

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update August 14, 2025

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 an email or call the St. Joseph County Extension office.

### Contents:

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## How well do you know SW MI crops?

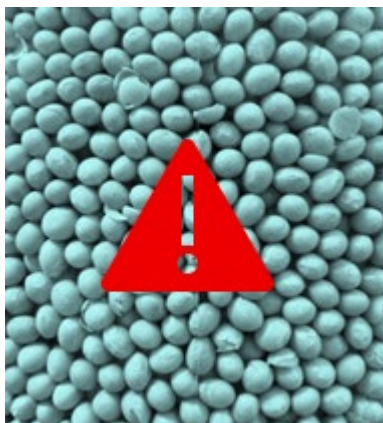


You know Michigan crops, but do you know them from afar? Do you know them from a car? This sounds like a Dr. Seuss rhyme, but it's not—it's the Drive-by Crop ID challenge.

Take the quiz by clicking on this link or by using the QR code on the left, and then challenge your friends and family to beat your score.

Need to review first? Read the article [Drive-by Crop Identification in Southwest Michigan](#).

## SW MI Seed Treatment In-person Workshop - 4 RUP Credits Available



The Southwest Michigan Seed Treatment Workshop will be held on August 18, 2025, from 8:30 am to 12:45 pm at the Van Buren County MSU Extension office ([57418 Co Rd 681 Suite A, Hartford, MI 49057](#)). The cost is \$25 per person. Four RUP credits (core and category 4) and CCA credits have been requested. **View the agenda and register [online here](#) by August 11**, as this event may be canceled if pre-registration numbers are not high enough.

"But Nicolle," you say, "I am interested in seed treatment but cannot attend on August 18." Or: "Oh no, I need more than four credits." Never fear! There is also a webinar series on seed treatment that you can attend every Tuesday in August from 12 pm to 1 pm. [Read all about it and find the link to register here](#).

## Save the Date! Beyond the Bin Grain Marketing Workshop Dec 4

More details to come!



### Topics covered

- Cost of production
- Marketing
- Marketing decision process
- Contracts
- Return on investment of crop protection products

**1 RUP credit has been requested**

### December 4

9:00 am - 2:00 pm,  
lunch provided

### LOCATION

Van Buren MSUE Office  
57418 CR 681, Suite A,  
Hartford, MI 49057

Contact us: **Nicolle Ritchie**  
**Jon LaPorte**

ritchi67@msu.edu  
laportej@msu.edu

269-858-8739  
269-414-6418

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## JOB OPENING: Morgan Composting



Morgan Composting is looking to hire a full-time employee, preferably with a conventional ag background. The position would be mostly agronomy with some sales and based out of Sears, MI. Reach out to Justin to learn more: [justin@dairydoo.com](mailto:justin@dairydoo.com).

## Please Take This Survey!

[https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0cQtPm4vPD6V2TQ](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0cQtPm4vPD6V2TQ)



### IDENTIFYING COMMON BARRIERS TO LAND ACCESS

**HAVE YOU FACED CHALLENGES FINDING OR TRANSFERRING FARMLAND?**

MiFarmLink and Michigan State University want to hear from you! Whether you're trying to lease, purchase, or pass on farmland, your experiences can help identify the real challenges Michigan farmers face when it comes to land access. By sharing your story, you'll help build better tools and support systems for future farmers across the state.

If you've experienced land access obstacles—big or small—we invite you to take our quick online survey.

This project is funded by a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant. We're surveying farmers to understand:

- Where people get stuck in the land access journey
- What support would make a real difference
- How to improve landowner-farmer negotiations

The goal? To create better strategies and resources that make farmland access and transition more achievable for all.

### Take the Survey Now



[https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0cQtPm4vPD6V2TQ](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0cQtPm4vPD6V2TQ)



## ***Farming Forward*: a free in-person workshop on August 15, 2025, 8:30 – 11:30am**

Focused on farmland succession planning, land linking, and permanent land protection tools. The event will be held at the Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center in Frankenmuth, the event features expert presentations from MSU Extension, Varnum LLP, MiFarmLink, and more. It's designed to support both beginning and retiring farmers with practical tools to protect farmland and plan for the future. Register soon [here](#). The event is hosted by the Land Transfer Navigator Program with support from MiFarmLink, Michigan Agriculture Advancement, MSU Extension, and Star of the West Milling Co.

