Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 6

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

THIS REPORT IS THE FIRST CROP WEATHER REPORT FOR THE 2003 GROWING SEASON. A SERIES OF WEEKLY CROP PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE PUBLISHED EACH MONDAY AT 3:00 P.M. EST THROUGHOUT THE CROP SEASON. These reports will cover planting and harvesting activities, crop development, weather data and timely crop management information provided by Purdue University experts. For the earliest possible access, look for these reports on the internet shortly after the 3:00 P. M. release time. Our home page address is located at the bottom of this publication. Follow the links to view the text and PDF files.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 3.7 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Soil conditions became progressively drier early in the week in most areas of the state aided by unseasonably warm temperatures and windy conditions. Farmers took advantage of the favorable weather to accomplish fieldwork. A few fields of corn were planted in the southwestern area of the state. Top dressing of winter wheat and applying Harmony has taken place on many fields. Rain along with strong thunderstorms in some areas during the weekend halted most field activities.

Seven percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 6 percent last year and 17 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 80 percent good to excellent compared with 57 percent last year at this time. Wheat growth was slow earlier, but has greened up rapidly during the last two weeks and growing.

Major activities during the week were tillage of soils, applying fertilizer, spraying chemicals, preparing equipment, moving grain to market, hauling manure, cleaning out fence rows and ditches along with taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 2 percent excellent, 37 percent good, 42 percent fair, 17 percent poor and 2 percent very poor. Pastures are improving, but need more rain to help growth and development. Livestock are in mostly good condition around the state. **Hay** supplies are rated 22 percent very short, 43 percent short, 34 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. Lambing and calving are active.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Winter Wheat Jointed	7	NA	6	17

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Pasture	2	17	42	37	2
Winter Wheat 2003	0	2	18	68	12
Winter Wheat 2002	1	8	34	49	8

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	NA	0
Short	8	NA	1
Adequate	66	NA	38
Surplus	23	NA	61
Subsoil			
Very Short	9	NA	0
Short	13	NA	4
Adequate	67	NA	60
Surplus	11	NA	36
Days Suitable	3.7	NA	0.9

CONTACT INFORMATION

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--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://www.nass.usda.gov/in/index.htm

Other Agricultural Comments And News

Broadleaf Weed Control in Winter Wheat

Unlike corn and soybean, only a handful of herbicides are registered for the control of broadleaf weeds in winter wheat grown in Indiana. Herbicides, rates and their application timings are listed in the table below.

It is also important to be aware that restrictions exist concerning application timing of these herbicides to avoid crop injury. Phenoxy herbicides, such as 2,4-D and MCPA, control a number of annual broadleaf weeds and are the least expensive of these herbicides to use. However, proper application timing of the growth-regulating herbicides 2, 4-D, MCPA and Banvel is critical to avoid crop injury and possible yield losses. These herbicides can cause substantial crop injury and yield loss in small grains if applied before tillering begins or after development of the grain heads has been initiated.

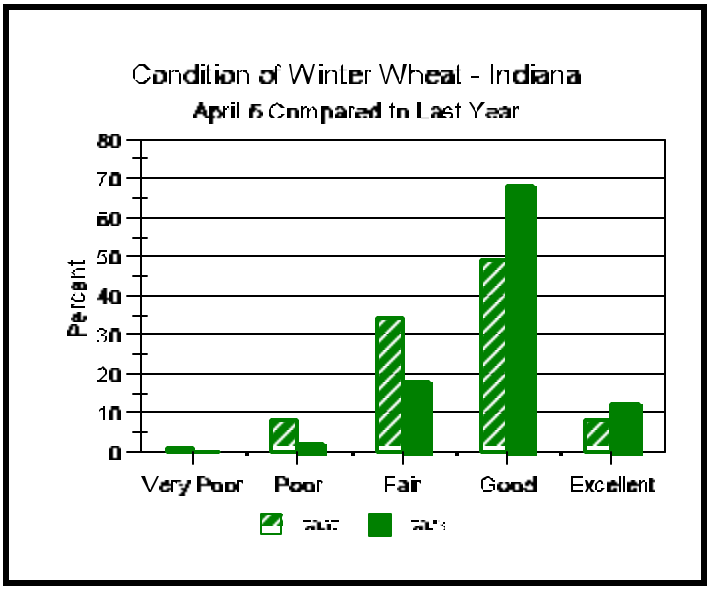

Table 1. Herbicides to control broadleaf weeds in winter wheat.

