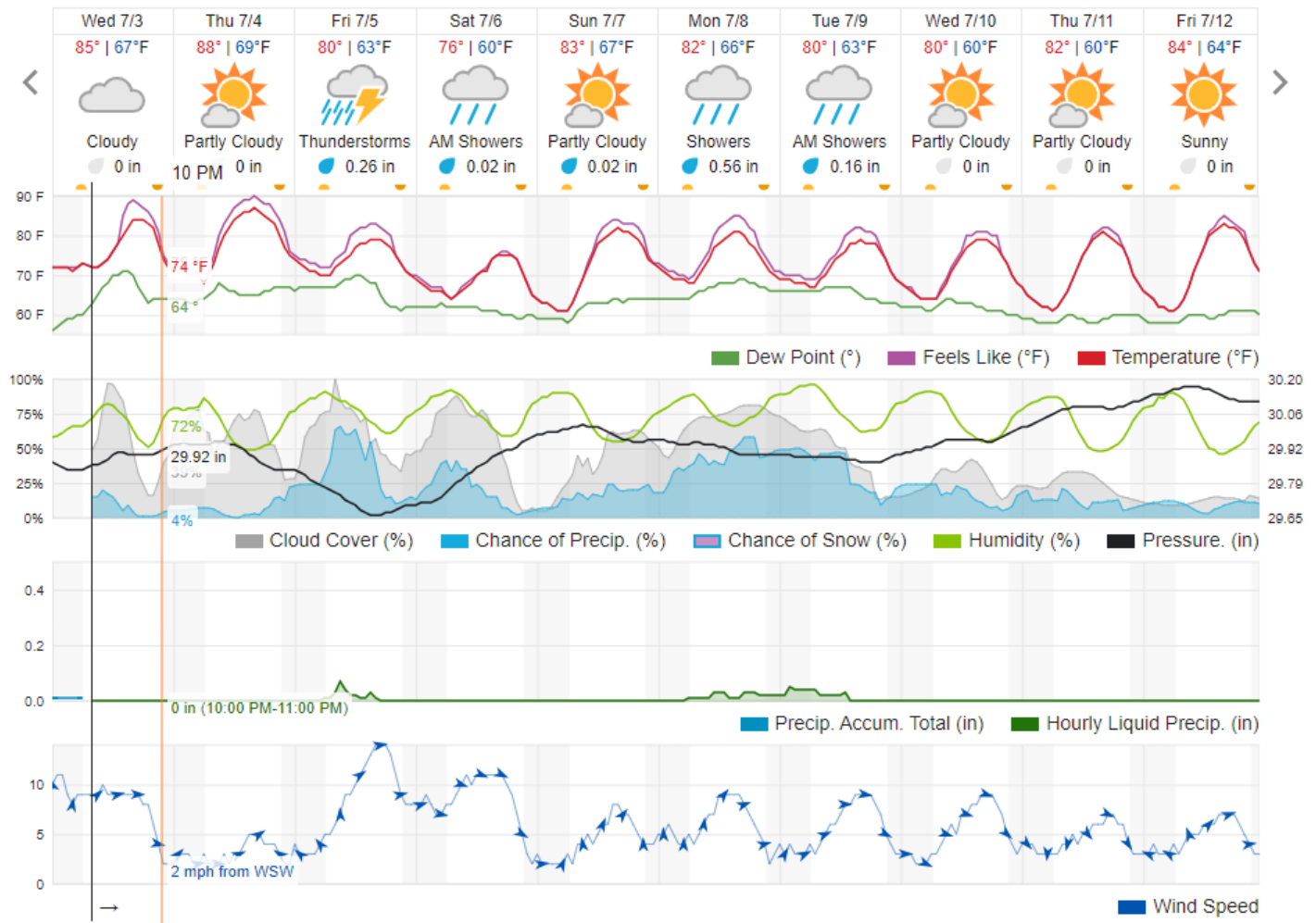
Reference evapotranspiration data was obtained from Enviro-weather, which also offers a model for determining potential crop evapotranspiration. To access this tool, visit <https://enviroweather.msu.edu/>, click on "Crops," select your crop, and use the potential evapotranspiration tool by choosing your nearest weather station, the latest date of interest, and other crop information.

Crop water use values were calculated by Angie Gradiz, MSU Extension Agriculture Water Use Efficiency Educator; Lyndon Kelley, MSU and Purdue Extension Irrigation Educator; and Dr. Younsuk Dong, MSU Irrigation and Extension Specialist.

