

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update July 18, 2024

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.

Contents in this edition:

- [Announcements](#)
- [Field Crops Update](#)
- [Weekly Crop Water Use for Field Crops in Michigan](#)
- [Weather Update](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [MSU Extension Digest Briefs](#)

REMINDER: SW MI No-Till Field Day is TOMORROW Friday, July 19

There will be a soil pit! There will be free lunch! But wait, there's more! Join us for an interactive field day about no-till systems and their challenges and successes. This event is offered free of charge thanks to the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and the Farmers for Soil Health program. It will be held at 93599 County Road 652, Marcellus, MI 49067, on Friday, July 19. **One MAEAP Phase 1, one RUP (commercial 1A and private core) and 3 CCA credits (2 soil and water management, one IPM) will be available.** Check out [this article](#) about it for more information.

FREE SW MI On-Farm Research Field Day Wednesday, August 28

Join us to hear the latest and greatest in disease and crop management and irrigation and soybean research. Educational sessions will start the day off, followed by lunch and then a short tour of a couple research plots. The day will finish with an interactive pivot performance evaluation. The event starts at 9:00 am on Wednesday, August 28 at Covered Bridge Farm (56705 Covered Bridge Rd, Three Rivers, MI 49093). RUP and CCA credits have been requested. Courtesy of the Michigan Soybean Committee and NRCS, this event is offered free of charge. Whether you've collaborated on research in the past or not, all are welcome to attend! [Register here](#).

Climate Change Research Opportunity

[This project](#) seeks to understand how climate change and extreme weather events impact crop yields, soil health, and the economic well-being of farmers across Michigan, while facilitating opportunities for Michigan farms to contribute to climate change solutions.

Options for levels of Farmer Participation

- Any farmer interested in participating in a soil health assessment. Two fields of your choice will be sampled by a team of researchers Fall of 2024. (~ 80 participant limit).
- Conventional farmers who are interested in establishing regenerative practices such as cover cropping or buffer strips, but would like guidance through the process over the three-year study period (~5 participant limit)

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update – July 18, 2024 - 2

- a. This does not require shifting whole style of farming, just implementing new methods on select field(s)
- b. Support regarding how this may work financially from farm collaborators and researchers
- C. Farmers currently using regenerative practices who would like to partner with researchers on this project for three years (~20 participant limit)

[Enroll in project here](#) or with the QR code below.



POTATOES: Mid-Michigan Agronomy Field Day Wednesday, July 31

Mid-Michigan Agronomy will host a field day on July 31, 2024, at their research farm in Marshall, MI. The field day starts at 8 am and will cover some of the potato research being done there. See the flyer for information and other details.

RSVP to:

shannon.schafer@midmichagronomy.com or 517-881-1749

or

robert.schafer@midmichagronomy.com or 517-242-3477

Save the date!

2024 Mid-Michigan
Agronomy Field Day

July 31, 2024
8:00 am

Mid-Michigan Agronomy Potato and
Row Crop Research Farm
18561 G Drive N
Marshall, MI 49068

Feel free to invite your colleagues that are
interested.

RSVP:

Shannon.schafer@midmichagronomy.com or
517-881-1749

Robert.schafer@midmichagronomy.com or
517-242-3477

If you would like to present in front of your trial
please contact Rob.

Van Buren County - South Haven Recycle Roundup

Join us at the South Haven Department of Public Works Facility (1199 8th Ave, South Haven) on Saturday, August 3, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Bring any of these items and proof of Van Buren County residency or land ownership (i.e. drivers license, tax bill): Household hazardous waste (cleaners, lightbulbs, pesticides, batteries, etc.), oil-based paint, paper for shredding, electronics, foam (Styrofoam™/polystyrene), passenger & semi tires (RSVP required)

