

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update October 2, 2025

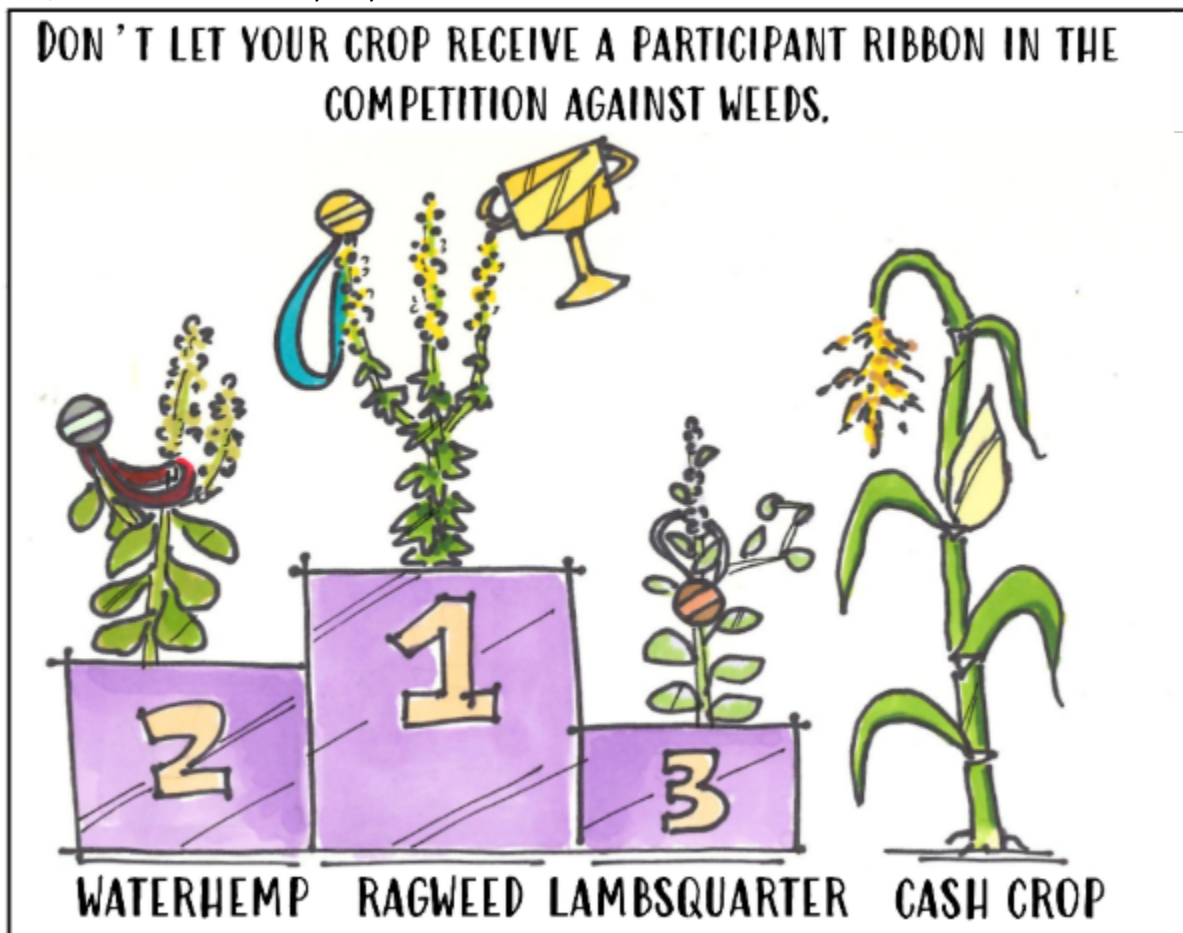
Here are updates from the MSU Extension Field Crops team in Southwest Michigan. If you have any items you would like me to include in future email updates - whether events you want others to know about or topics you would like to have addressed - please send an email or call the St. Joseph County Extension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

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Introducing “Farming Funnies” for the Winter

Winter is coming, and we can all use an occasional laugh to make it through the long nights and short days. For the winter months, this newsletter will feature a “Farming Funnies” section of ag-related humor. If you have a funny story or picture to share, feel free to send it my way!



MSU Labor Conference Nov 5

Attend the 3rd annual MSU Farm Labor Conference at the MSU University Club in Lansing on November 5th. The conference will feature speakers from academia, industry, and government to provide insights into challenges farmworkers and farm employers are facing and discuss potential solutions. The event is free, and lunch is included. Please pre-register: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/FarmLabor>

'Tis the Season for Cover Crop Seed and/or Custom Application



Check out the Cover Crop Service Provider Directory to find cover crop providers in your region: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/cover-crop-provider-directory>

If you provide cover crop services but don't see yourself in the directory, fill this form out to be added: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0BZXQgFalcOMunl

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

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Save the Date! SW MI Crop and Pest Management Update Jan 22 in Dowagiac



The annual regional Crop and Pest Management Update will be held Jan 22, 2026. More details to come. If you have a request for specific topics, **please reach out to me within the next month**. I can't guarantee they'll make it onto the agenda, but I'll do my best.

