

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Updates June 21, 2019

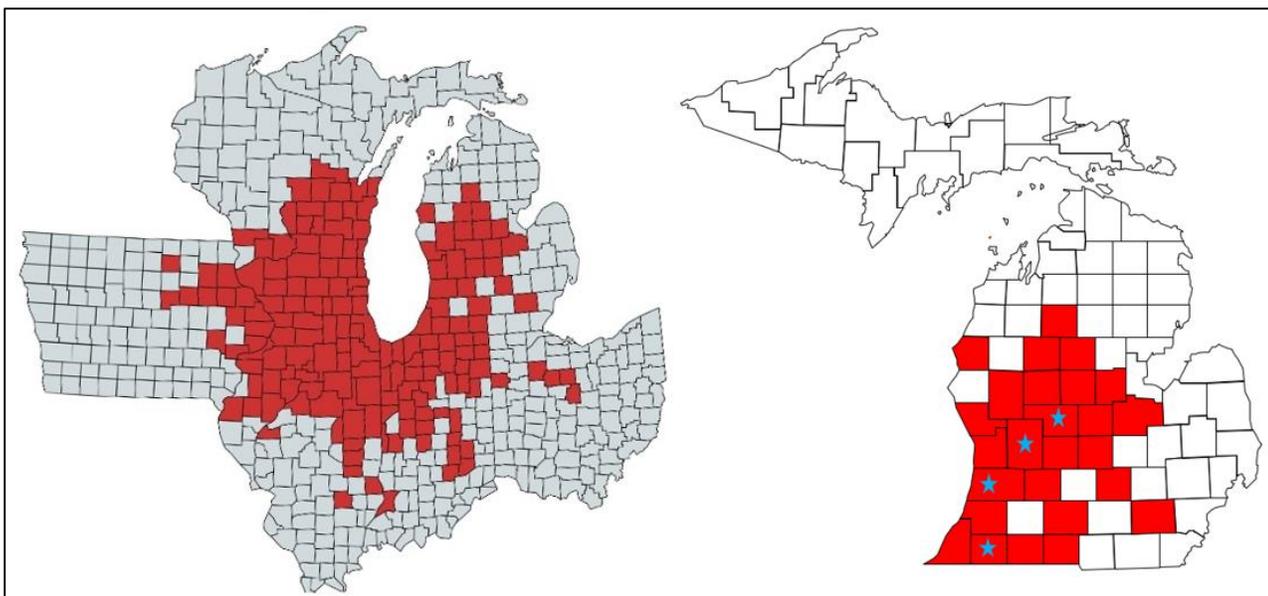
Here are updates from the MSU Extension Field Crops team in Southwest Michigan. If you have any items you would like me to include in future email updates - whether events you want others to know about or topics you would like to have addressed - please send me an email or call the office.