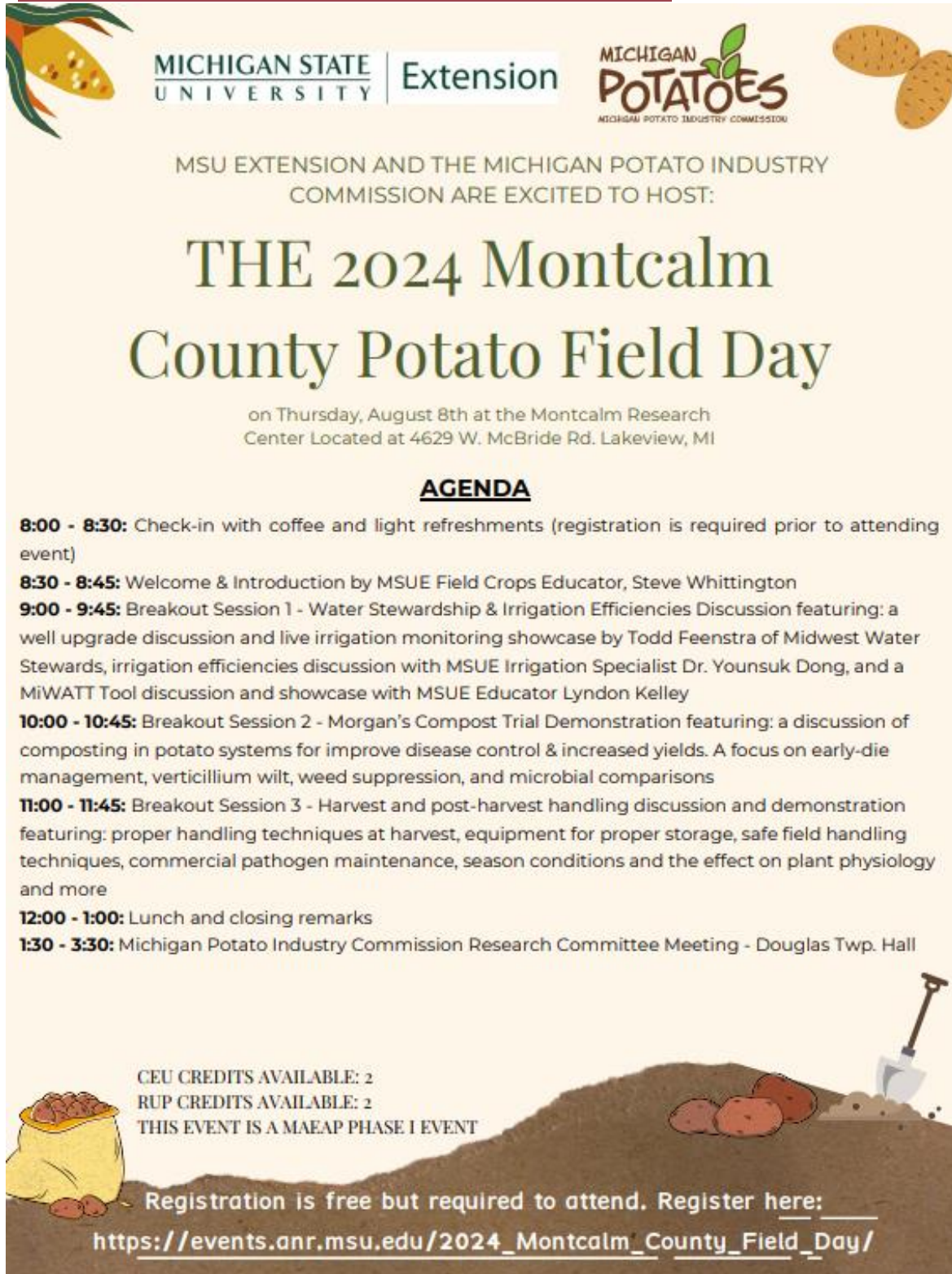
Tire registration is required at least two-days in advance by calling or filling out this [form](#)! Be sure to watch out for follow-up communication!

For questions, contact Recycling Coordinator Kalli Marshall at ResourceRecovery@VanBurenCD.org or by calling 269-633-9314. Check out our other collection events at VanBurenCD.org/van-buren-county-recycling-collections/ including our tire and electronics event in Pine Grove Township on August 15!