## **Free: KBS LTAR Field Day September 4**

### **KBS LTAR FIELD DAY:**

↳ Kellogg Biological Station Long-Term Agroecosystem Research

### **Sustainable Agriculture in Action**

**SEPTEMBER 4, 9:30-1:30 PM**

**WHERE? 9693 N 40TH ST. HICKORY CORNERS MI**

#### **● Agronomic, profit, & soil health outcomes**

How does farming with a 5-crop rotation, no-till, cover crops and precision management compare to the prevailing corn/soy system?



Photo credit: Gavin Hutchings

#### **● Farming Innovations**

- Cover crops
- Nitrification inhibitors
- Short corn
- Slug management
- Precision inputs & drone demo

#### **● Facilitating adoption of stacked conservation practices**

#### **● Free Lunch & Networking**

**REGISTER BY  
AUGUST 22!**

Registration free,  
but required

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/ltarfieldday2025/>



Photo credit: YJ Su



Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all.

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**Credits requested:**

**1 RUP, 2.5 CCA, Phase 1 MAEAP**

Contact Tayler Ulbrich with questions - email: [chico1n@msu.edu](mailto:chico1n@msu.edu)

# Field Crops Update



Soybeans are mostly in early seed fill stages. Most fields have entered R5, which is when the seed of a pod on the fourth node down on the main stem is 1/8” long. R5 will typically continue for several weeks. Some early planted soybeans are approaching R6, which is where the seed has filled the pod cavity. Watch for sudden death syndrome (SDS), brown stem rot and red crown rot, all of which have similar symptoms. Red crown rot is a disease new to the Midwest, and it has not been confirmed in Michigan yet.

Corn ears continued to develop, which some entering R5 (dent), while others are at R2 (blister). Most acres are somewhere in the middle, with R3 (milk) being when kernels are yellow and filled with milky white liquid and R4 (dough) when kernels are more solid but still with some give. Male row destruction continued in seed corn, and defoliation sprays on some early planted acres are probably not far out.



Tar spot is present in most of the counties in southwest Michigan. [The Crop Protection Network tar spot of corn map](#) contains a helpful table for determining if a tar spot fungicide application is beneficial at various crop stages. When scouting, pay special attention to areas of the field that would have prolonged leaf wetness. Also watch for southern rust, which was found this week in Allegan, Ionia, Ingham and Jackson Counties. Similar to tar spot, the benefit of applying a fungicide for southern rust decreases as the corn enters R4 and is unlikely by R5.

Western bean cutworm (WBC) moth flights have been low, with peak flight occurring the week of July 14 to July 21. Corn that is freshly tasseled or close to tasseling is most attractive to WBC moths. At this point in the season, most fields are out of the window of concern for WBC.

Bucket traps in Berrien (near Niles) Branch (near Union City), St. Joseph (Centreville and Sturgis), and Van Buren (Paw Paw) Counties have caught the following WBC moths:

Date	Branch 1	Branch 2	Centreville	Niles	Paw Paw	Sturgis
8/11	--	--	0	0	5	6



Winter wheat harvest wrapped up, and many fields have been planted with cover crops or double-crop soybeans by now. Variety selection and small batch seed treatment for the upcoming crop will start soon if it hasn’t already. Fresh crop chip potato harvest continued, and tablestock potato harvest started over the past week. Vine kill applications continued, and many fields are struggling to maintain a canopy amidst potato early die, vine rot and heat.

Alfalfa and forages continued at variable stages of growth.

## Irrigation and Crop Water Use

Crop water use generally decreased this week compared to last week. In many areas, rainfall reduced the need for irrigation; however, in locations where rainfall did not fully meet crop water demands, supplemental irrigation was still necessary.

**Corn** is entering the dent stage, currently using about 1.27 inches of water per week in Southwest Michigan. Water use will begin to decline at full dent, aligning more closely with grass-reference potential evapotranspiration.

**Soybeans** are in their most sensitive period for water stress between the R3 and R6 stages (from pod development through seed fill) and are also using approximately 1.27 inches of water per week. Growers should monitor for signs of stress or disease pressure and adjust irrigation strategies accordingly.

