

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Updates June 28, 2019

**NOTE: The newsletter will be taking the week off next week and will resume the week of July 8.**

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.

### Delayed and Prevented Planting Resources

Several resources are available to help farmers with a wide range of challenges and decisions in this unusually late and stressful planting season.

MSU Extension has compiled several such resources on its newly-created [Delayed Planting Resources](#)

[webpage](#). Content includes videos, podcasts, articles on topics including delayed planting, managing forage supplies, managing farm stress, and guides for financial and farm management. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has created an online portal for those looking for help titled [Farmers: Crop Disaster Resources](#).





**URGENT!! SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU MEETINGS ON WEATHER CONCERNS; LATE PLANTING ISSUES; AND OPTIONS FOR FARMERS!**

**MONDAY, JULY 1, 2019**

*(Two locations and times offered)*

**COUNTRY SIDE ACADEMY**

**9:00 - 10:30 AM**

*4800 Meadowbrook Rd • Benton Harbor*

*\*enter the main building via the west doors*

**OR**

**GREENMARK EQUIPMENT**

**1:00 - 2:30 PM**

*16700 Heimbach Rd • Three Rivers*

Southwest Michigan Farm Bureau will be hosting meetings at two locations on Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup> in Benton Harbor (AM) and Three Rivers (PM).

The USDA is offering conservation assistance to Michigan farmers unable to plant crops due to wet conditions. The USDA is making conservation funds available for farmers to plant summer cover crops to help reduce soil erosion, control weeds and improve soil quality.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has up to \$3.9 million in financial assistance for Michigan farmers to plant cover crops with a payment rate of \$37.66 an acre. Producers interested in planting a 2019 summer cover crop must submit an application at their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office or online through Conservation Client Gateway by July 8, to be considered for funding.

The assistance is available to all eligible producers including farmers enrolled in federal crop insurance programs who will receive a prevented planting payment for not planting a crop during the 2019 growing season. Cover crop funding through this initiative is only available for planting cover crops during the 2019 growing season on fields where planting was prevented by wet conditions. Funding for cover crops already planted is not permissible unless the applicant has already applied for assistance and received a waiver. The waiver does not guarantee funding but allows the applicant to maintain eligibility.

Producers planting a summer cover crop will have a variety of cover crop options to choose from based on producer preferences and seed availability. Due to an anticipated shortage of livestock feed, NRCS is authorizing cover crop options that include forage crops including corn for corn silage. Summer cover crops will help improve water quality by controlling erosion and can benefit 2020 crops by reducing soil compaction, controlling weeds, and retaining nutrients in the soil.

Producers considering a cover crop on prevented planting fields should check with their crop insurance agent, USDA Risk Management Agency and Farm Service Agency, on restrictions for haying, grazing, and harvesting cover crops on prevented planting acres.

## Poison Hemlock Identification and Control

Over the past two years, I have received calls to identify weeds suspected of being poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). Until this week they have been identified as wild carrot, a.k.a. Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota* L.), a typical look-alike especially at younger growth stages. However, two locations were found with poison hemlock, and numerous others "popped up" as I drove around St. Joseph and Kalamazoo Counties. It was originally brought to the U.S. in the 1800's as an ornamental garden plant (another good idea gone awry) and is now found throughout North America. It is a biennial that forms a rosette its first year and then produces flowers on tall stems in the spring of its second year. It can produce up to 1000 seeds per plant that generally fall near the mother plant. Seeds can germinate immediately or lay dormant for up to six years. The plant will die soon after it sheds seed, but the stems will remain standing and slowly release seed into winter. More detailed information about poison hemlock can be found on [this USDA website](#) and [this University of California IPM website](#).

One of the poisons in poison hemlock, coniine—infamously known as the form of death chosen by Socrates—is present throughout the plant. It is highly toxic to livestock and humans. More information can be found about its toxicity at [Poison Control](#). If you find any in your yard or pasture, wear gloves and other protective equipment and pull up the entire plant including the roots. Incidentally, leaves of most plants in the carrot family have chemicals that are irritating to the skin. Synthetic auxin herbicides such as 2,4-D, dicamba, clopyralid and triclopyr will kill poison hemlock when sprayed on small plants, but mature plants like the ones in the photos below will not likely be chemically controlled and mechanical control measures (mowing, hand removal) should be used on adult plants prior to seed set.