POTAOTES: Montcalm County Potato Field Day – Thursday, August 8

MSU Extension and the Michigan Potato Industry Commission (MPIC) will host a field day on August 8, 2024, at the Montcalm Research Center. Check-in begins at 8 am. The MPIC research committee meeting will be held in the afternoon. See the flyer below for an agenda, and more details. Registration is free but it is required to attend.

Register at: https://events.anr.msu.edu/2024_Montcalm_County_Field_Day



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MICHIGAN POTATOES
MICHIGAN POTATO INDUSTRY COMMISSION

MSU EXTENSION AND THE MICHIGAN POTATO INDUSTRY COMMISSION ARE EXCITED TO HOST:

THE 2024 Montcalm County Potato Field Day

on Thursday, August 8th at the Montcalm Research Center Located at 4629 W. McBride Rd. Lakeview, MI

AGENDA

8:00 - 8:30: Check-in with coffee and light refreshments (registration is required prior to attending event)

8:30 - 8:45: Welcome & Introduction by MSUE Field Crops Educator, Steve Whittington

9:00 - 9:45: Breakout Session 1 - Water Stewardship & Irrigation Efficiencies Discussion featuring: a well upgrade discussion and live irrigation monitoring showcase by Todd Feenstra of Midwest Water Stewards, irrigation efficiencies discussion with MSUE Irrigation Specialist Dr. Younsuk Dong, and a MiWATT Tool discussion and showcase with MSUE Educator Lyndon Kelley

10:00 - 10:45: Breakout Session 2 - Morgan's Compost Trial Demonstration featuring: a discussion of composting in potato systems for improve disease control & increased yields. A focus on early-die management, verticillium wilt, weed suppression, and microbial comparisons

11:00 - 11:45: Breakout Session 3 - Harvest and post-harvest handling discussion and demonstration featuring: proper handling techniques at harvest, equipment for proper storage, safe field handling techniques, commercial pathogen maintenance, season conditions and the effect on plant physiology and more

12:00 - 1:00: Lunch and closing remarks

1:30 - 3:30: Michigan Potato Industry Commission Research Committee Meeting - Douglas Twp. Hall

CEU CREDITS AVAILABLE: 2
RUP CREDITS AVAILABLE: 2
THIS EVENT IS A MAEAP PHASE I EVENT

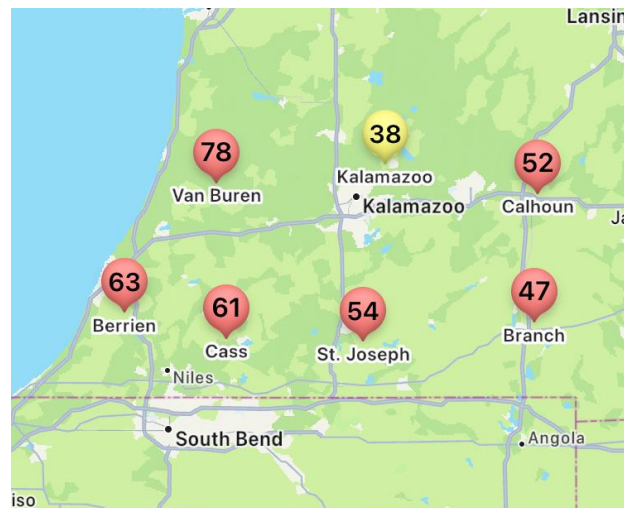
Registration is free but required to attend. Register here: https://events.anr.msu.edu/2024_Montcalm_County_Field_Day/

Field Crops Update

Most **soybeans** range from R2 to R5. According to [Identifying soybean reproductive growth stages](#), R3 begins when any of the four uppermost nodes with a fully developed leaf has one pod of just under 1/4" (3/16" to be precise). At R4, one pod on any of the four uppermost nodes (with a fully developed leaf) is 3/4" long. A soybean enters R5, referred to as beginning seed, when a pod in one of the four uppermost nodes (with a fully developed leaf) has a seed 1/8" long.