Tar Spot in Corn

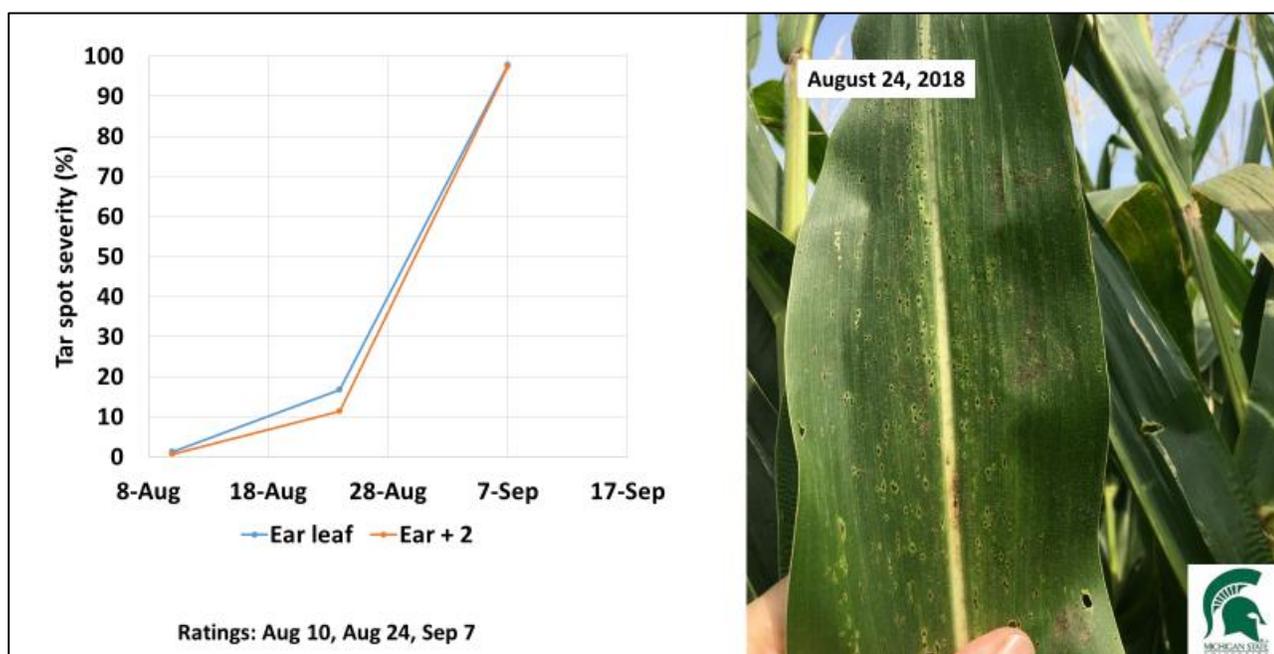
The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast session this week featured MSU field crop pathologist Martin Chilvers discussing tar spot in corn. Tar spot is a disease that appears as raised, black spots on corn leaves that looks like tar has been spattered on them. It was first observed in Michigan in 2017 in Allegan County in a field that saw a 40 bushel per acre loss due to the disease. It blew up in 2018 to epidemic proportions and was confirmed in 27 counties in western Michigan and across the upper Midwest. Much of Dr. Chilvers' work so far has been focused on identifying resistant hybrids, effective fungicides, and determining the timing of infection and the best time to spray. Corn as small as V3 was found last year with lesions from the pathogen, but typically symptoms haven't shown up until later in July. Once symptoms were found, however, the disease progressed rapidly with total plant death in as little as one month. Corn will lodge in heavily infested fields, and other opportunistic diseases like anthracnose will come in and take advantage of the weakened plants to make matters worse.



Tar spot of corn in 2017 and 2018. Photos courtesy of Dr. Martin Chilvers.



Tar spot confirmed across the Midwest (left) and in Michigan (right) in 2018.



Progression of tar spot in a field in 2018. By Sept. 7 the plant was essentially dead. Images courtesy of Dr. Martin Chilvers.

Martin said that fungicide applications of Delaro—a premix of Headline (QoI/strobilurin) and Proline (DMI/triazole) at tasseling provided the best protection in a trial last year. Scouting will be critical both earlier in the season to look for initial symptoms and later in the season in infected fields to know if disease severity will require an early harvest before plants lodge. If you identify tar spot this year, please contact the Extension office so we can track spread and progression of the disease. MSU Extension will also be conducting leaf wetness research under irrigation this summer in our region to determine how long leaves remain wet and how that corresponds to disease onset.

New Fact Sheet on Managing Synthetic Auxin Herbicides

Take Action has recently released a new fact sheet titled, “[Managing 2,4-D and Dicamba in Enlist and Xtend Soybeans.](#)” It is a good overall summary of precautions when spraying dicamba and, if you were able to obtain Enlist seed this year, 2,4-D in-crop.

File a Notice of Loss for Prevented Planting and Failed Acres

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility for some programs. Producers should report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

The final planting dates for the following crops are:

- **Corn - June 5** - file CCC-576 by June 20 unless reported timely to crop insurance
- **Soybeans - June 15** - file CCC-576 by June 30 unless reported timely to crop insurance

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged. Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, to report failed acres.

Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within **72 hours** of the date of damage or when loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576 in the office, or by email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, within the required 15 calendar days.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), producers must file a *Notice of Loss* within **15 days** of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers must timely file a *Notice of Loss* for failed acres on all crops including grasses.

Please contact your local FSA office to schedule an appointment to file a *Notice of Loss*. To find your local FSA office visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

State Executive Director Update: The Michigan Farm Service Agency has been provided the ability to extend the deadline until July 15 to file prevented plant claims for those producers without RMA insurance or NAP coverage that are prevented from planting. I have authorized this extension for all counties and non-insured producers in Michigan that have been adversely affected by spring weather conditions. Non-insured producers who are unable to timely meet the FSA notification requirement will now be able to file a CCC-576 Notice of Loss with their FSA county office no later than July 15, 2019. Producers with RMA insurance or NAP coverage are still required to observe the filing guidelines set forth by RMA or the program policy pertaining to NAP loss reporting.