To help reduce the risk of diseases associated with constant leaf wetness, it is recommended to apply larger volumes of water less frequently rather than frequent small applications. [Irrigation Scheduling Tools](#) can help estimate crop water needs and decide timing and application.

### Week of August 11 - 17

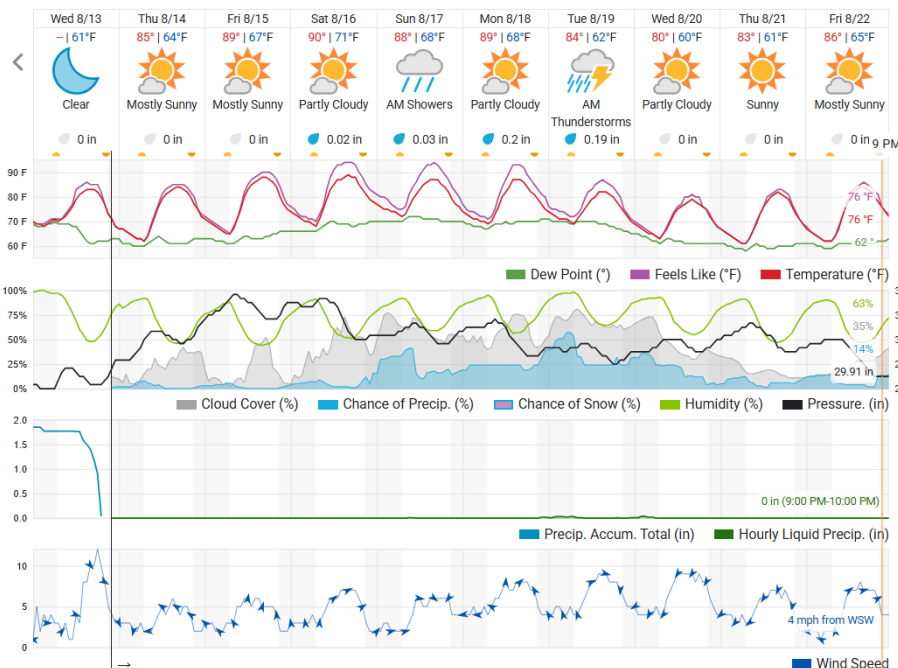
Crop	Growth stage	Constantine	Entrican	Hart
	Reference ET	1.15	1.15	1.09
Corn	V14	1.27	1.27	1.20
	VT, Silk, Blister, Dough, Begin Dent	1.27	1.27	1.20
	Full dent	1.15	1.15	1.09
Soybeans	R2 Full Bloom	1.27	1.27	1.20
	R3 Begin Pod / R4 Full pod	1.27	1.27	1.20
	R5 Begin seed / Full seed	1.27	1.27	1.20

The table above presents estimated crop water use for various field crops across three locations in Michigan. This data helps irrigation management decisions by showcasing potential crop evapotranspiration, calculated based on reference evapotranspiration and crop coefficients for each crop growth stage. It is crucial to note that crop water use values vary across regions due to differences in weather conditions, growth stages, agronomic practices, and soil properties.