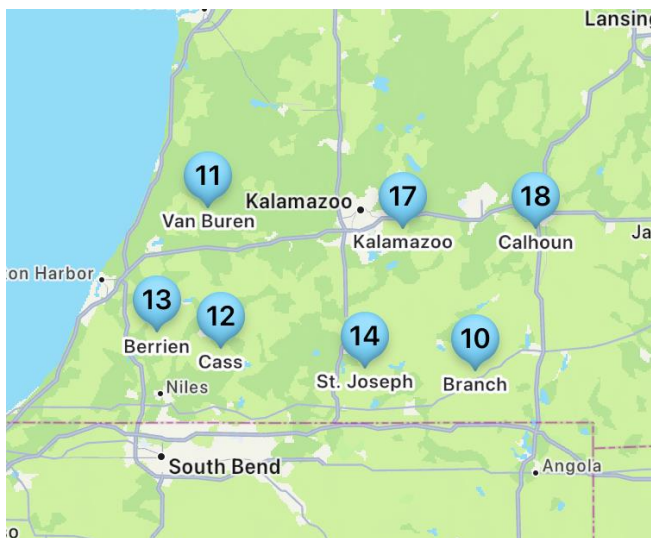
The window for **white mold** application is slowly closing as more soybeans advance through the reproductive stages. For those still between R1 and R3, the Sporecaster app shows high white mold risk in nearly all counties in southwest Michigan for July 18, 2024. Other disease pressures include **bacterial blight** (pictured below) and **septoria brown spot**, although neither are reported to be present at concerning levels.



Many acres of both seed and commercial **corn** had tassels out this week. Seed corn detasseling began a couple weeks ago and continued in earnest this week. Commercial corn is mostly between R1 and R2. R1 is defined as silk outside the husk, and R2, referred to as "blister", has kernels filled with clear liquid.



Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update – July 18, 2024 - 5



Tar spot has been found in Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph Counties so far. This does not necessarily mean that sprays are needed in all those counties. However, it does mean that scouting should be occurring. Focus on areas that might hold moisture, such as western tree lines or standing water under a pivot. Watch for the small black raised lesions of tar spot and use moisture to rub at the spots on the leaf to make sure they are truly lesions and not just insect frass (insect poop). Flip the leaf over to see if the lesion continues to the underside. Check out the article "[Managing Tar Spot in Corn](#)" and today's Virtual Breakfast with MSU pathologist and Extension specialist Marty Chilvers for more information. The Tarspotter app shows low tar spot risk for July 18, 2024.

Western bean cutworm (WBC) moth counts were down this week in most areas. Scout at ear level and above for WBC. Timing and coverage are most important for controlling WBC. Although not causing significant yield loss, it opens the ear up to pathogens and quality issues, particularly **Gibberella ear rot**. The risk model for Fusarium head scab shows that risks for Gibberella ear rot are high right now. Bucket traps in Branch (near Union City), Berrien (near Eau Claire), Cass (near Cassopolis) and St. Joseph (Centreville and Sturgis) Counties have caught the following:



Date	Berrien	Cassopolis	Centreville 1	Centreville 2	Sturgis	Union City 1	Union City 2
6/24	2	0	6	9	0	5	3
7/1	1	81	29	46	29	61	4
7/8	4	123	40	34	22	90	31
7/15	10	57	24	11	16	79	37

Vine rot and pathogen inoculation risks continue in **potatoes**. Vine kill began on some early Russet fields, which puts potential harvest around the first week of August—much earlier than normal.

Alfalfa and **forage** crops resumed cutting and baling activities over the weekend and in the past couple days where possible. The forecast shows several days without precipitation coming up, so this will provide a good window of opportunity for cutting crops that are still standing and baling what has been cut.

