

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Updates June 1, 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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Electric Tractor Demo

[Indian Creek Ag](#), a full-service Vermeer and Deutz Fahr tractor dealer based in Olivet, MI, is holding a 2024 Demo Day. They will have a 55 hp electric tractor on site that will be pulling Vermeer's newest 10-wheel rake and 17-foot 4 basket hay tedder. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to vet the efficacy of electric tractors. There is no preregistration required and no cost to attend. Hamburgers and sides will be served. It is on Saturday, June 1 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm at Indian Creek Ag, 7904 McDonald Rd, Olivet, MI 49076.

MSU Weed Tour Wednesday, June 26

Come see the corn and soybean research plots and learn about the latest in corn and soybean weed control research. The fee is \$30.00 for pre-registrants or \$40.00 for on-site registrants. It is on Wednesday, June 26 from 9:30 am - 1 pm for corn and soybeans and 1 pm to 3 pm for non-GMO soybeans. Lunch will be provided. This event will be held at the MSU Plant Pathology Farm, [3735 College Road, Lansing, MI 48910](#).

Field Crops Update

Soybean and corn planting is nearly finished thanks to the warm, dry weather last week. As of May 26, the USDA NASS report puts corn at 75% planted and soybeans at 66% planted. Again, Southwest Michigan is most likely farther along than the rest of the state. Recent precipitation has halted field work for now, and some fields have standing water. Both crops are progressing faster than historic through vegetative stages. True armyworm and black cutworm have both been found in early planted crops following cover crops. Corn is most susceptible to cutting damage from emergence to V5.

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Seedcorn maggot has been a problem particularly in soybeans, as seen in this photo by MSU Extension soybean educator Eric Anderson. Adults are now emerging from fields, but risk of damage is expected to decrease now that most cover crops have been killed and soil temperatures are warm enough to facilitate quick emergence. [Enviroweather](#) has a [seedcorn maggot model](#) that can help producers estimate and avoid damage. Deer damage is also beginning to appear in fields. For producers who use deer deterrent sprays, now is a good time to apply while the plants are small. Fields with large woodland borders are most likely to experience economic deer damage.



Winter wheat is at Feekes stage 10.5.4, at which point grain fill begins and the kernel length is established. Stripe rust has affected many wheat fields in central Michigan counties and is present in Southwest Michigan. Some growers might find wheat with yellow stripes but no pustules on the leaves. This is indicative of adult plant resistance, and it may still be stripe rust but just on a plant that is more resistant to it. Stripe rust on wheat does not spread to corn. Fungicides that prevent fusarium head scab are often also effective against stripe rust. More information on fungicide options and timing is available in the article [Wheat stripe rust outbreak and Fusarium head scab risk prediction](#) and from the May 30 Virtual Breakfast.

Potatoes began to flower late last week. Tuber initiation continues for the majority of the crop, and many fields are approaching row closure. Aerial applications began this week and will continue throughout the season. Potato leafhopper and Colorado potato beetle are present in the area.

Alfalfa cutting for highest quality should have begun nearly two weeks ago. With the ideal planting weather, many alfalfa fields are still standing and will be cut later than ideal. Potato leafhopper is present in fields. Young stands and regrowth are most vulnerable to potato leafhopper damage. Use a sweep net to determine leafhopper populations, as hopperburn (v-shaped yellowing of leaves) is often visible only after the damage has already been done to the plants.



