

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Updates

July 25, 2019

This will be an abbreviated update as I have been out of state earlier this week and will be on campus the rest of the week for MSU Extension's statewide Ag Innovation meeting on Friday. Come join us for this free day-long meeting where we will be focusing on "Precision Technology That Pays."



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.

Weed Control Issues on Prevented Planting Fields

Weed specialists from MSU and Purdue have recently posted information about the challenges of weed control this year and have noted that controlling weeds in prevented planting fields before they go to seed should be a top priority. Refer to Christy Sprague's article, "[Horseweed \(marestail\) control options in fallow prevent plant fields](#)" and Erin Burns' article, "[Weed control in late planted corn](#)". Here is an

overly-abbreviated version of [recommendations and options from Purdue's Bill Johnson](#).

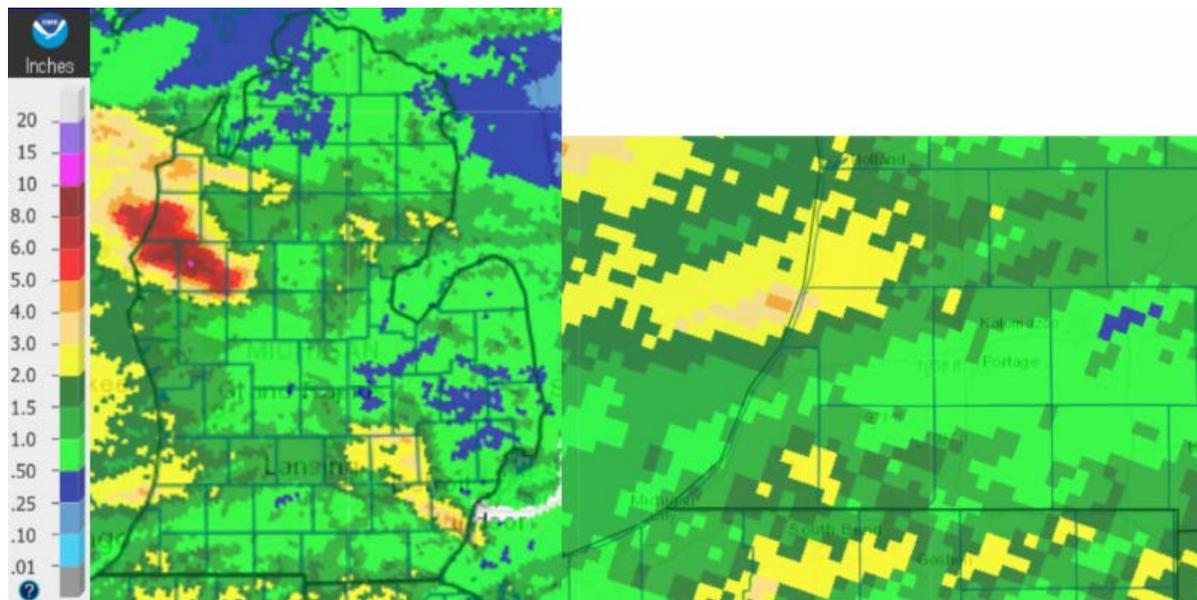
1. Till tall weeds, keeping in mind that this will likely need to be repeated as weed flushes continue and mature weeds can re-root after a tillage pass.
2. Mow fields with tall weeds and then spray regrowth with an effective herbicide
3. Spray a broad-spectrum herbicide program, keeping in mind resistance and carryover issues.
4. Plant a cover crop and hope for good establishment. Using a grass like cereal rye allows you to spray broadleaf herbicides like dicamba or 2,4-D.