Weather Update

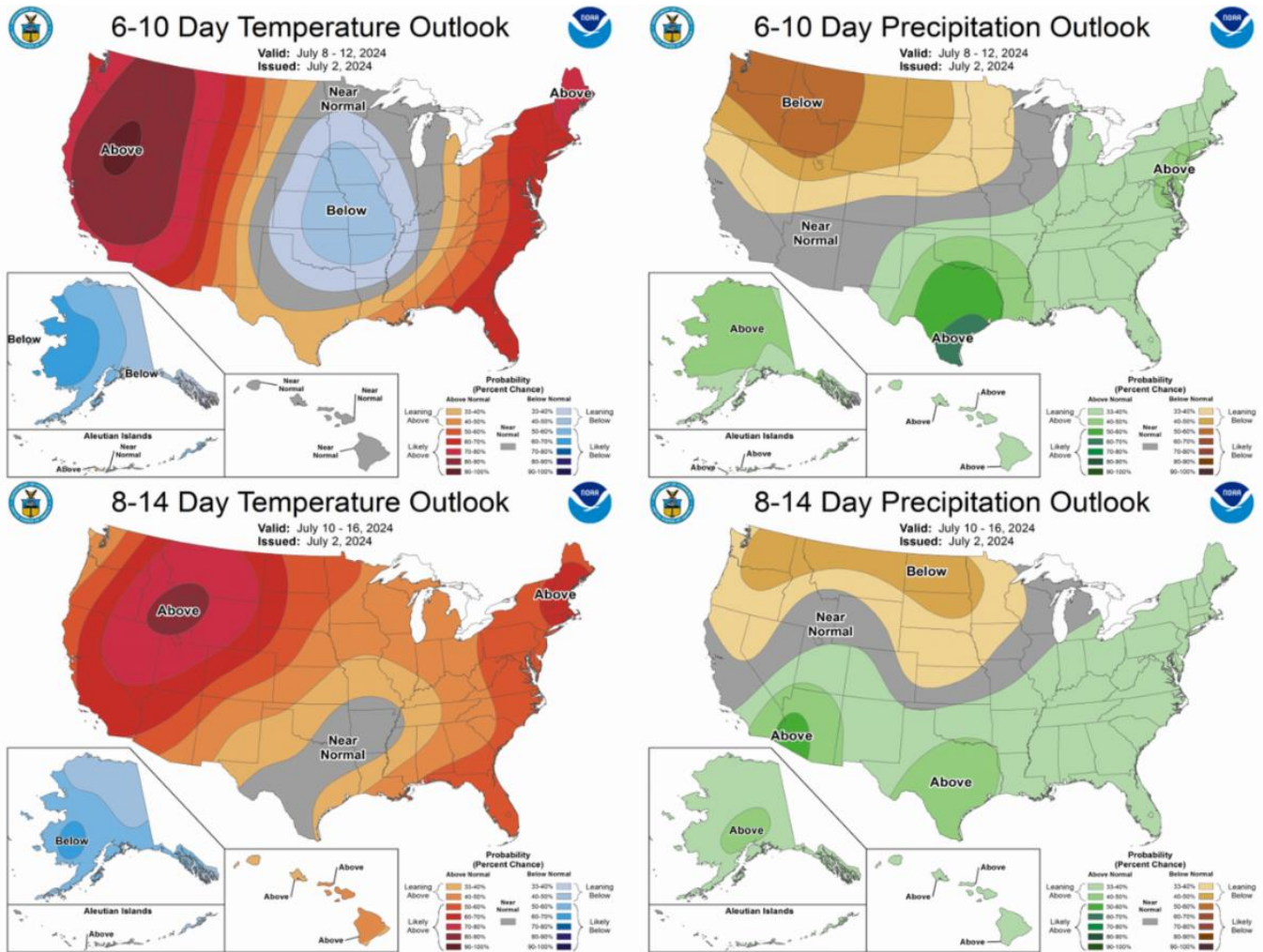
A storm early last week resulted in scattered hail damage throughout the region. Cool temperatures over the weekend brought with them scattered showers that resulted in light precipitation in most areas. These scattered showers will continue throughout the upcoming week. Although they don't provide any significant amounts of precipitation, the showers prolong leaf wetness and could increase disease and rot risks in crops at vulnerable stages. Below are Sporecaster and Tarspotter risk ratings respectively as of July 3, 2024.

For a weekly weather outlook from MSU's Jeff Andresen, join the free [Virtual Breakfast](#) meeting every Thursday through Sept 19. The weather update starts around 7:15 am (after the weekly topic).