### Poison hemlock

- Biennial
- Finely-divided, lacy leaves
- White, delicate, "umbrella-like" flowers
- 6-10 feet tall at maturity
- Green stems and leaves lack hairs
- Exudes unpleasant odor when crushed

### Wild carrot (Queen Anne's lace)

- Biennial
- Finely-divided, lacy leaves
- White, delicate, "umbrella-like" flowers
- 1-2 feet tall at maturity
- Fine hairs on leaves and solid green stems
- Root smells like carrot



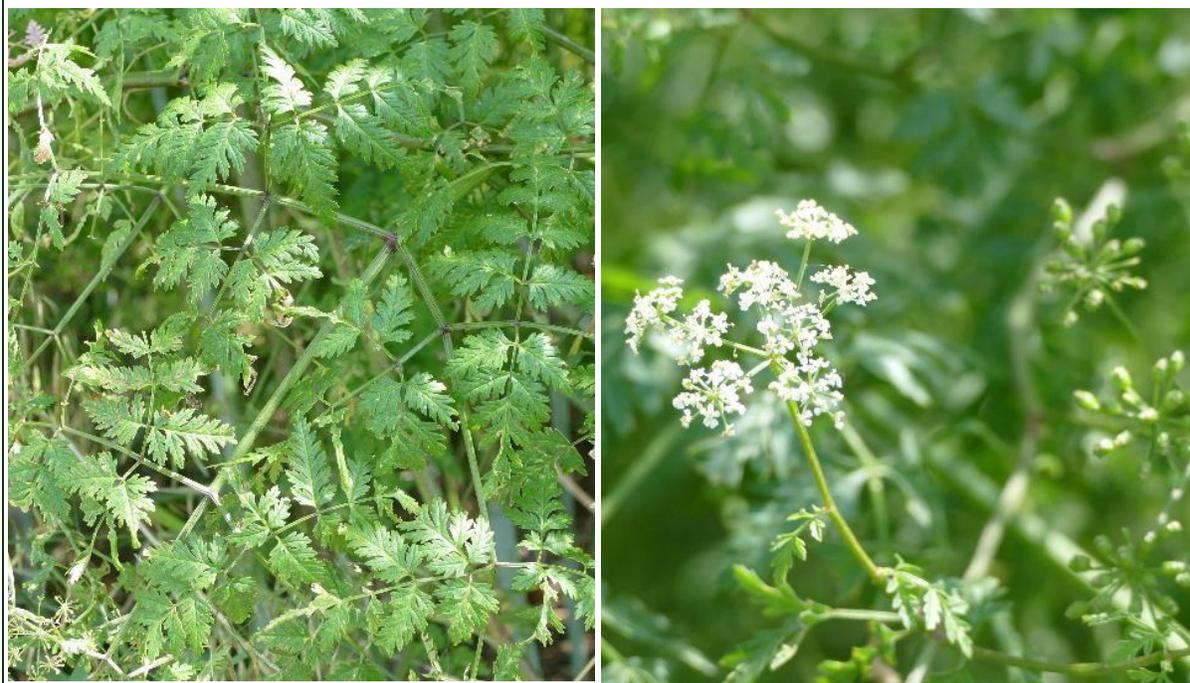
Wild carrot (Queen Anne's lace), a Michigan noxious weed, is often mistaken for poison hemlock and vice versa.