Weekly Crop Water Use for Field Crops in Michigan

Estimated weekly crop water use for field crops in Michigan (in/week) Week of July 15 th - 21 st				
Crop	Growth stage	Constantine	Entrican	Hart
Corn	V8	0.71	0.67	0.72
	V10	0.97	0.91	0.97
	V12	1.28	1.20	1.28
	VT	1.40	1.32	1.40
	Silk, Dough, Blister	1.40	1.32	1.40
Soybeans	V3 3rd node	0.77	0.72	0.77
	R1 Beginning bloom	1.28	1.2	1.28
	R2 Full bloom	1.40	1.32	1.40
	R3 Beginning pod/Pod filling	1.40	1.32	1.40

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. For more tools and information on irrigation scheduling tools, please refer to: [Irrigation Scheduling Tools](#).

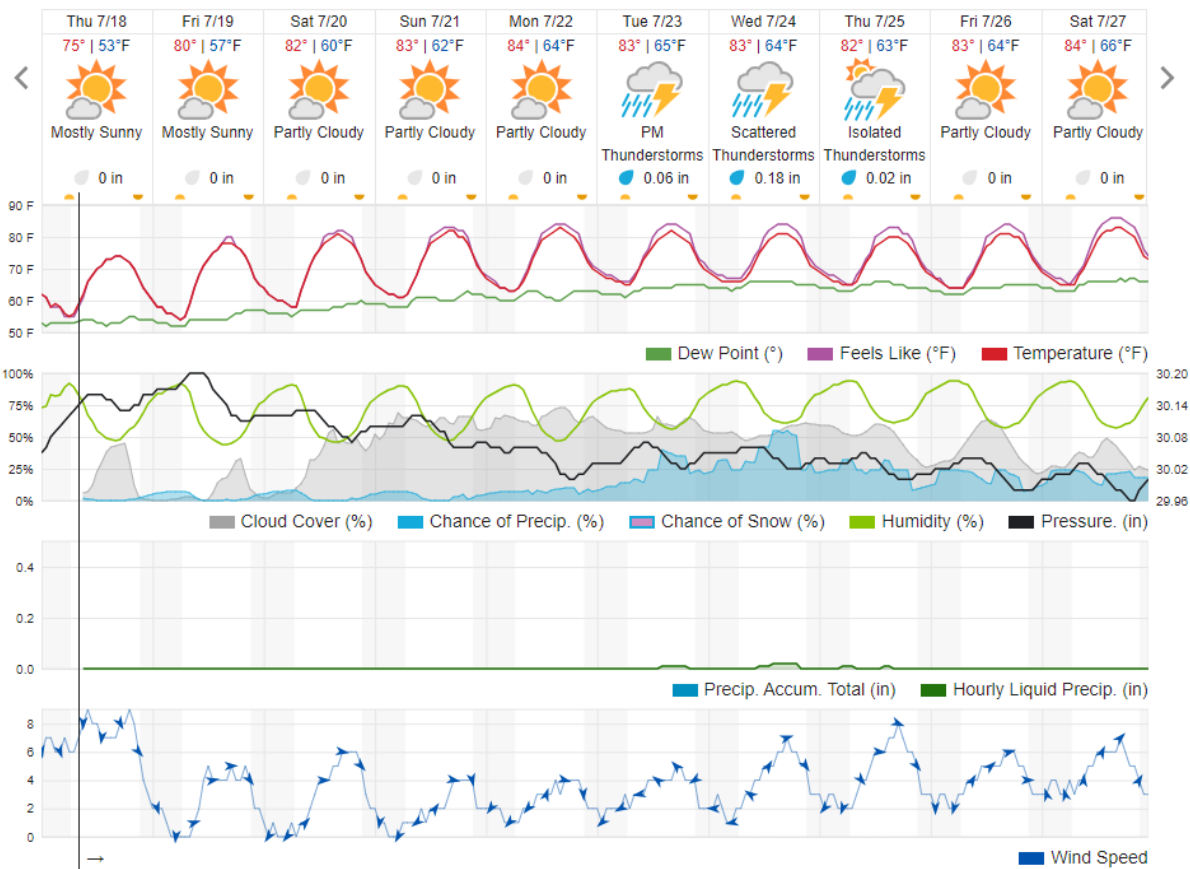
Reference evapotranspiration data was obtained from Enviroweather, which also offers a model for determining potential crop evapotranspiration. To access this tool, visit [Enviroweather](#), click on "Crops," select your crop and use the potential evapotranspiration tool by choosing your nearest weather station, the latest date of interest and other crop information.