Active Ingredient	Trade Name(s)	Rate per Acre	Application Timing	Weeds Controlled
Bromoxynil	Buctril, Moxy	1.5 to 2 pts.	Emergence to boot stage	Wild buckwheat, common ragweed, lambsquarter, field pennycress, henbit, shepherdspurse, wild mustard
2,4-D	Weedar, Weedone, Formula 40, others	1 to 2 pts.	Tillering to before jointing	Field pennycress, shepherdspurse, wild mustard, ragweeds, lambsquarter, horseweed (marestail), prickly lettuce, wild onion
dicamba	Banvel	0.125 to 0.25 pt.	Emergence to before jointing	Field pennycress, wild buckwheat, ragweeds, kochia, lambsquarter, horseweed (marestail), prickly lettuce, shepherdspurse
Thifensulfuron	Harmony GT	0.3 to 0.6 oz.	After 2-leaf stag, but before flag leaf becomes visible	Wild garlic, field pennycress, wild mustard, chickweed, henbit, shepherdspurse, wild mustard, lambsquarter
Thifensulfuron + tribenuron	Harmony Extra	0.3 to 0.6 oz.	After 2-leaf stag, but before flag leaf becomes visible	Wild garlic, field pennycress, wild mustard, chickweed, henbit, prickly lettuce, shepherdspurse, wild mustard, lambsquarter
MCPA	Chiptox, Rhomene, Rhonox	1 to 4 pts.	Tillering to before jointing	Field pennycress, shepherdspurse, wild mustard, ragweeds, lambsquarter, horseweed (marestail), prickly lettuce, wild buckwheat
Bromoxynil + MCPA	Bronate, Bison	1 to 2 pts.	After 3-leaf stage, but before wheat reaches boot stage	Same as bromoxynil and MCPA
Carfentrazone	Aim	0.33 to 0.66 oz.	Before jointing	Catchweed bedstraw, lambsquarter, field pennycress, tansy mustard, flixweed

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday April 6, 2003

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation April 1, 2003 thru April 6, 2003				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	82	23	51	+5	1.83	3	50	1.83	+1.17	3	50	+38
Valparaiso_AP_I	81	26	49	+5	1.61	3		1.61	+0.86	3	39	+33
Wanatah	80	25	48	+5	1.70	3	51	1.70	+0.98	3	38	+32
Wheatfield	82	26	51	+8	1.55	3		1.55	+0.83	3	49	+43
Winamac	80	26	50	+6	1.33	3	49	1.33	+0.63	3	50	+44
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	79	23	48	+3	1.48	3		1.48	+0.75	3	42	+35
South_Bend	78	24	47	+4	2.17	3		2.17	+1.40	3	38	+32
Young_America	78	27	51	+6	0.83	3		0.83	+0.17	3	48	+42
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	77	26	46	+3	1.30	3	49	1.30	+0.58	3	30	+26
Fort_Wayne	76	27	47	+3	1.68	3		1.68	+1.02	3	30	+24
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	76	25	51	+4	0.29	1		0.29	-0.43	1	52	+39
Perrysville	82	26	53	+7	0.55	1	50	0.55	-0.20	1	59	+48
Spencer_Ag	77	24	53	+6	0.40	1		0.40	-0.39	1	54	+42
Terre_Haute_AFB	78	27	54	+7	0.33	1		0.33	-0.40	1	61	+47
W_Lafayette_6NW	82	28	53	+8	1.18	3	54	1.18	+0.50	3	58	+52
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	76	29	54	+7	0.15	1		0.15	-0.60	1	60	+48
Greenfield	77	28	51	+5	0.68	1		0.68	-0.09	1	53	+45
Indianapolis_AP	76	27	54	+6	0.32	1		0.32	-0.43	1	59	+47
Indianapolis_SE	77	25	52	+5	0.69	1		0.69	-0.02	1	54	+42
Tipton_Ag	77	26	50	+6	0.36	1	55	0.36	-0.39	1	44	+38
East Central (6)												
Farmland	76	25	50	+7	0.38	1	47	0.38	-0.31	1	48	+42
New_Castle	74	23	47	+4	0.68	2		0.68	-0.09	2	34	+28
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	76	27	56	+4	0.08	1		0.08	-0.75	1	64	+37
Freelandville	75	28	52	+4	0.43	1		0.43	-0.34	1	51	+33
Shoals	79	26	53	+4	0.22	1		0.22	-0.63	1	57	+39
Stendal	77	30	54	+4	0.06	1		0.06	-0.84	1	57	+36
Vincennes_5NE	78	27	54	+5	0.21	1	49	0.21	-0.56	1	53	+35
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	75	26	53	+4	0.23	1		0.23	-0.73	1	55	+37
Oolitic	75	27	53	+5	0.72	1	51	0.72	-0.09	1	55	+42
Tell_City	77	33	56	+6	0.45	1		0.45	-0.52	1	64	+40
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	79	27	53	+7	0.40	1		0.40	-0.38	1	57	+49
Milan_5NE	76	27	52	+6	0.46	1		0.46	-0.32	1	54	+46
Scottsburg	78	26	54	+5	0.25	1		0.25	-0.60	1	59	+41

