



Indiana Crop &

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 27

Widespread rains provided much needed relief for fall crops according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Rainfall was widely varied, missing some areas while dumping up to 6 inches in others. Heavy rains in the northern region of the state slowed wheat harvest. Many areas of the state are still in need of rain, as soil moisture conditions continue to decline. Activities during the week included harvesting wheat, baling straw and hay, and keeping livestock cool.

CORN AND SOYBEANS

Corn condition is rated 66 percent good to excellent, 26 percent fair, and 8 percent poor to very poor. Forty percent of the corn acreage is **silking**, ahead of 32 percent last year, but behind 62 percent for the 5-year average. Sixty-five percent of the soybean acreage is **blooming**, well ahead of 30 percent last year and equal to the 5-year average. Fifteen percent of the crops are **setting pods**, ahead of the 5-year average of 2 percent. Podding had not begun at this time last year. **Condition** of the soybean crop is 65 percent good to excellent, 27 percent fair, and 8 percent poor to very poor.

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat **harvest** is 89 percent complete, ahead of 85 percent last year but 1 percent behind the 5-year average for this date. Harvest is virtually complete in all but the northern region, where only 64 percent of the crop is harvested.

OTHER CROPS

Pasture condition was rated 6 percent excellent, 40 percent good, 38 percent fair, 12 percent poor and 4 percent very poor. Second cutting of **alfalfa** is 53 percent complete, behind 62 percent last year and the 5-year average of 69 percent.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 4.5 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 8 percent very short, 23 percent short, 55 percent adequate and 14 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 5 percent very short, 24 percent short, 61 percent adequate and 10 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Alfalfa 2nd Cutting	53	40	62	69
Corn Silked	40	7	32	62
Soybeans Blooming	65	49	30	65
Soybeans Podding	15	0	0	12
Wheat Harvested	89	76	85	90

CROP CONDITION

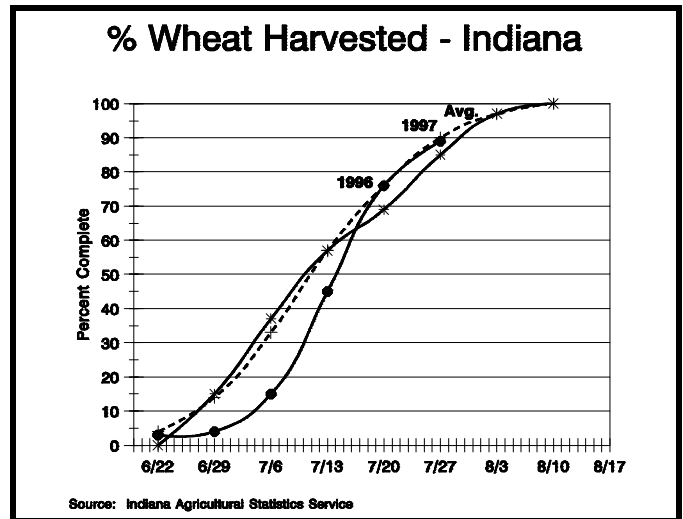
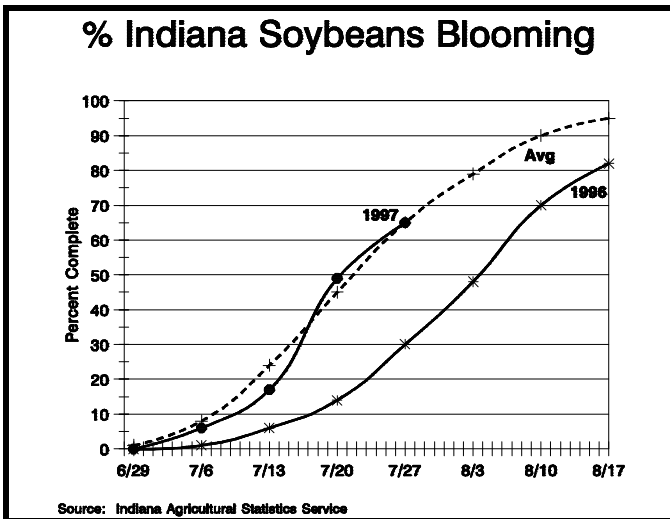
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	2	6	26	55	11
Soybeans	2	6	27	53	12
Pasture	4	12	38	40	6