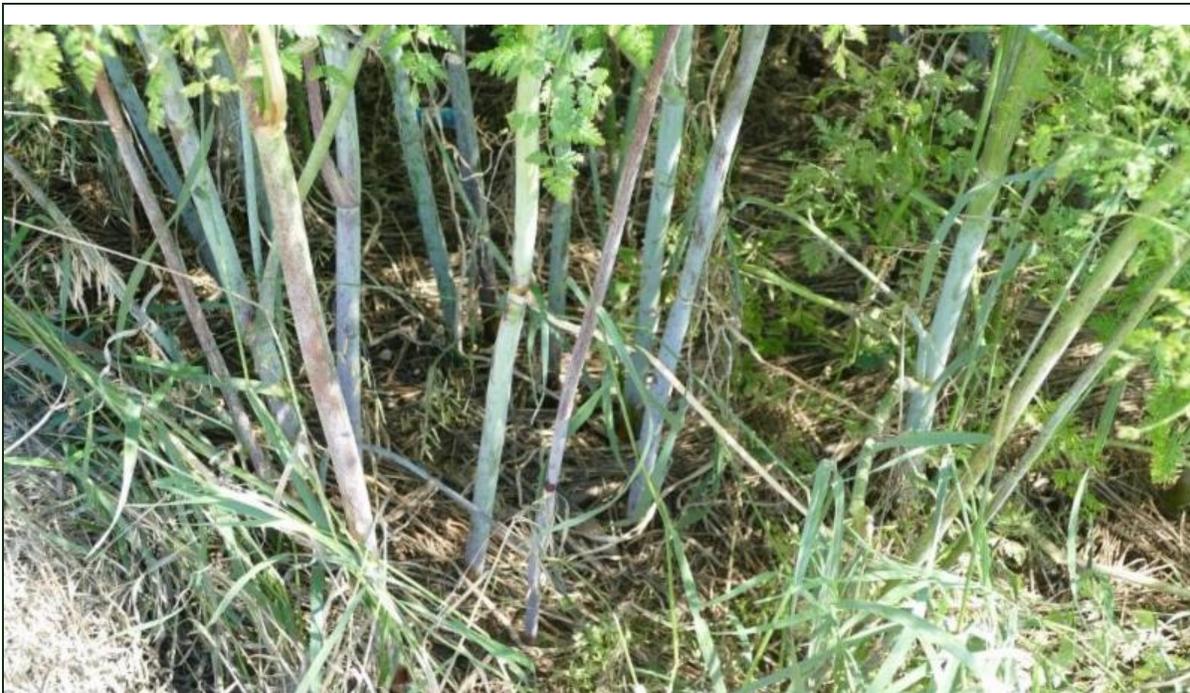
It's hard to tell from this picture, but these plants are over 8 feet tall.



Purple spotting on hollow stems is a tell-tale sign of poison hemlock.



Lacy leaves and white flowers of poison hemlock are often confused with wild carrot.



Stems of poison hemlock are smooth, purple-spotted, and finger-thick.

## Weather and Crop Update

**Corn:** Michigan was 91% planted as of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 63% emerged, and 40% rated good or excellent (another 36% rated fair). I have heard reports of farmers in Indiana still receiving seed shipments and planting. Heavier muck and prairie soils are drying out after a week with (in some places) little rain, but the risk of finishing the crop this fall before the weather turns is causing most in Michigan to say they're done planting for the year. Isolated reports of cutworm have come in, but our field crop entomologist Chris DiFonzo said she has not seen or heard of any major issues. MSU field crop pathologist Marty Chilvers also said he hasn't seen significant disease issues yet. Weeds on the other hand....

**Soybeans:** Michigan was 69% planted and 48% emerged as of last week, and 38% were rated good or excellent (another 45% rated fair). To me, the beans don't seem to be progressing as fast as they should in most fields, and I heard similar comments from Extension educators to our south. For example, two fields I'm working with in on-farm trials that were no-till planted around the third week of May have just reached V3. Soybean does not advance through growth stages as predictably as corn when based on growing degree days (GDD base 50 degrees), but the table below from Pioneer gives an estimate for days from planting to R1 for maturity groups typically planted in our area. We've added 480 GDD<sub>50</sub> since June 1 and, with highs in the mid- to upper-80's and lows around 70 all next week, another 275 are forecasted to be added in the coming 10 days.

**Table 1.** Duration and GDU accumulation of vegetative and reproductive growth for soybean maturity Late II to Mid III.