Weather and Crop Update

Corn: Michigan was 84% planted as of June 16th, 48% emerged, and 46% rated good or excellent (another 37% rated fair). I suspect we are all but done planting corn in the region, not just because we are approaching the last date for late planting according to RMA (June 25) but because most of the corn has already been planted during the last dry(er) spell and fields are now once again saturated with not much chance of having them dry out sufficiently in the coming week. Numerous fields had standing water as I drove around Thursday afternoon with many of those fields having corn at V3 or younger. Bob Nielsen wrote a very [thorough article about effects of ponding on corn](#) during vegetative stages in this week's Pest and Crop Newsletter. Here are just a few points from that article:

The longer an area remains ponded, the higher the risk of plant death.

- Soil oxygen is depleted within about 48 hours of soil saturation. Without oxygen, the plants cannot perform critical life sustaining functions; e.g. nutrient and water uptake is impaired and root growth is inhibited.
- Many agronomists will tell you that young corn can survive up to about 4 days of outright ponding if temperatures are relatively cool (mid-70's F or cooler); fewer days if temperatures are warm (mid-70's F or warmer). [Note: we are in the latter category for at least the next 10 days.]

Corn younger than about V6 (six fully exposed leaf collars) is more susceptible to ponding damage than is corn older than V6.

- This is partly because young plants are more easily submerged than older taller plants and partly because the corn plant's growing point remains below ground until about V6. The health of the growing point can be assessed initially by splitting stalks and visually examining the lower portion of the stem. Within 3 to 5 days after water drains from the ponded area, look for the appearance of fresh leaves from the whorls of the plants.

Extended periods of saturated soils AFTER the surface water subsides will take their toll on the overall vigor of the crop.

- Nutrients like nitrogen are rapidly remobilized from lower leaves to upper, newer leaves; resulting in a rapid development of orange or yellow lower leaves.
- As more of the root system dies, the ability of the affected plants to take up water decreases and, ironically, the plants begin to show signs of drought stress (leaf rolling, plant wilting, leaf death).



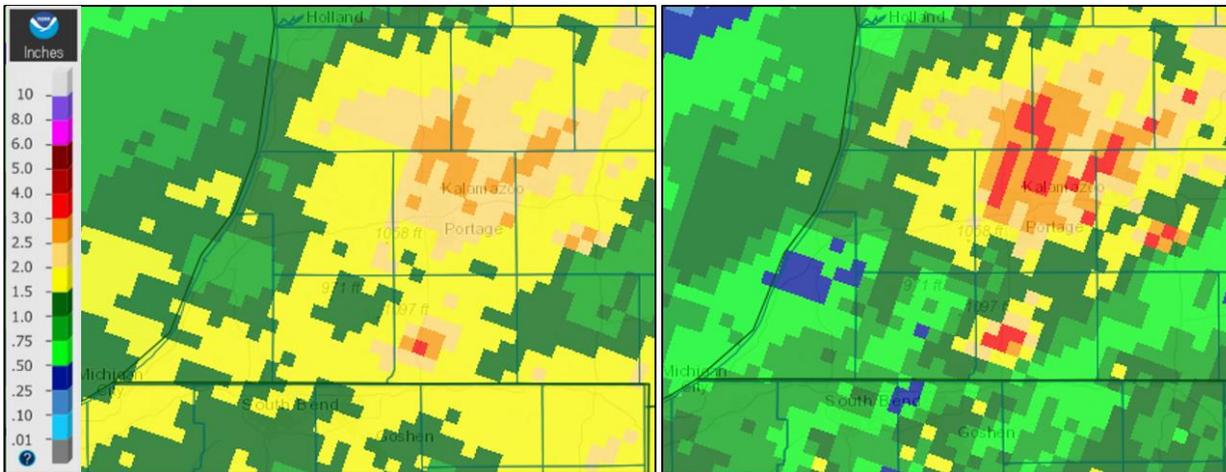
Soybeans: Michigan was 53% planted and 34% emerged as of last week. Bean fields really are all over the map. I have seen fields that have been up for a few weeks already but have small, stunted plants that look like they are a full growth stage younger than they are. I have also seen fields with excellent emergence and healthy plants. It is too early to tell how this cool, wet spring will impact soybean yields as they have such potential to overcome adversity when conditions are once again favorable. I have seen some leaf feeding but nothing pervasive in fields I have walked.