Black Cutworm moths are present in the state. Bucket traps in Berrien (near Berrien Springs) and St. Joseph Counties have caught the following:

Date	Berrien	Centreville	Sturgis
4/8	0	2	1
4/15	0	12	4
4/22	0	16	3
4/29	4	10	3
5/6	5	46	0
5/13	8	25	0
5/20	1	0	0
5/27	1	0	0

True Armyworm moths are present in the state. Bucket traps in Berrien (near Berrien Springs) and St. Joseph Counties have caught the following:

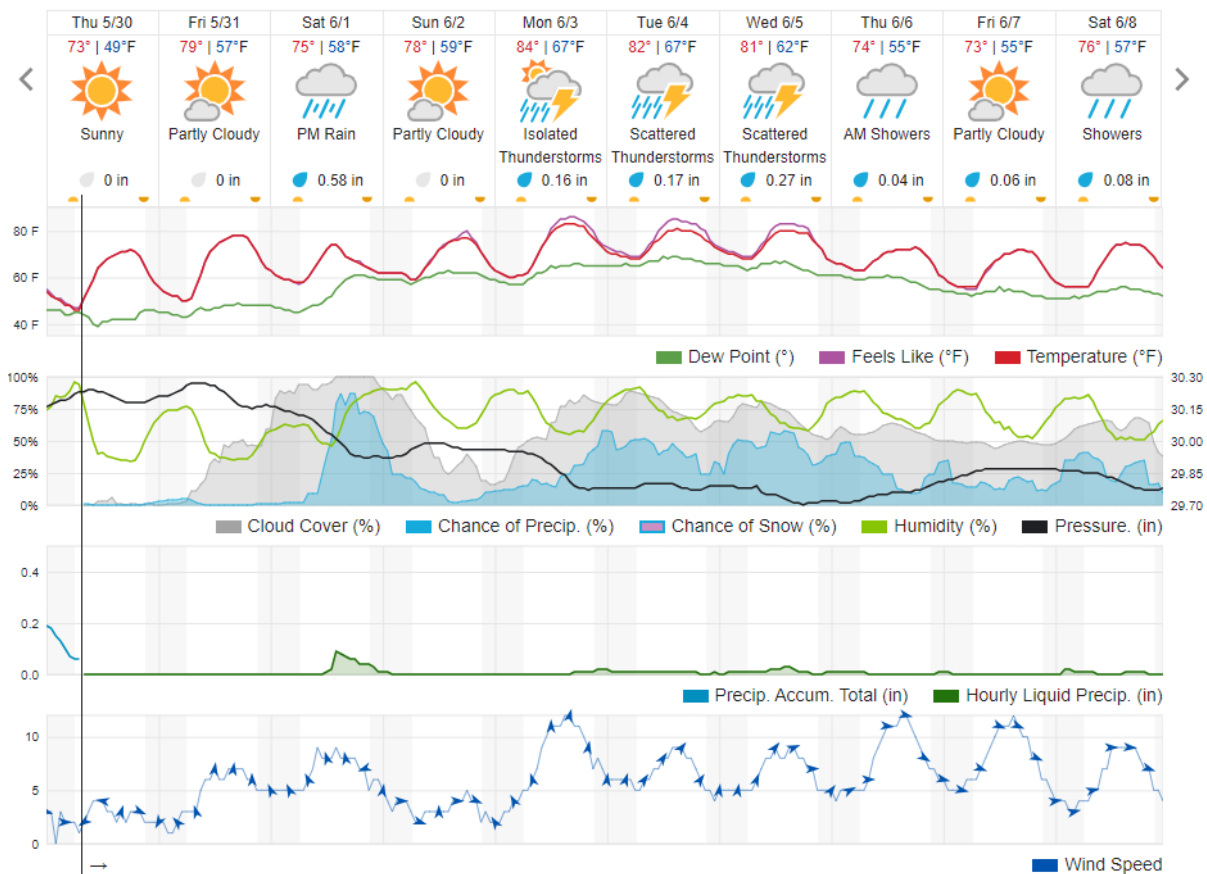
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Date	Berrien	Centreville	Sturgis
4/8	0	0	0
4/15	1	0	0
4/22	0	0	14
4/29	0	0	20
5/6	0	0	14
5/13	4	0	7
5/20	1	0	20
5/27	2	0	21