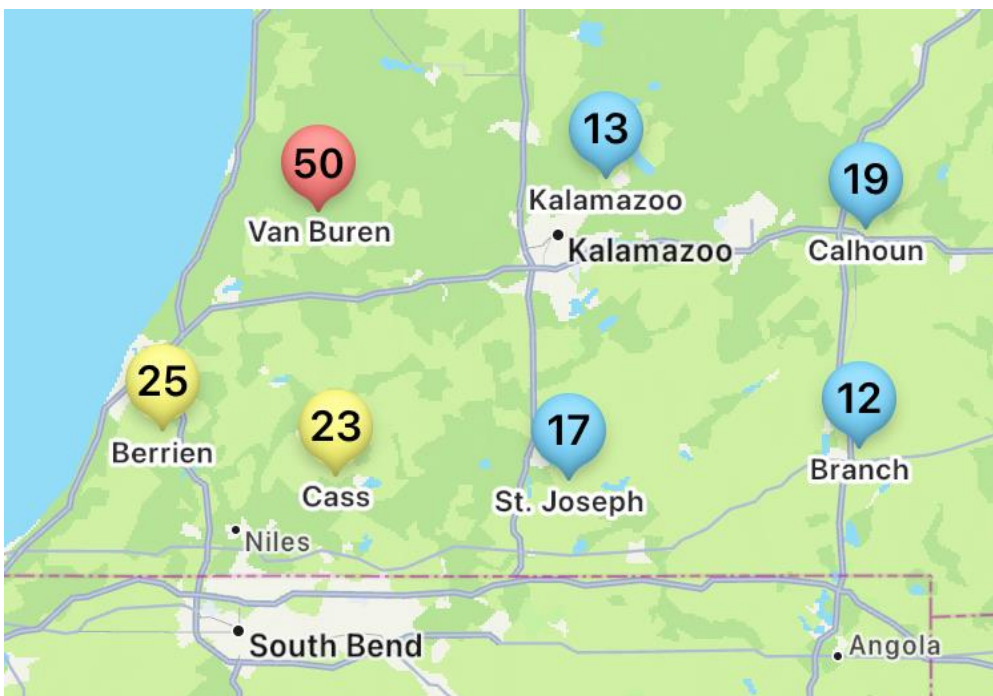


Ten-day weather forecast for Kalamazoo according to www.wunderground.com.

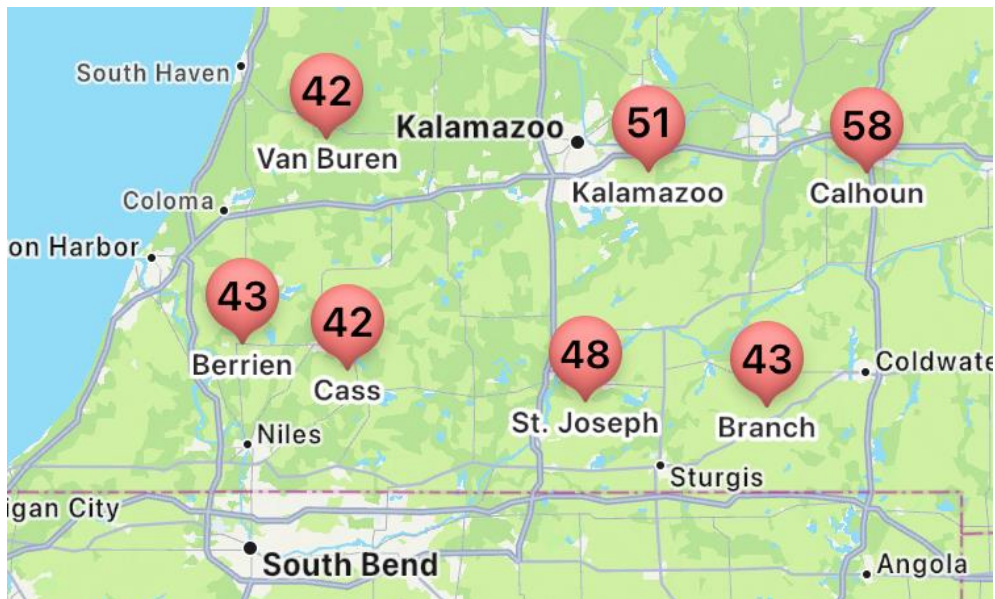
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The 6-10 day (July 8-12, top) and 8-10 day (July 10-16, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).



Soybean white mold risk from the Sporecaster app, based on 15" rows, flowers present, and over canopy threshold. A risk score of 40% or higher during flowering implies a white mold spray may be warranted.



Corn tar spot risk from the Tarspotter app. A risk score of 40% or higher between VT to R3 implies a tar spot spray may be warranted.

Calendar

[Note: Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined.]