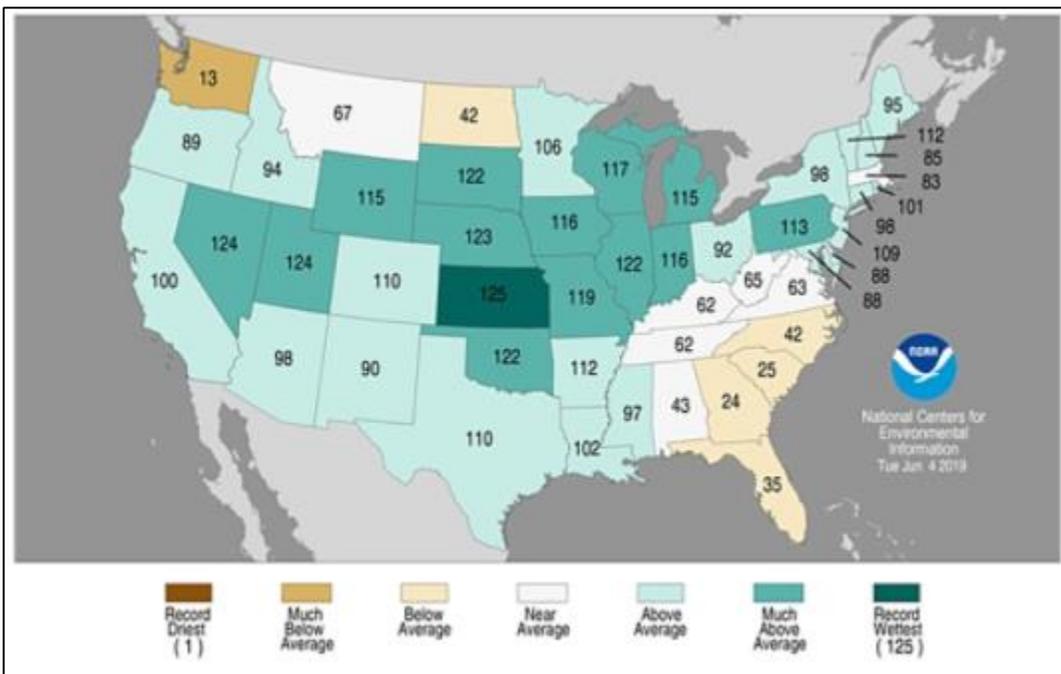
Soybeans planted over four weeks ago, emerged nearly three weeks ago, now only 6 inches tall at V2 (left). Minor foliar feeding (right).

Wheat: Wheat stands continue to look healthy, and I have not seen any impacts from waterlogged soils that others have reported around the state.