WBC Trapping Report

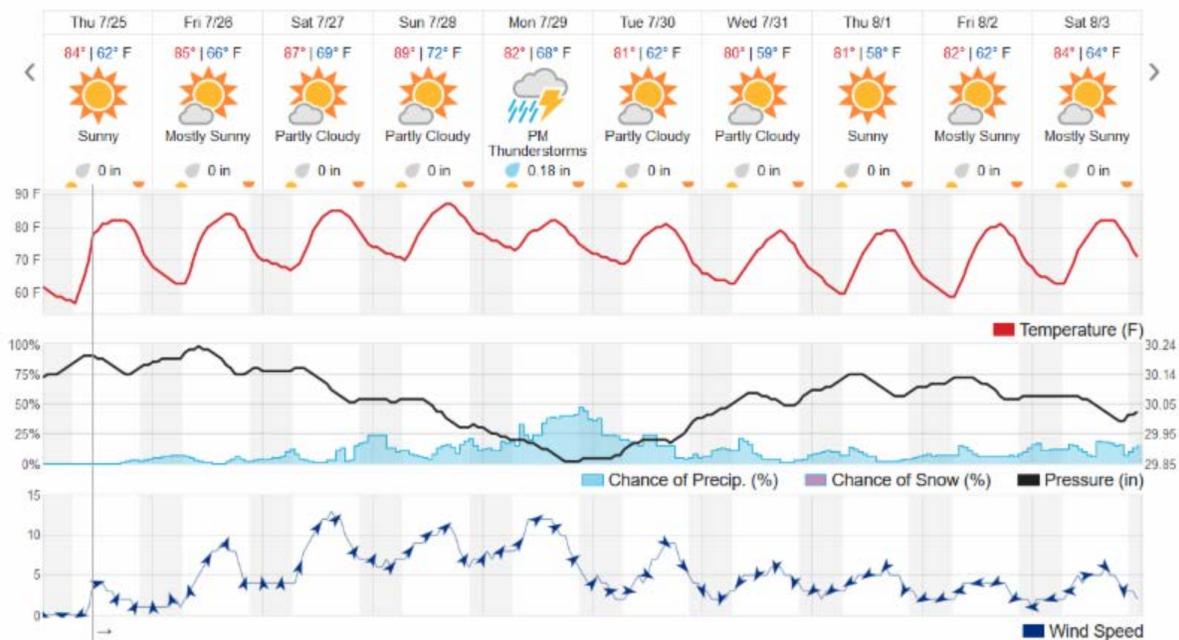
Purdue has not posted their moth trap counts from this past week as of the writing of this update. A trap located in southeast Kalamazoo County near corn had 83 moths this past week. MSU's field crop entomologist Chris DiFonzo wrote a timely article, "[Western bean cutworm egg mass identification](#)," to augment the resources I posted in last week's newsletter. Chris is compiling trap data from around the state this year and entering them into the [Great Lakes and Maritimes Pest Monitoring Network](#), and maps will be updated weekly and [posted on this website](#).

Weather Update

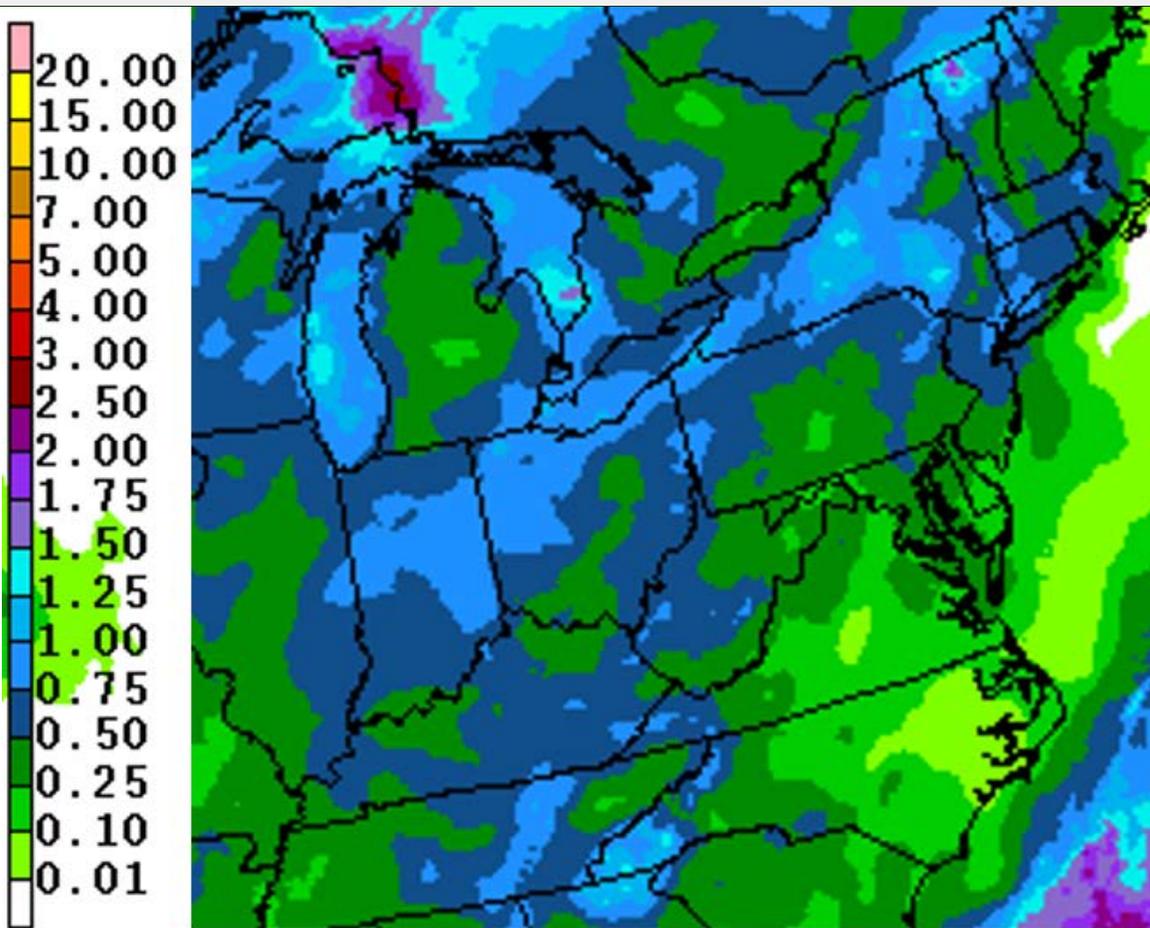
Weather: Rainfall this past week was highly variable, and with the heat wave we experienced, crop water usage is at or near peak for corn and soybean. The high pressure system that brought cooler weather earlier this week has moved off to the east, ushering in the return of warmer temperatures. The next chance of rain in our area won't be until Monday, and that will be followed by another dry week next week. Jeff believes the precipitation forecasts for Michigan may be too aggressive and that we will see closer to $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch over the next week. Near-normal temperatures and precipitation are predicted for the beginning of August, but equal chances remain for the rest of August.