- July 11** [Virtual Breakfast: Cercospora for Sugar Beets](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- July 15** [Paw Paw Large Tire Collection](#). 10:00 am. Van Buren County Buildings & Grounds. Accepting: large tires, semi tires, and limited numbers of passenger tires. Pre-register tires.
- July 16** [Paw Paw Large Tire Collection](#). 4:00 pm. Van Buren County Buildings & Grounds. Accepting: large tires, semi tires, and limited numbers of passenger tires. Pre-register tires.
- July 16-18** - [AgrAbility Regional Training Workshop - Assistive Technology Professional Training](#). This Regional Workshop is provided in conjunction with [MI AgrAbility](#) and will focus on Assistive Technology and preparing for the RESNA Assistive Technology Professional exam. Sessions will include disability etiquette; medical conditions; assessment models, interview, observations and reports; and assistive technology for farming. Ann Arbor, MI.
- July 18** [Virtual Breakfast: White Mold-Tar Spot Spraying](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- July 19** [SW MI No-till Field Day](#). 9:30 am. 93599 County Road 652, Marcellus, MI 49067. Discuss troubleshooting no-till systems, see a soil pit in a long-term no-till field, and learn about soil health indicators. Free event with lunch included.
- July 25** [Virtual Breakfast: Hot Topics](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.

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- Aug 1** [Virtual Breakfast: Cover crops after wheat](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- Aug 8** [Virtual Breakfast: Diagnostic Topics](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- Aug 8** [2024 Montcalm County Field Day](#). 8:00 am. Montcalm Research Center, 4629 W McBride Rd, Lakeview, MI. MSU Extension and the Michigan Potato Industry Commission would like to invite all producers, agribusinesses, and community members to join us for a day on the Montcalm Research Farm!
- Aug 15** [Virtual Breakfast: Field Crops Nematode Update](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- Aug 22** [Virtual Breakfast: Lime](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- Aug 28** [On-Farm Research Field Day—SW MI](#). 8:30 am. Centreville, MI. Speakers will share key learnings from past research, and participants will be able to visit fields with current research plots and a hands-on pivot performance presentation. More details to come.
- Aug 29** [Virtual Breakfast: Maximizing Wheat Yield Potential](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

Published on July 02, 2024

- [Introducing weekly crop water use reports for irrigation scheduling](#) - [Weekly crop water use recommendations offer irrigators scientifically based guidance on how much irrigation water to apply when rainfall is insufficient.](#)

Published on July 01, 2024

- [Attend the 2024 Montcalm County Potato Field Day on August 8](#) - [MSU Extension and Michigan Potato Industry Commission to host the 2024 Montcalm County Potato Field Day at the Montcalm Research Center.](#)

Published on June 20, 2024

- [Wheat watchers week of June 17, 2024](#) - [See how the wheat crop is progressing across the state this week.](#)
- [MSU Extension Supports Agriculture's Nutrient Management Efforts for Clean Water](#) - [MSU Extension impact report on managing nutrients to improve water quality.](#)
- [Southwest Michigan field crops update – June 20, 2024](#) - [Soybeans began flowering, side dressed nitrogen applications continued in corn, and wheat kernels began to dry down.](#)

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- **Considering double-crop soybeans after a winter cereal this year?** - The unusually rapid winter wheat crop development this spring may result in increased interest in planting double-crop soybeans after wheat harvest this summer. Producers need to understand and manage the risks of this practice.
- **Identifying soybean reproductive growth stages** - Key management decisions are made during the reproductive growth stages in soybean, so being able to identify each stage is critical.

Published on June 19, 2024

- **NO-TILL? NO PROBLEM** - The No-Till Field Day on July 19 will allow registrants to view no-till soil surfaces and subsurfaces and learn about the challenges and successes of no-till.

Published on June 18, 2024

- **New prairie strip partial budget tool** - What does it cost to convert cropland to prairie strips?

Published on June 17, 2024

- **Fertigation and sidedress nitrogen applications can protect farm profits and the environment** - Split nitrogen applications, such as fertigation and sidedress nitrogen, on sandy soils are an essential component to increasing nitrogen use efficiency and mitigating environmental risks.

Published on June 14, 2024

- **Water use reporting: Making it easy to record with irrigation scheduling tools** - As the April 1 deadline for past year water use reporting for irrigation and other large water uses came and went, many producers are reminded of the value of keeping good records within their water management.

Published on June 13, 2024

- **Southwest Michigan field crops update—June 13, 2024** - Warm temperatures led to increased crop growth, rapid weed growth and post-emergent herbicide applications. Low levels of Fusarium head blight were detected. Second cutting of forages began.
- **Aerial application: A sign of spring crop production** - Aerial applications are valuable for timing pest management regardless of soil conditions.
- **Assessing soybean stands** - Being able to compare seeding rate against emerged plant populations helps with a number of management decisions including whether a replant is necessary.

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