Location	Planting Date	Days to R1	GDUs to R1	Days R1 to R6	GDUs R1 to R6
1	4/15/15	50	768	52	1,198
2	5/4/15	41	805	45	1,032
3	5/9/15	40	821	38	859
4	5/11/15	41	861	37	836
5	6/11/15	34	851	28	836
6	7/7/15	28	759	26	609
	<b>Range</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>589</b>

Duration and GDU accumulation of vegetative and reproductive growth for soybean maturity Late II to Mid III. Courtesy of [Pioneer Agronomy](#).

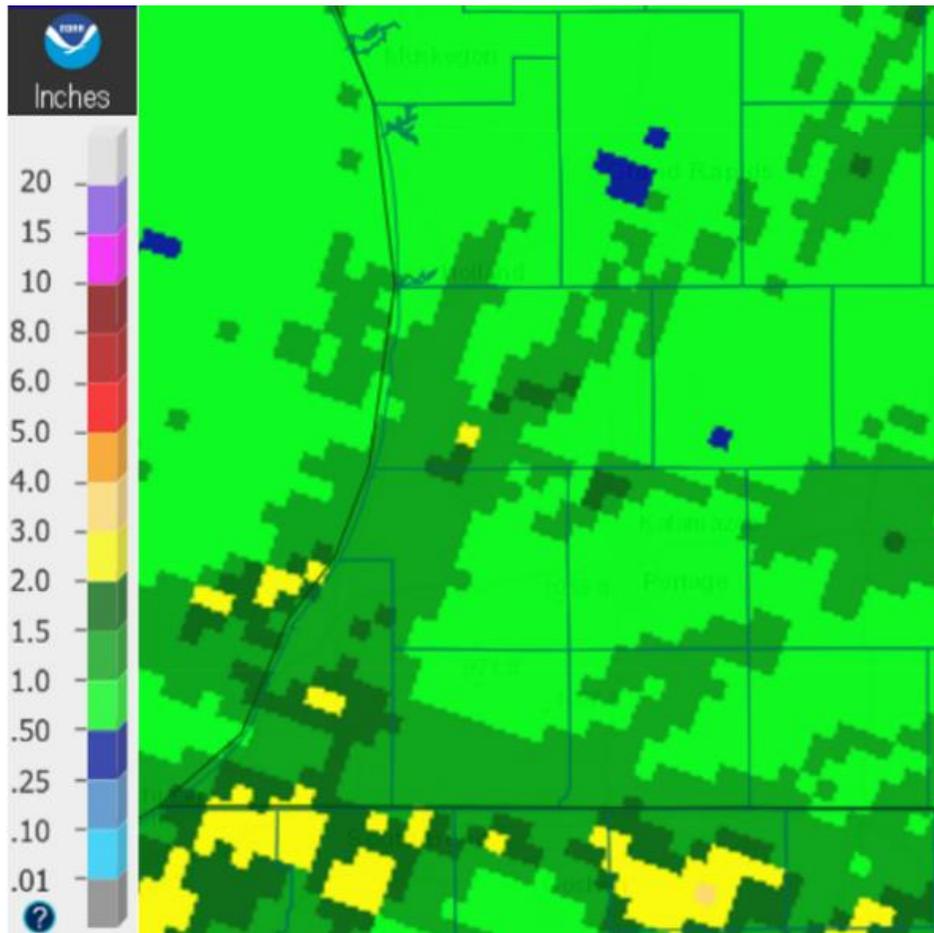


Slugs feeding along the seed furrow in this no-till field. Manure was applied to the field this spring and a cover crop was harvested just prior to planting. Slugs can be problematic in situations like these. Chris DiFonzo commented that farmers could apply a “light” rate of slug bait to try to decrease any yield impact, and that would impact the slug population for a couple of years, spreading out the cost.