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

The exact time at which grain heads have been initiated is not easy to determine, but this event always just precedes stem elongation. The occurrence of stem elongation can be easily detected by the appearance of the first node or "joint" above the soil surface, commonly referred to as the "jointing stage." Pinch a wheat plant stem at the base between the thumb and forefinger and slide your fingers up the stem. The presence of a node or joint will be felt as a hard bump about an inch above the soil surface. Slicing the stem lengthwise with a sharp knife will reveal a cross section of the hollow stem and solid node. If jointing has occurred, applications of 2,4-D, MCPA and Banvel should be avoided because crop injury and yield loss are likely. Research from the University of Missouri Weed Science program has shown a 3-to 6-bushel per acre yield loss from 2,4-D and Banvel applications to wheat after the jointing stage.

MCPA alone at labeled rates should be applied before jointing. However, the amount of MCPA applied in Bronate, a combination of bromoxynil and MCPA, is low enough to permit later applications.

As a final note, many wheat fields in Indiana contain wild garlic and wild onion. Although not considered as strong competitors with a wheat crop, wild garlic (*Allium vineale*) and wild onion (*Allium canadense*) are both responsible for imparting a strong odor to beef and dairy products. Wheat producers and grain elevator operators are very familiar with dockages that occur with the presence of wild garlic or onion bulbs in their harvested grain. Found throughout Missouri, wild garlic is a native of Europe, while wild onion is native. Despite the fact that these perennials both occur in similar habitats, wild garlic occupies the majority of small grain settings, including wheat.

Control measures for wild onion and wild garlic will differ. Producers, consultants and industry personnel will want to make certain that they are able to distinguish between these two weed species. The vegetative leaves of wild garlic are linear, smooth, round and hollow (flowering stems are solid). A major difference with wild onion is that its leaves are flat in cross section and not hollow. Another varying feature are the underground bulbs. Wild garlic's bulbs have a thin membranous outer coating while wild onion's bulbs have a fibrous, net-veined coating.

Harmony Extra (thifensulfuron + tribenuron) is the herbicide most commonly used for control of garlic in wheat, plus it controls a relatively wide spectrum of other broadleaf weeds and possesses a fairly wide application window. Harmony GT (thifensulfuron) also has activity on wild garlic, but is considered to be slightly weaker than Harmony Extra. Peak is also labeled and effective on wild garlic in wheat, but it is fairly persistent in soil. The Peak label does not allow one to plant double crop soybean following wheat harvest in Missouri. Wild onion is controlled with 2,4-D. Keep in mind that both of these weeds are perennials and the full labeled rate is needed for adequate control.

This article also contains a graphic chart showing the wheat yield following 2,4-D and Banvel applications at Columbia, MO. The chart can be viewed at: http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/ext/targets/p&c/P&C2003/P&C2_2003.pdf.

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