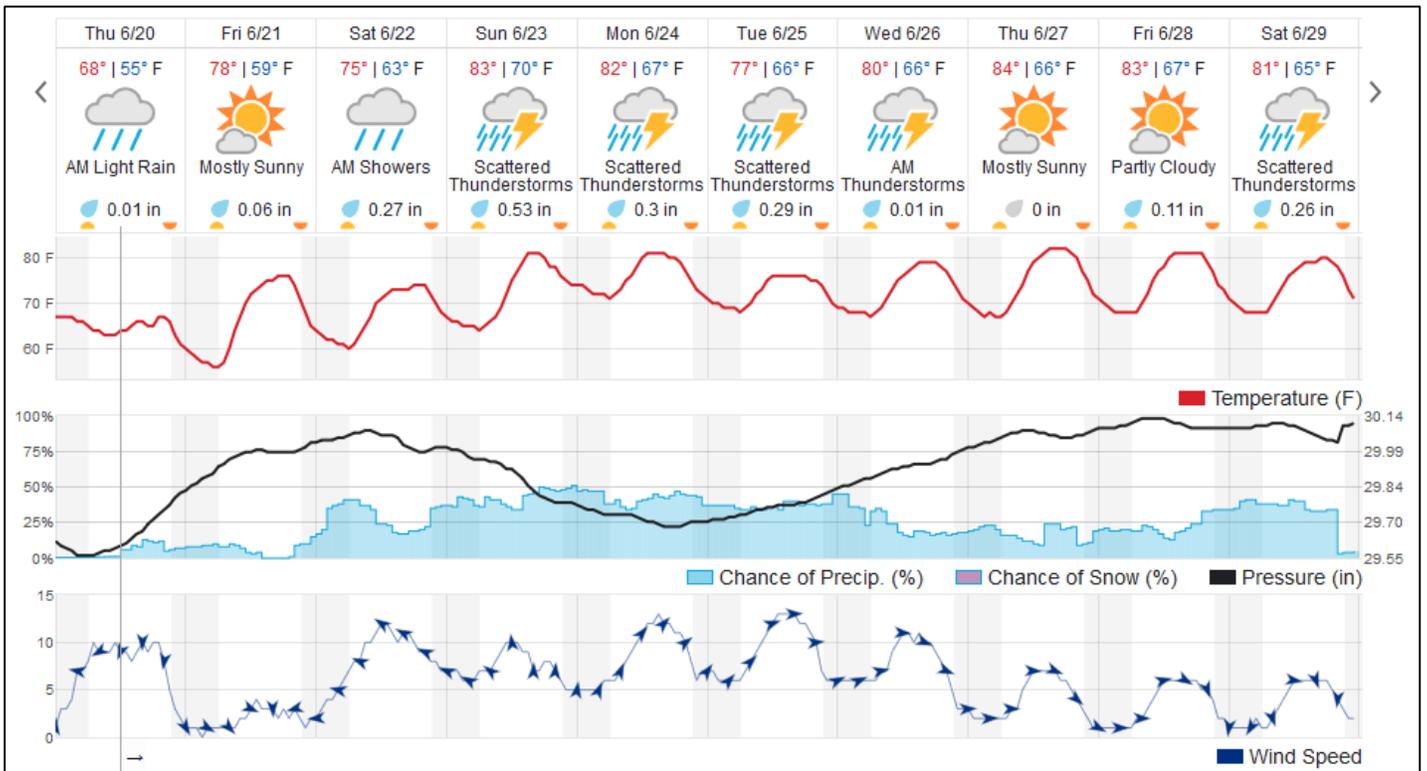
Weather: The report for June was unfortunately more bad news, but warmer and drier weather is on the way at the end of June and into July. Temperatures this past week were 5-7 degrees below normal, and we have yet to top 84 degrees so far this season. We continue to lag roughly 150 growing degree days behind normal in the region even with the warm spells earlier this month. The solar radiation frequency from April through June has been the lowest it has been in the last 20 years with unusually cloudy conditions. That all translates into low evapotranspiration rates which has not been good with all the soils we've wanted to dry out this spring. Rainfall this past week averaged 2-3 inches with isolated pockets in St. Joseph and Kalamazoo Counties recording as high as 5.3 inches. The precipitation forecast through next Thursday calls for an additional 1.5 to 2.5 inches, most of that falling between Saturday and Tuesday. The 6-10 and 8-14 day outlooks however are calling for warmer than normal temperatures with normal to below-normal precipitation.