Save the Date! Soil Fertility Workshop 2 on Feb 5 in St. Johns

This workshop goes more in depth on soil fertility and nutrient management. It is intended for people who already understand the basics. More details to come.



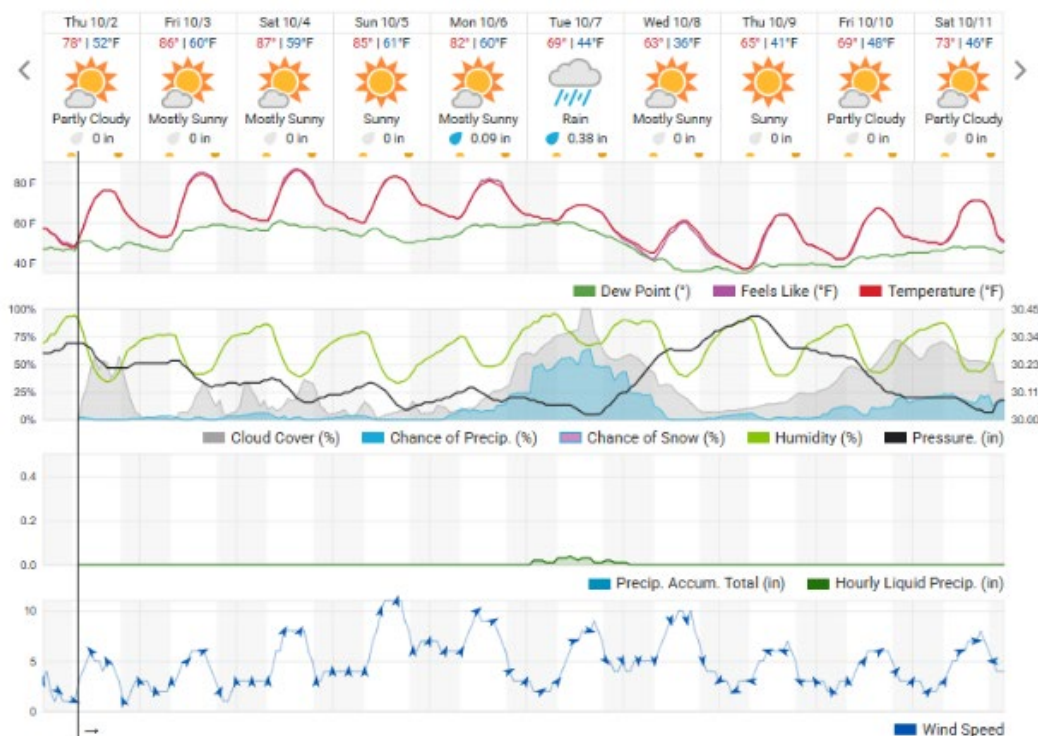
Field Crops Update



Soybean harvest is well underway. Remaining soybeans are at R8 (harvest ready) and drying down. **Seed corn** harvest has been going strong and is starting to wrap up. Chopping of **silage corn** started last month and is ongoing. **Commercial corn** harvest will begin in earnest soon. Most corn has reached R6 (black layer) and is drying down. **Potato** harvest has made good progress with the dry weather, but it is constrained by high temperatures. Fall tillage and **winter wheat** and cover crop planting are underway. Many fall-sown cereals have emerged over the past two weeks in areas with sufficient moisture.