Weather Update

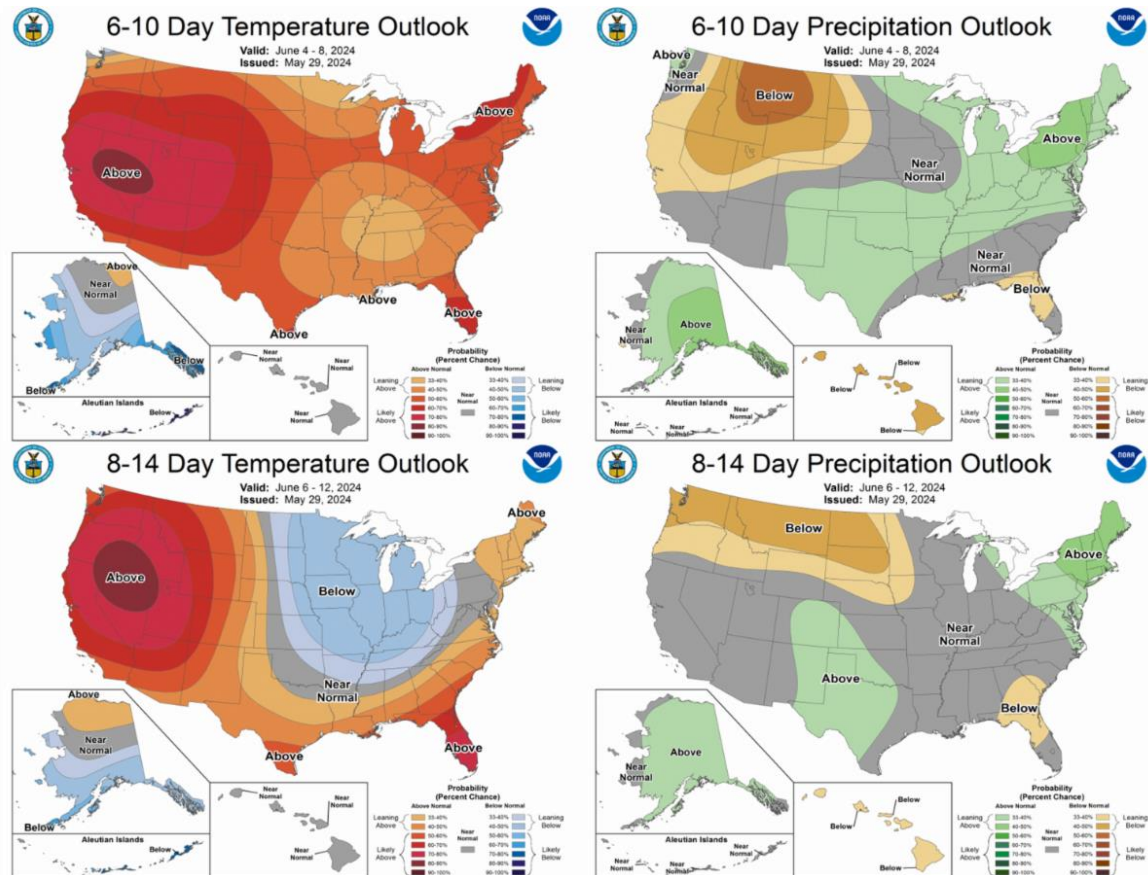
This past week saw an overall decrease in temperatures, particularly over the weekend and into the early part of this week. However, temperatures are expected to increase. Precipitation in the early part of this week slowed down field work. Scattered showers will continue over the weekend and into early next week. Potential evapotranspiration rates will be high this upcoming week, which will hopefully help dry out the soil.

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 wunderground.com.