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	8	13	2
Short	23	48	12
Adequate	55	38	70
Surplus	14	1	16
Subsoil			
Very Short	5	6	2
Short	24	32	15
Adequate	61	61	71
Surplus	10	1	12

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
 --Lance Honig, Agricultural Statistician
 E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
<http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html>

Crop Progress

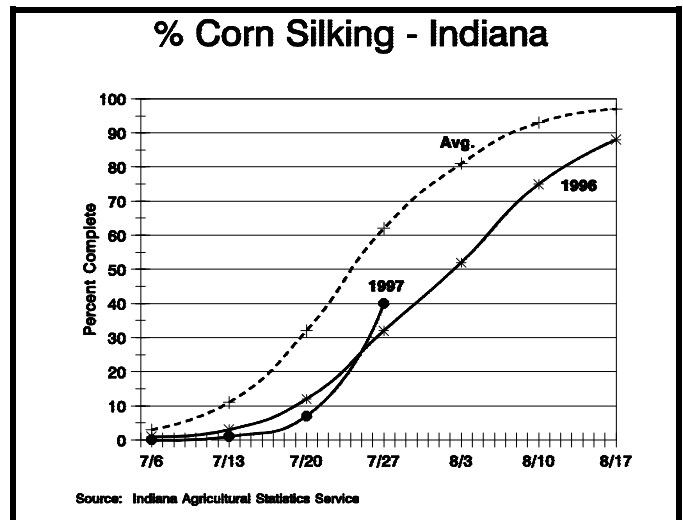


Corn Rootworm Beetles and Silk Damage

- Early or late pollinating corn may attract rootworm beetles
- Numerous beetles in corn doesn't mean that economic silk clipping damage will occur
- Determine level of silk clipping and pollination before making control decisions

Sporadic pollination of corn throughout an area may attract significant numbers of rootworm beetles to certain fields. Pollen is a favorite food of the rootworm beetle and fresh silks covered with pollen seem to stimulate beetle feeding. Silks are often cut during the feeding process and the clipped silks are what is most often noticed by producers and others. Certainly, silk clipping is something to be concerned about if pollination is still taking place. However, it is important to remember that just because you have beetles in a field, and there could be lots of them, it doesn't mean that they are clipping silks at a level that will economically interfere with pollination.

Over the past several years we have been in fields with high numbers of beetles, many over 20 per plant, and have seen little to no silk clipping. Back in the 70's it was not uncommon for producers to treat fields that had five or more beetles per plant to reduce the possibility of silk clipping. However, through observations that we and others made during the 70's, we found that beetle numbers were meaningless when trying to gauge the potential for economic damage. Since that time, we have used the management threshold of silks being clipped back to one-half inch or less from the tip of the ear before 50% pollination, and beetles still present and actively clipping.



To determine if pollination has taken place, look at the silks. If the silks are starting to naturally turn brown at the tips, pollination has taken place (insect feeding on the tips can cause a browning appearance, so don't confuse this with the natural browning). If this is not the case and the silks are still green, the erectness of the silks is an indication that pollination is not yet complete. If, however, the silks are flaccid and curling at the ends this is usually an indicator of completed pollination.

Probably, the best way to determine the stage of pollination is to examine several ears to see if the silks have separated from the developing corn kernels. Carefully remove the husks from around the ear (making a slit with your knife from the tip of the ear to the butt of the ear and carefully removing the husks beginning at the slit may make this easier). Be careful

(Continued on Page 4.)