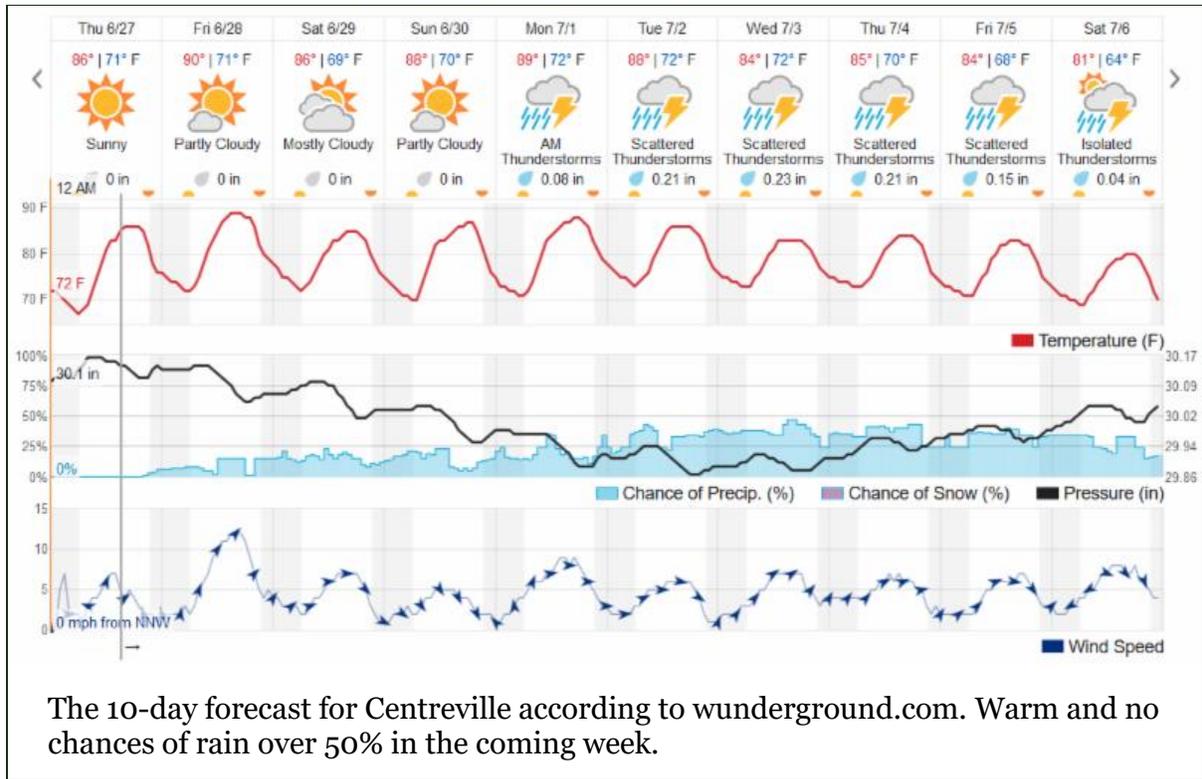


Bean leaf beetle feeding was evident on nearly half the plants in this field, but injury did not warrant control measures.