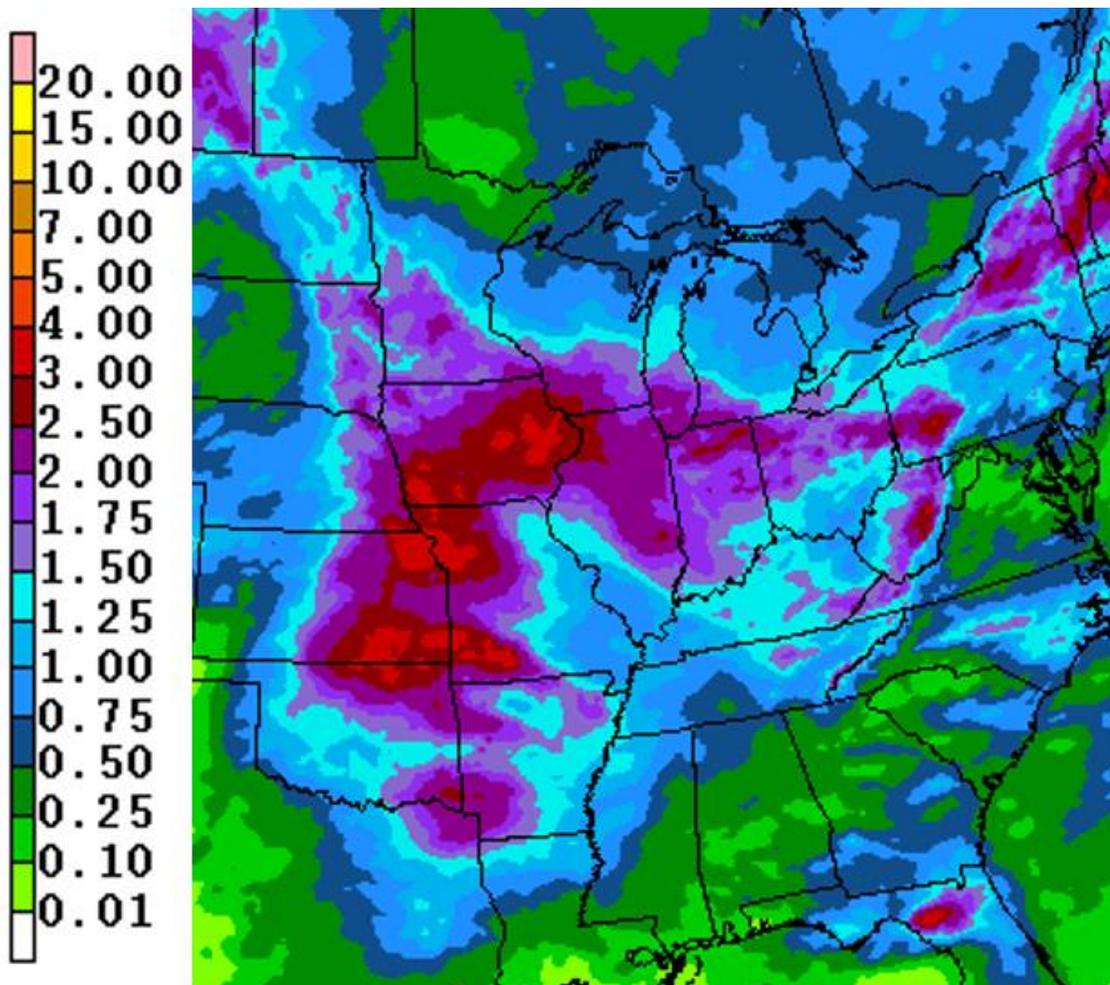
Precipitation totals for week ending June 20, 2019 (left) and the last 24 hours (right, as of 11:30 AM Thursday). Clearly most of the rain this week fell during the most recent weather system. Rainfall totals at Enviroweather stations in the region ranged from 1.06 in Mendon to 5.77 inches in Kalamazoo with an average of 2.85 inches.



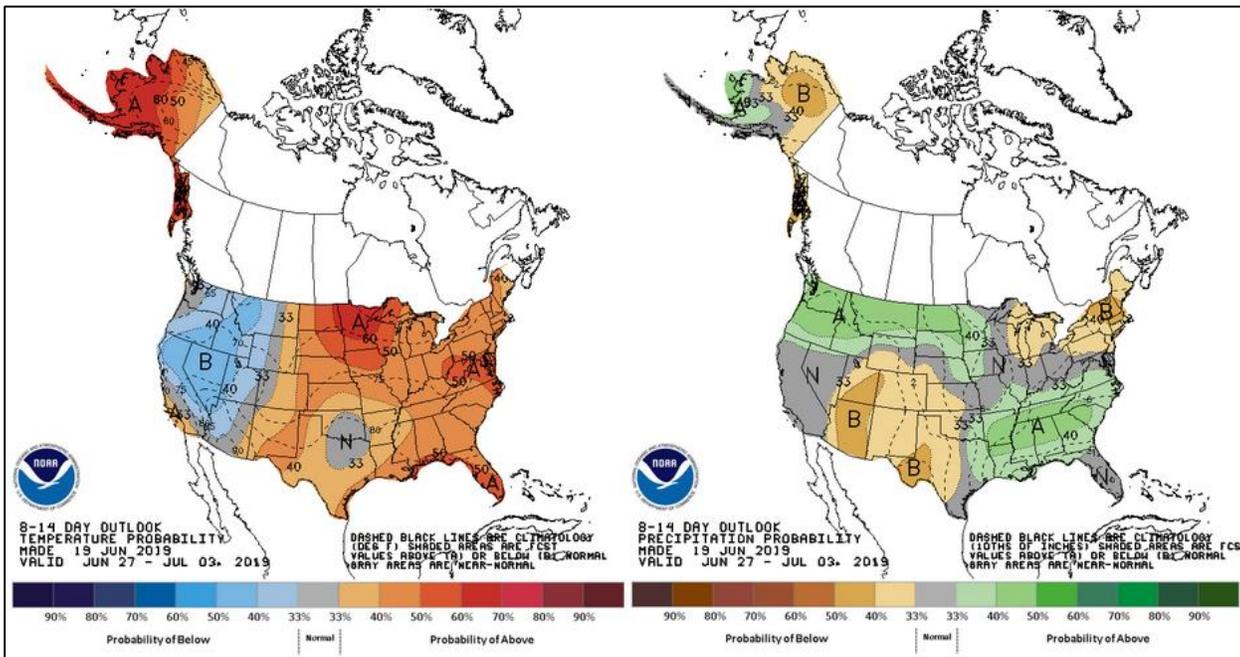
Statewide precipitation ranks for March through May 2019 as recorded 1895-2019. In other words, there have only been 10 years wetter than 2019 in Michigan for this time period since before 1895.