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The 6-10 day (June 4-8, top) and 8-10 day (June 6-12, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

Calendar

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

- June 1** [2024 Indian Creek Ag Demo Day](#). 11:00 am. Indian Creek Ag, 7904 McDonald Rd, Olivet, MI 49076. Equipment demos, including an electric tractor. No cost or pre-registration required.
- June 6** [Virtual Breakfast: Drop Hoses in Corn](#). 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.
- June 13** [Virtual Breakfast: Irrigation](#). 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.
- June 19** [Food-Grade Grains Field Day](#). 9:00 am. Kellogg Biological Station. The Food-Grade Grains Field Day will highlight the steps to growing food-grade grains from the field to mug, spoon, and jug! At each stop presenters and attendees will discuss the agronomic, processing, and end user quality needs and considerations for the specific grain. Lunch is included.
- June 20** [Virtual Breakfast: Wild Weather for Hay](#). 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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- June 25** [Michigan Wheat Program Summer Field Day](#). 8:15 am. Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center, Frankenmuth, MI. This year's MI Wheat Programs annual field day in conjunction with MSU Extension will be hosted Tuesday, June 25th at the MSU Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center. Pre-registration is encouraged for an accurate head count for food.
- June 26** [MSU Weed Tour 2024](#). 9:30 am. 3735 College Road, Lansing, MI 48910. View the latest in corn and soybean weed control research. Pre-registration is \$30 or participants can register on-site for \$40.
- June 27** [Virtual Breakfast: Insect Update Beneficials and Corn Borer](#). 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.
- June 27** [Rebel Pastures Pasture Walk](#). 6:00 pm. Rebel Pastures is a first generation, regenerative farm in Rockford, MI that focuses on animal and soil health. Realizing farming is one big experiment, they've used several methods to raise animals and grow pasture and are looking forward to sharing them at this pasture walk.
- 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 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 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.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

[Directed spray applications in corn coming up in June 6 Field Crops Virtual Breakfast](#)

PUBLISHED ON May 28, 2024

Join the Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series on June 6 for management recommendations on directed spray applications in corn.

[Refine your cover crop management](#)

PUBLISHED ON May 28, 2024

SARE resources to help you get started or enhance your cover crop management in favor of profit and pollinators.

[MSU AgBioResearch, MSU Extension to host field days around the state this summer](#)

PUBLISHED ON May 28, 2024

Growers and producers will have the chance to participate in field days across Michigan.

[Wheat stripe rust outbreak and Fusarium head scab risk prediction](#)

PUBLISHED ON May 23, 2024

Wheat stripe rust has developed quickly across Michigan. Stripe rust can result in significant yield loss. It's important to scout to determine if a fungicide is warranted.

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Wheat watchers week of May 20, 2024

PUBLISHED ON May 23, 2024

See how the wheat crop is progressing across the state this week.

Southwest Michigan field crops update – May 23, 2024

PUBLISHED ON May 23, 2024

Warm, dry weather leads to significant planting progress. Winter wheat began and finished flowering. Colorado potato beetle egg masses found.

Irrigation supply companies, an irrigator's hero after the storm

PUBLISHED ON May 23, 2024

Irrigation companies prioritize pivot repairs following storm damage to reduce potential yield loss. Watch for symptoms of storm damage to irrigation structures and reduce the likelihood of economic loss from damage as much as possible.

Exploring Organic Webinar Series resources and recordings available

PUBLISHED ON May 23, 2024

Learn from diverse farmers across Michigan about their experiences with organic certification.

Family Farms Conference workshop recordings highlight sustainable agriculture

PUBLISHED ON May 17, 2024

Videos include farmer SARE grant projects, farmer wellness, farm to school, agritourism, small-scale livestock and more.

2024 MSU Weed Tour is June 26

PUBLISHED ON May 17, 2024

Come join Michigan State University to view the latest in corn and soybean weed control research.

Weevils are popping in alfalfa fields

PUBLISHED ON May 16, 2024

Consider these integrated pest management steps for controlling alfalfa weevil.

Everything you need to know about seedcorn maggot

PUBLISHED ON May 16, 2024

Seedcorn maggot integrated pest management considerations.

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