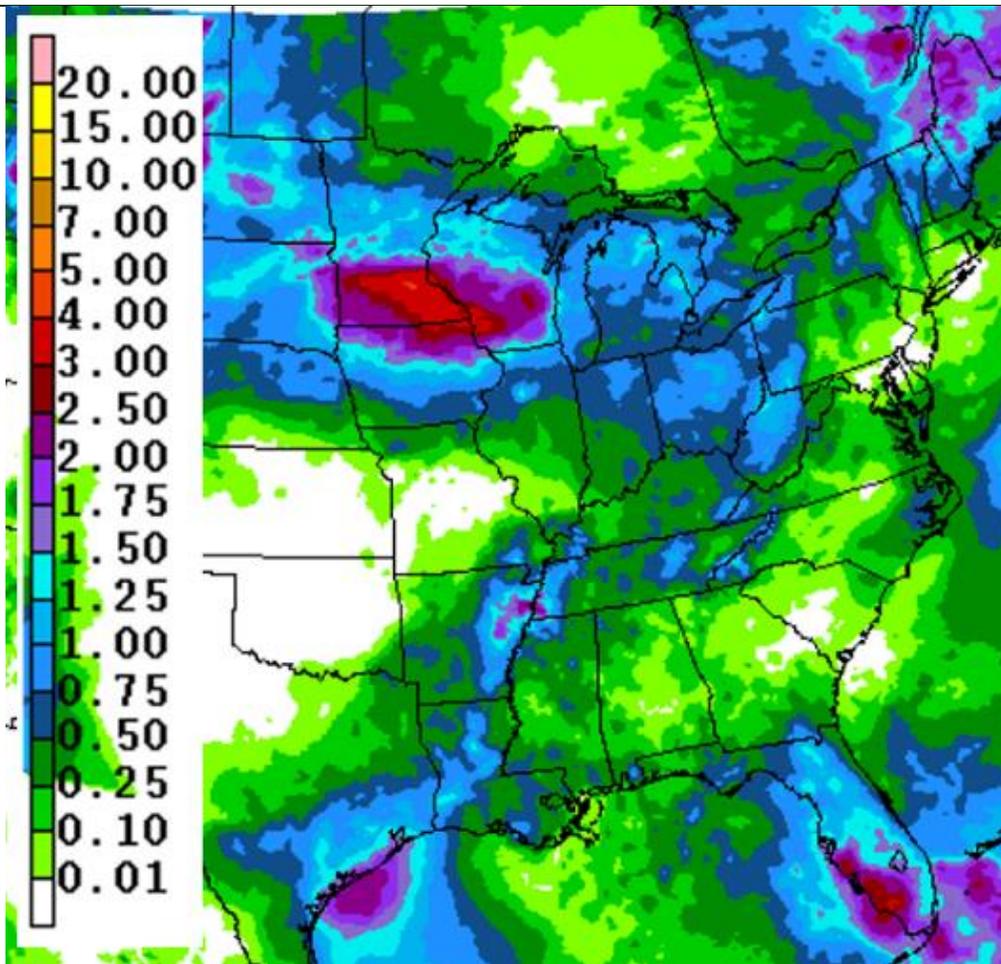
**Weather:** Rainfall this past week was variable in the region with some getting as little as 0.5” and isolated pockets receiving up to 3” which is just about normal for this time of year. Average temperatures were below normal, but that will change over the next two weeks with normal or above-normal daytime and nighttime temps. Scattered thunderstorms will be sporadic this next week, so this will be a period of high rainfall variability. Expect 0.5-0.75” from this past Thursday to next Thursday. The 6-10 day outlook predicts very high chances of above-normal temps and some chance for wetter than normal conditions. The long-lead outlook for later in the summer predicts cooler than normal temps but no guidance on precipitation.



Precipitation totals for week ending June 27, 2019. Rainfall totals at Enviroweather stations in the region ranged from 0.08 in Mendon to 1.65 inches in Berrien Springs with an average of 0.72 inches.