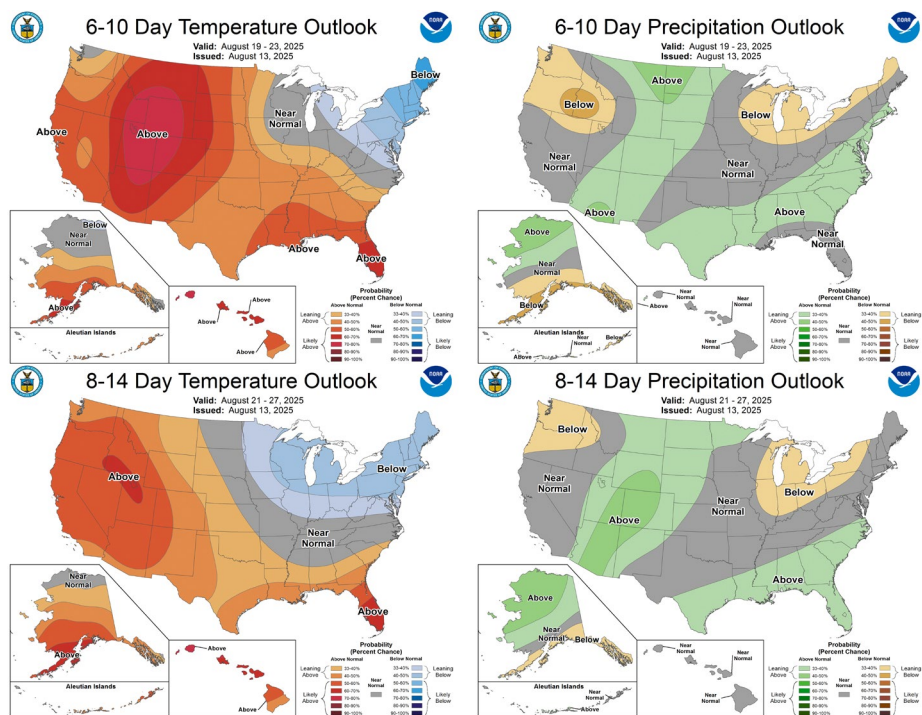
When using these values for irrigation scheduling, be mindful that they assume all applied irrigation water will be utilized by the plants without any loss. Additionally, these values do not account for any precipitation that may occur during the week of calculation. Reference evapotranspiration data was obtained from [Enviroweather](#), which also offers a model for determining potential crop evapotranspiration. To access this tool, visit [Enviroweather](#), click on "Crops," select your crop and use the potential evapotranspiration tool by choosing your nearest weather station, the latest date of interest, and other crop information.

## Weather Update

High temperatures continued over the past week. Precipitation fell earlier this week, ranging from about half an inch to an inch. Although not enough to meet plant evapotranspiration demands, it was still a welcome addition. High temperatures are forecast to continue, with humidity and nighttime temperatures dropping just a little. The next chance for significant precipitation is early next week.



Ten-day weather forecast for Kalamazoo according to wunderground.com.



The 6-10 day (Aug 19-23, top) and 8-10 day (Aug 21-27, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).



## Calendar

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

- Aug 15**     **Farming Forward Workshop**. 8:30-11:30am. This workshop is focused on farmland succession planning, land linking, and permanent land protection tools. It's designed to support both beginning and retiring farmers with practical tools to protect farmland and plan for the future. Free.
- Aug 18**     **In-Person SW MI Seed Treatment Workshop**. 8:30 am- 12:45 pm. Van Buren County MSU Extension office. This event offers education and networking opportunities related to seed treatment. \$25. **Please pre-register by August 11. 4 RUP**
- Aug 19**     **Farming Forward: Newaygo County Farm Field Day**. 8am-2pm. Kropscott Farm and Environmental Center. The Farm Field Day is an event you don't want to miss, with multiple sessions covering a myriad of agriculture and natural resource topics. **RUP/CCA**
- Aug 19**     **Seed Treatment Webinar: Soybean Biological Treatment**. 12-1pm. Zoom The August 19 session will feature results from a recent study on soybean biological treatments with Dr. Manni Singh, MSU Extension cropping systems agronomist. \$20 for access to all webinars. **RUP/CCA**
- Aug 21**     **Virtual Breakfast: Potassium! Why it matters to alfalfa persistence**. 7 am. This free, weekly series provides timely and relevant information on rapidly changing field crop and environmental conditions, pests and diseases. **CCA only**
- Aug 26**     **Seed Treatment Webinar: Use Rate Calculations**. 12-1pm. Zoom. For the August 26 session, MSU Extension field crops educators Jenna Falor and Nicolle Ritchie will cover use rate calculations for batch treatment with practical examples. \$20 for access to all webinars. **RUP/CCA**
- Aug 28**     **Virtual Breakfast: Hot Topics!**. 7 am. This free, weekly series provides timely and relevant information on rapidly changing field crop and environmental conditions, pests and diseases. **RUP/CCA**
- Sept 4**     **KBS LTAR Third Annual Field Day**. 7 am. Kellogg Biological Station. This free event will showcase new research on regenerative agriculture, and provide the opportunity to connect with local agricultural and conservation professionals, as well as MSU researchers.
- Sept 4**     **Virtual Breakfast: Using Yield Data**. 7 am. This free, weekly series provides timely and relevant information on rapidly changing field crop and environmental conditions, pests and diseases. **RUP/CCA**
- Sept 11**     **Virtual Breakfast: Grain Marketing**. 7 am. This free, weekly series provides timely and relevant information on rapidly changing field crop and environmental conditions, pests and diseases. **CCA only**
- Sept 16**     **Soybean Harvest Equipment Field Day**. 10am-3pm. Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center. This field day will provide participants with new information and educational materials about reducing soybean harvest losses.
- Sept 18**     **Virtual Breakfast: Late Season Weed Control**. 7 am. This free, weekly series provides timely and relevant information on rapidly changing field crop and environmental conditions, pests and diseases. **RUP/CCA**
- Dec 4**     **Beyond the Bin Grain Marketing Workshop**. 9 am-2 pm. Van Buren County MSU Extension Office. This in-person workshop will provide hands-on education on grain marketing. More details to come. **RUP/CCA**