Weather Update

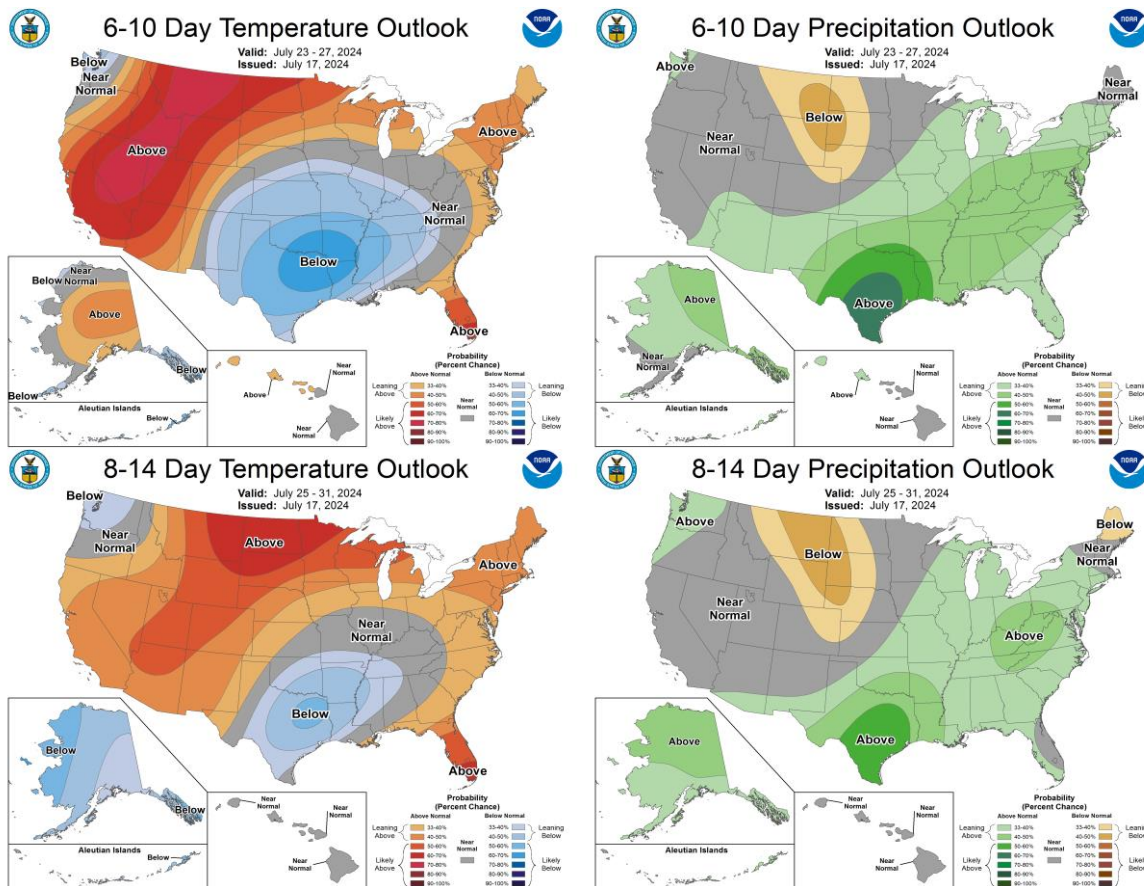
More precipitation early this week (over three inches in some places) further impacted fieldwork and crop health. In the past month, southern Michigan in particular has received between 200-300% more rainfall than normal. Several fields have standing water. As many crops enter peak water uptake, the soil profile will be able to provide that water. Cooler and drier weather is expected throughout the weekend, with the next opportunity for precipitation forecast to arrive Tuesday. As next week continues, temperatures are expected to increase.

For a weekly weather outlook from MSU's Jeff Andresen, join the free [Virtual Breakfast](#) meeting every Thursday through Sept 19. The weather update starts around 7:15 am (after the weekly topic).