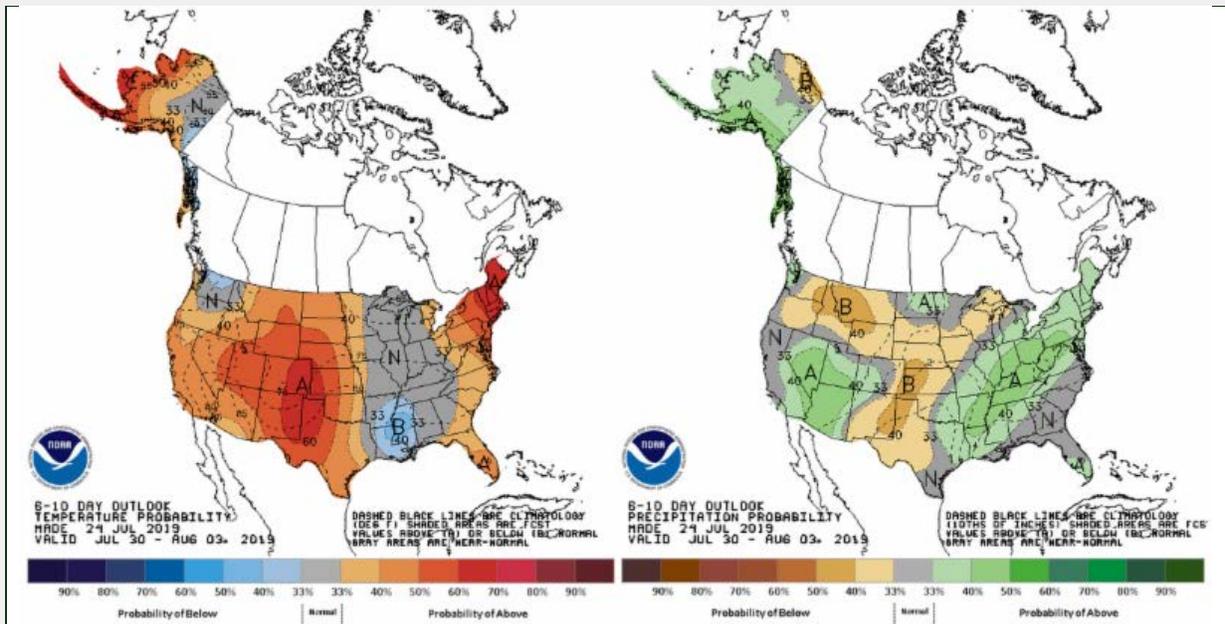
Precipitation totals for week ending July 25, 2019. Records for 12- and 24-hour rainfall may have been set in the pink dot in Lake County with reports of 12" of rain in 12 hours.