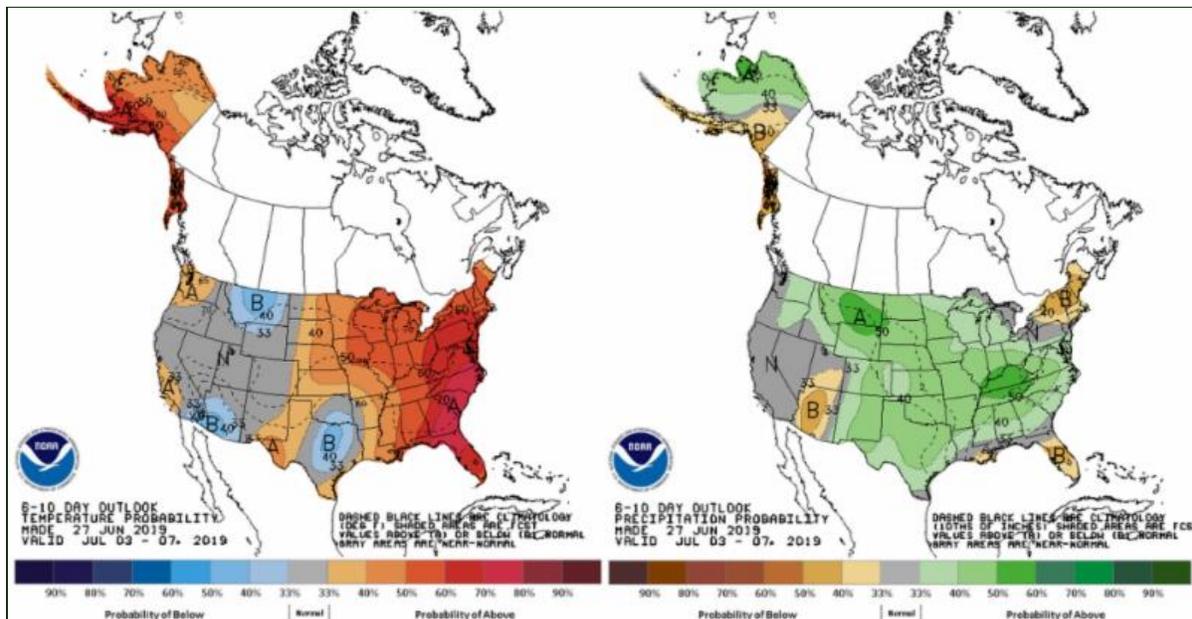


The 10-day forecast for Centreville according to wunderground.com. Warm and no chances of rain over 50% in the coming week.



Forecast for precipitation totals for the week of June 27-July 4, 2019.

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 6-10 day outlook (July 3-7) for temperature (left) and precipitation (right). The 8-14 day outlook (July 5-11) is similar.

## Calendar

Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined

### Jul 1

- **Farm Bureau Weather and Crop Discussion.** 9-10:30am (Benton Harbor) or 1-2:30pm (Three Rivers). See details above in Delayed Planting section. Contact Sara Pion ([spion@michfb.com](mailto:spion@michfb.com) or 269-377-4841) with questions.

### Jul 10

- **MSU Weeds Day.** 8:30am-1:00pm with optional tours from 1-3pm. 4450 Beaumont Rd, Lansing, MI. Registration required, \$25/person.

### Jul 11

- **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Free Webinar.** Thursdays 7:00-7:30 AM. This week: "Nematode" with Marisol Quintanilla. 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>

### Jul 15

- **Deadline for FSA Acreage Reporting.** Deadline for 2019 acreage reporting for spring seeded crops. Contact your local FSA office for details.

### **Jul 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.

### **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.

### **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**

### **Options for handling treated soybean seed (including as a cover crop)**

**PUBLISHED ON JUNE 27, 2019**

Before deciding how to handle treated soybean seed, weigh these options to inform your choice.

### **Livestock winter forage supplies may be short this year**

**PUBLISHED ON JUNE 27, 2019**

Hay carryover from last year is low, and with the current delayed hay harvest, that trend could continue, do not wait until you need the forage, make plans now!

### **Michigan potato late blight forecast - June 26, 2019**

**PUBLISHED ON JUNE 26, 2019**

No late blight reported. Weather-based risk moderate throughout Michigan growing regions.

### **Corn and soybeans as cover crops following prevented planting**

**PUBLISHED ON JUNE 25, 2019**

MSU Extension recognizes the use of corn and soybeans as cover crops for prevented planting.

### **MSUE program on farm employee development**

**PUBLISHED ON JUNE 25, 2019**

Employee management is an area of concern for many farmers. Are you a farmer who has asked how can you become better at it? Want some practical advice that works? This Michigan State University Extension program was developed for you!

### **When will the cool, wet weather end?**

**PUBLISHED ON JUNE 24, 2019**

MSU agricultural meteorologist Jeff Andresen gives insight on recent weather and predictions for the rest of the summer.

### **Diversity in when milkweeds emerge supports monarch butterflies**

**PUBLISHED ON JUNE 21, 2019**

The timing of milkweed emergence determines egg-laying opportunities for monarchs

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