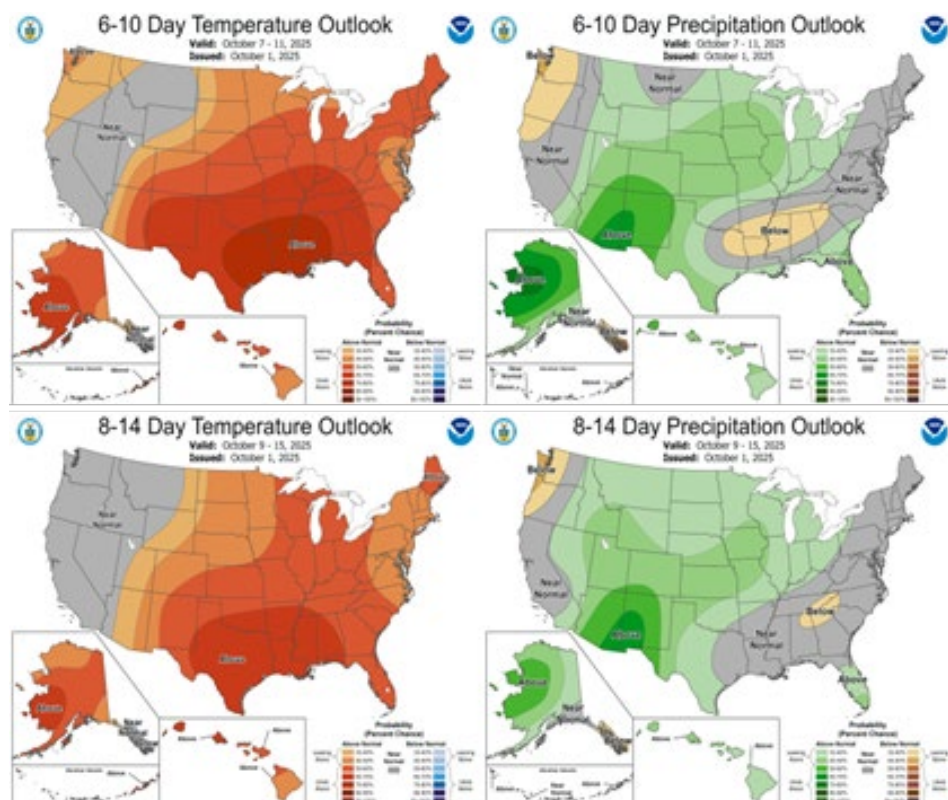
Weather Update

Welcome rain fell the second-to-last weekend in September and continued into the last week of September. Since then, precipitation has been low in most areas of southwest Michigan, and daytime temperatures reached into the mid-80s. Nights have stayed cool. Rain forecast for the early middle of next week will bring a significant cooldown with it and some cloudy weather.



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

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The 6-10 day (Oct 7-11, top) and 8-14 day (Oct 9-15, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

Calendar

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

- Oct 9** [Farm Policy and Risk Management Series-Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance.](#) 12 pm. Farm Policy and Risk Management Series will be hosting a FREE series of educational webinars online on USDA insurance programs.
- Oct 21** [2025 Michigan Agricultural Credit Conference.](#) 8 am. Molecular Plant Sciences Building, MSU Campus. The conference provides agricultural lenders, agribusinesses, policymakers, and other interested parties with updates on the economy and agricultural industries in Michigan. Hear from experts about agricultural policy, commodity outlooks, and much more.
- Nov 5** [Farm Labor and Michigan Agriculture Conference.](#) 9 am. MSU University Club. The conference seeks to investigate labor challenges that domestic agricultural employers and employees are facing, discuss potential solutions, and provide agricultural stakeholders with information and resources to help address these challenges. While there is no charge for attending, pre-registration is required.
- 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**
- Dec 19** [Beyond the Bin Grain Marketing Workshop.](#) 8:30 am-4 pm. MSU STEM Building. Join us to learn about the latest research on crop and pest management. **RUP/CCA**
- Jan 22** [SW MI Crop and Pest Management Update.](#) 8:30 am-3 pm. Cass County. Regional meeting with latest research on crop and pest management. More details to come. **RUP/CCA**

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Feb 5

Soil Fertility Workshop 2. 8:30 am-3 pm. Clinton County Smith Hall, St. Johns. Intermediate soil fertility and nutrient management workshop. More details to come.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

Respiratory Protection Requirements in Agriculture – Guidance & Resources

Published on October 1, 2025

A practical guide for agricultural producers on complying with EPA, MDARD, MIOSHA and OSHA standards to ensure safe respirator use and worker protection. An accessible format for visually impaired users is also available.

Suspect herbicide resistance? Submit weed seeds for screening

Published on October 1, 2025

October is the prime time to collect and submit weed seeds for herbicide resistance screening.

Small farm employers are subject to the Earned Sick Time Act starting October 1

Published on September 26, 2025

Small employers (10 or fewer employees) are subject to the law beginning on October 1. Requirements for large employers (11 or more employees) took effect in February.

Is grain storage the weak link in your marketing plan?

Published on September 26, 2025

Navigating the challenge of bushels over bin space.

Simplifying respiratory safety on the farm

Published on September 25, 2025

One resource for choosing the right respirator, meeting regulations, and protecting your team.

MSU research 'critical' to Michigan soybean production

Published on September 24, 2025

Soybean growers and industry representatives speak to the positive results from investing in MSU soybean research.

Optimizing row spacing and seed placement for high yield potential in winter wheat

Published on September 22, 2025

Optimized planting decisions such as narrow rows and adaptation of other factors can help to maximize winter wheat yields.

Hunting female deer: A better population management strategy

Published on September 19, 2025

Most farmers enjoy the wildlife that resides on their farms. However, when deer numbers become extremely high, crop damage and the associated yield losses from deer are greater than many producers are willing to tolerate.

Southwest Michigan field crops update – September 18, 2025

Published on September 18, 2025

This is the final southwest Michigan field crops update of the season as corn and soybeans are entering physiological maturity and drying down for harvest.

Kernel dry down insights for Michigan corn growers

Published on September 18, 2025

Weather during the growing season impacts corn phenological development and eventually kernel dry down rate and final harvest moisture.

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Pasture, Rangeland and Forage insurance gains ground in Michigan and nationwide

Published on September 18, 2025

Register for the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage insurance webinar scheduled for October 9, 2025.

Fall means farm equipment on roads

Published on September 18, 2025

Tips for motorists and farmers sharing the road safely.



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