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update – July 18, 2024 - 7



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



The 6-10 day (July 23-27, top) and 8-10 day (July 25-31, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

Calendar

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

- July 19** [SW MI No-till Field Day](#). 9:30 am. 93599 County Road 652, Marcellus, MI 49067. Discuss troubleshooting no-till systems, see a soil pit in a long-term no-till field, and learn about soil health indicators. Free event with lunch included.
- July 25** [Virtual Breakfast: Hot Topics](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- Aug 1** [Virtual Breakfast: Cover crops after wheat](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- Aug 8** [Virtual Breakfast: Diagnostic Topics](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- Aug 8** [2024 Montcalm County Field Day](#). 8:00 am. Montcalm Research Center, 4629 W McBride Rd, Lakeview, MI. MSU Extension and the Michigan Potato Industry Commission would like to invite all producers, agribusinesses, and community members to join us for a day on the Montcalm Research Farm!
- Aug 15** [Virtual Breakfast: Field Crops Nematode Update](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- Aug 22** [Virtual Breakfast: Lime](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- Aug 28** [On-Farm Research Field Day—SW MI](#). 9:00 am. Three Rivers, MI. Speakers will share key learnings from past research, and participants will be able to visit fields with current research plots and an interactive pivot performance evaluation.
- Aug 29** [Virtual Breakfast: Maximizing Wheat Yield Potential](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- Sept 5** [Virtual Breakfast: Drought-proofing Agriculture w/ Drainage Water Recycling](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- Sept 5** [KBS Long-Term Agroecosystems Research Field Day](#). 9:00 am. Kellogg Biological Station, 9693 N 40th St., Hickory Corners, MI 49060. This field day will focus on field crops, soil health and regenerative agricultural practices.
- Sept 12** [Virtual Breakfast: Grain Marketing](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.

Sept 19 **Virtual Breakfast: Late Season Weed Control.** 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

PUBLISHED ON JULY 17, 2024

- **FARMERS NEEDED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON MICHIGAN FIELD CROPS FARMS** - A statewide MSU research project is now accepting enrollment.

PUBLISHED ON JULY 11, 2024

- **HELP! MY ALFALFA FIELD MAY BE SLOWLY STARVING!** - Because potassium top dressing for alfalfa was less than recommended for many during times of high fertilizer prices in previous years, return on investment may be positive for potassium on alfalfa fields.
- **SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN FIELD CROPS UPDATE - JULY 11, 2024** - Large rainfall accumulations halted fieldwork and resulted in standing water in many fields. Most soybeans reached reproductive stages, and low levels of tar spot were confirmed in Branch County.
- **AN INTRODUCTION TO REGENERATIVE FIELD CROP AND GRAZING SYSTEMS** - The need for more resilient food and farming systems has never been greater, causing more people to consider regenerative agricultural practices to improve productivity, profitability, and environmental outcomes.

PUBLISHED ON JULY 09, 2024

- **PREVENTING DEATH AND INJURY THROUGH GRAIN BIN SAFETY AND RESCUE TRAINING FOR FARMERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS** - Impact report regarding safety and rescue training efforts for grain bin safety.

PUBLISHED ON JULY 08, 2024

- **MANAGING TAR SPOT IN CORN** - The start of the 2024 season has seen weather favorable for tar spot development, and reports of disease are starting to come in. Read on to understand the risk and what you can do to combat this disease.
- **ADJUSTING MARKETING STRATEGIES WITH OLD CROP GRAIN STILL ON-FARM** - Strategies to help you proactively market grain from two growing seasons.
- **IMPROVING IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY AND ANNUAL WATER USE REPORTING** - Impact report regarding irrigation efficiency and water use reporting.

PUBLISHED ON JULY 03, 2024

- **EARLY SUMMER CROP WATER NEEDS** - Effective early water management involves applying irrigation only when necessary to give the crop a strong start, while considering that over-irrigation can lead to losses of crop inputs.
- **WHEAT WATCHERS WEEK OF JULY 1, 2024** - See how the wheat crop is progressing across the state this week.

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)