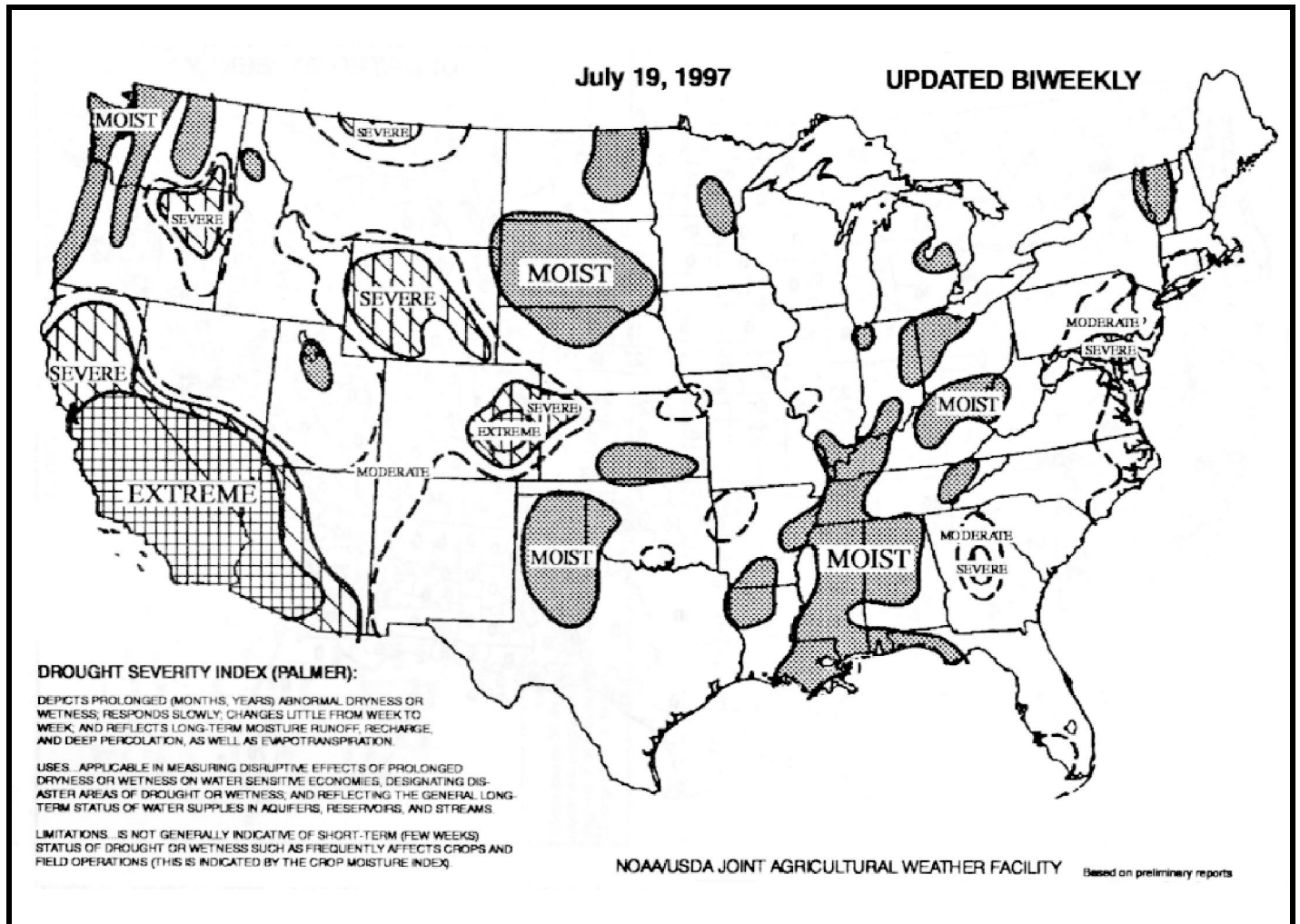
Average Daily Values for week ending Monday morning July 28, 1997

Area	Station	Air Temperature			Precipitation			Growing Degree Days		
		Max	Min	DN	Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1	Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1

Weather Table & Maps Unavailable

The above information is provided by Ken Scheeringa, Indiana State Climatologist (765)494-8105
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Drought Severity (Long Term Palmer)



Damage (continued)

not to pull the silks from the kernels once you reach the silks and ear. Once all the husks have been removed, take the butt of the ear and hold it where it is pointing up. Now shake the ear. The silks that have naturally detached from the fertilized kernel will fall away from the ear. The silks that still remain have either not been fertilized or have, but the silks have not fully separated from the kernel. It normally takes approximately 1 to 2 days for this detachment to occur. Since the first silks to emerge are from the butt of the ear, these will fall off first.

As producers evaluate their corn fields for rootworm beetle activity, they should keep the above in mind. Remember that \$12+ per acre spent on a rootworm beetle treatment that is not needed is false economics. Also, it could represent a threat to the environment as well. However, if control is necessary, see Extension Publication E-49, Managing Corn Rootworms-1997, for suggested products.

--Rich Edwards, John Obermeyer, and Larry Bledsoe, Purdue University

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