The 10-day forecast for Centreville according to wunderground.com.



Forecast for precipitation totals for the week of July 25-Aug 1, 2019....not much, and it is all predicted to fall between Sunday noon and Tuesday noon.



National Weather Service 6-10 day outlook (Jul 30-Aug 3) for temperature (left) and precipitation (right). The 8-14 day outlook (Aug 1-7) predicts a slight chance of above-normal temperature but equal chances for precip.

Calendar

Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined

Jul 26 [**Ag Innovation Day - Focus on Precision Technology That Pays.**](#) 8:30am-5:00pm, MSU Research Farm, East Lansing, MI. Day will be split into morning and afternoon tours with a free lunch.

Jul 31 [**Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal in Benton Harbor.**](#) Available to all MI residents. Collections are for any unwanted pesticides in MI (not fertilizers). Registration is required, forms can be found online or at MSUE and CD offices in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties.

Jul 31 [**Forage Research Field Day.**](#) 9am-2pm. MSU Agronomy Farm, 4450 Beaumont Road, East Lansing, MI. Join the MSU Forage Research Team to learn about completed and ongoing forage research from our field tour and demonstration

stations. Event is free but you must register online by July 22nd to reserve space and the free lunch.

Aug 1 **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Free Webinar.** Thursdays 7:00-7:30 AM. This week: “Sugar Beet Pest Management” with Dan Bublitz. Join via computer or mobile device (audio and video, <https://msu.zoom.us/j/552324349>) or by phone (audio only, **669-900-6833** and enter meeting ID **552-324-349**). To receive a weekly reminder of the Virtual Breakfast, sign up at <http://eepurl.com/gm-PIv>.

Aug 1&8 **Industrial Hemp Production 101 Webinar Series.** Thursdays 12:30-2pm. Join MSU Extension for a webinar series to cover the basics of growing industrial hemp, particularly but not exclusively geared toward greenhouse considerations. Register online, cost is \$20.

Aug 2 **Tools to Navigate a Challenging Farm Economy.** 8:30am-1:00pm. GreenStone FCS, 225 W. Lyons Street, Schoolcraft, MI. Topics include FSA updates, Crop insurance options, Finding Financial Success in Uncertain Times, Weathering the Storm-managing farm stress. Cost is free, register online by July 31st to reserve space and lunch.

Aug 16 **SW MI Crop and Irrigation Research Field Day.** 8:30am-1pm. N. Centreville Rd. ½-mile south of Featherstone Rd., Sturgis, MI. Join MSU crop and irrigation educators and specialists for several talks highlighting ongoing research and current recommendations in irrigated corn and soybean. Cost is free, register online by Aug. 14th to reserve space and lunch (registration should be live by next week).

Aug 20-21 **2019 Bridging the Experience Gap.** Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center, 3775 S Reese Rd, Frankenmuth, MI. This program provides a platform for professionals to gain experience, network with their peers and ask questions from knowledgeable instructors without fear of rejection or criticism. Cost is \$350, supplies and lunches included, register online.

Sep 5 **Cass MAEAP Field Day.** 4-7pm. Crane Pond DNR office, 60887 M-40, Jones, MI. Managing for Forestry Health and Profit. Program offers 2 RUP

credits. Co-sponsored by SWMLC, DNR, SWxSW CISMA & MAEAP. Dinner provided to registrants. Call 269-445-8641 x 5 to RSVP.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

Cercospora leaf spot management topic of next Field Crops Virtual Breakfast

PUBLISHED ON JULY 24, 2019

Join the MSU Extension Field Crops Virtual Breakfast on Aug. 1 as Daniel Bublitz discusses Cercospora leaf spot and its management in sugarbeets.

Michigan potato late blight update – July 24, 2019

PUBLISHED ON JULY 24, 2019

No late blight reported. Weather-based risk remains moderate in Michigan growing regions. However, recommend intensive monitoring after confirmed reports in neighboring areas.

Western bean cutworm egg mass identification

PUBLISHED ON JULY 23, 2019

Use this two-page handout to help identify western bean cutworm egg masses and determine egg mass age and health.

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