MSU Extension Digest Briefs

**Farming through the haze**

**Published on August 13, 2025**

Michigan has been intermittently blanketed with wildfire haze over the past several years. Learn more about the importance of monitoring your local air quality index (AQI) and how to work safely on high AQI days.

**No payoff from high soil test phosphorus: Save fertilizer and protect water quality**

**Published on August 12, 2025**

Applying phosphorus when the soil test phosphorus is high doesn't boost profit. Stick to the tri-state guidelines to protect your bottom line and water quality.

**How do you stay informed on the latest agricultural info?**

**Published on August 8, 2025**

Take part in a survey from a joint MSU Extension and The Ohio State University research project on how we communicate the latest agriculture research and news.

**Managing tar spot in corn**

**Published on August 7, 2025**

Cool weather conditions and hybrid selection have a dramatic effect on tar spot development. Read on to understand your risk and what you can do to combat this disease.

**Southwest Michigan field crops update – August 7, 2025**

**Published on August 7, 2025**

Temperatures cooled over the past weekend. Soybeans and corn are in early seed development stages.

**Soybean Harvest Equipment Field Day to be held in Saginaw County on September 16**

**Published on August 7, 2025**

Soybean farmers looking to learn about getting their equipment ready for harvest and how to avoid header losses are invited to attend this annual event.

**Stay ahead of white mold: Mid-season management tactics**

**Published on August 7, 2025**

Your white mold action plan, from field history to fungicides.

**Emergency loans for farmers in Michigan's 2024 disaster areas**

**Published on August 6, 2025**

Farmers in 46 Michigan counties may be eligible for USDA Emergency Farm Loans; apply by November 28, 2025.

**Michigan State University Extension seeks input from pesticide applicators and agribusiness on new EPA regulations**

**Published on August 4, 2025**

Please complete this brief survey to assist MSU Extension in identifying needs related to pesticide label changes, Bulletins Live! Two and the Endangered Species Act.

**Extension Agriculture & Agribusiness in Michigan**

**Published on August 4, 2025**

Michigan State University Extension educators work with farms of all sizes to positively impact individual farming operations. When individual operations do well, their success helps to fuel state and local economies.

**Michigan canola harvest 2025 wraps up**

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update – August 14, 2025 - 10

**Published on August 4, 2025**

Updates from the field on canola crop progress, insect pests and crop disease.

### August is for seed treatment

**Published on August 1, 2025**

Register today for in-person or virtual seed treatment education opportunities coming up in August.

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*Nicolle Ritchie*

*Michigan State University Extension  
Field Crops Educator - St. Joseph County  
612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI 49032  
(269) 858-8739 (Cell)  
(269) 467-5510 (Extension Office)  
[ritchi67@msu.edu](mailto:ritchi67@msu.edu)*



*Angie Gradiz*

*Michigan State University Extension  
Agriculture Water Use Efficiency Educator  
570 Marshall Road #C, Coldwater, MI 49036  
Office: (517) 279 - 4311  
Cell: (531) 249 - 4956  
[gradizme@msu.edu](mailto:gradizme@msu.edu)*

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