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



Forecast for precipitation totals for the week of June 20-27, 2019. Totals for our region are predicted to be 1.5-2.5 inches falling mostly Saturday through Tuesday.



National Weather Service 8-14 day outlook (June 27 – July 3) for temperature (left) and precipitation (right). The 6-10 day outlook (June 25-29) is similar.

Calendar

Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined

- June 24** [Industrial Hemp Production and Irrigation Webinar](#). 1-3pm. A free webinar focusing on a broad overview of industrial hemp and irrigation issues. Register to receive the participant link. Contact Eric Anderson (eander32@msu.edu) with questions.
- June 26** **MSU Weeds Day postponed to July 10 due to late planting, see details below**
- June 26 & 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.
- June 27** [Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Free Webinar](#). Thursdays 7:00-7:30 AM. This week: “Irrigation Scheduling” with Steve Miller and Lyndon Kelley. 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>
- July 10** [MSU Weeds Day](#). 8:30am-1:00pm with optional tours from 1-3pm. 4450 Beaumont Rd, Lansing, MI. Registration required, \$25/person.
- July 15** [Deadline for FSA Acreage Reporting](#). Deadline for 2019 acreage reporting for spring seeded crops. Contact your local FSA office for details.
- July 26** [Ag Innovation Day](#). 8:30am-5:00pm, MSU Research Farm, East Lansing, MI. Day will be split into morning and afternoon tours with a free lunch. Attendees are asked to register beforehand (coming soon) to help with logistics and food ordering.
- August 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.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

Delayed planting informational meeting scheduled for June 20 in Grand Rapids

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 19, 2019

Join experts to discuss the current planting situation for corn and soybeans and possible options for producers.

Are we done planting in central Michigan?

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 19, 2019

The unprecedented 2019 cool and wet planting season has many producers and agronomists looking for answers to questions we have not thought about before.

How manure storage can keep nutrients out of surface water

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 19, 2019

Right-sizing your manure storage.

Summer annual forage seeds may not be available if you wait too long to order seed

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 18, 2019

Producers are urged to contact their seed suppliers as soon as possible for availability of summer annuals.

Baleage is different than all other forage making practices

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 18, 2019

USDA Forage Specialist says knowing how baleage is different can get you a long way toward making better quality baleage.

How will the wet spring impact field crop insects?

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 18, 2019

An update on field crop insects and wet weather during the 2019 growing season.

2019 MSU Weed Tour rescheduled for July 10

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 17, 2019

Participants can compare herbicide programs, evaluate weed management strategies and tour MSU research plots.

MSU Cover Crop Team Webinar Series: Managing weeds when seeding cover crops

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 17, 2019

The fifth webinar in this series highlights research at MSU looking at the compatibility of different cover crop species with herbicides used in corn, soybean and wheat.

The importance of recognizing hay quality for horses

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 17, 2019

Weather conditions make hay production difficult this year

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