

Pest & Crop newsletter

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service and USDA-NIFA Extension IPM Grant

This work is supported in part by Extension Implementation Grant 2017-70006-27140/ IND011460G4-1013877 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

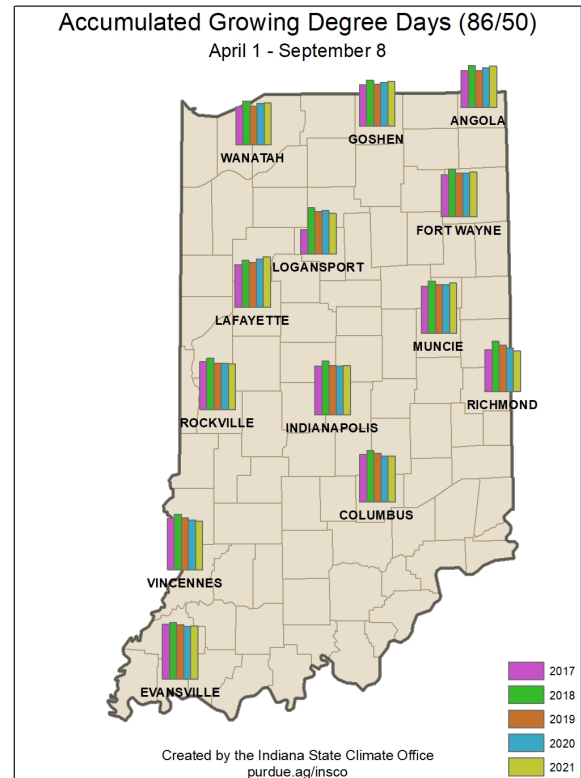
In This Issue

- [Above-normal temperatures returning by next week](#)
- [Learning to Identify Plants is a Worthy Skill](#)

Above-normal temperatures returning by next week

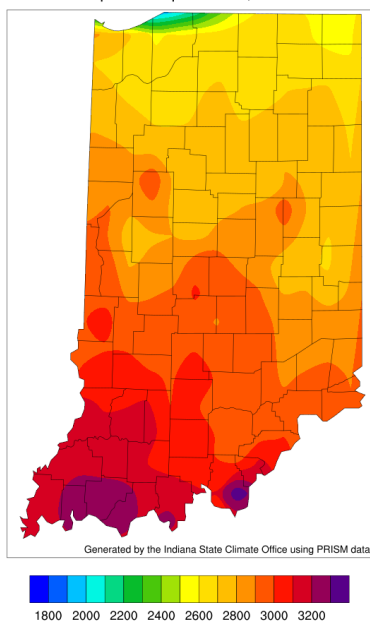
(Beth Hall)

Enjoy these cooler, drier September days while you can. Climate outlooks from the national Climate Prediction Center are strongly favoring above-normal temperatures for the 6-to-10-day period of September 14th through 18th. Precipitation outlooks are slightly favoring above-normal conditions, but will then shift to drier-than-normal conditions. This should mean fewer muggy days with lower heat index values. The average September temperatures across Indiana – based upon the 1991-2020 period – range in the 60s with daytime highs between 75°F and 80°F. Therefore, even if the climate outlook holds true, above-normal temperatures in September should be more tolerable than in July or August.



Growing Degree Day (50 F / 86 F) Accumulation

April 1 - September 7, 2021



Modified growing degree-day (MGDD) accumulations since April 1 currently range from slightly above around 2500 units in northern Indiana to slightly over 3200 units in southern Indiana (Figure 1). This is around 80 to 140 units above normal in the northern part of the state and 50-100 units below normal in the southernmost counties. Figure 2 show comparisons of this year's MGDD accumulations compared to recent years.

Beth Hall

Indiana State Climate Office

Learning to Identify Plants is a Worthy Skill

(Keith Johnson)

Plants are around us no matter where you live. I am challenged with plant identification as an agriculturalist and enjoy learning to identify plants that are not in production agriculture, too. This week I was asked to help a producer identify a weed growing in a recently seeded orchardgrass field. Purslane was the plant in question. An email request was shared this week with me about identifying plants in a pasture that may have caused several beef cattle deaths. Did poisonous plants or another concern cause cattle deaths? Learning how to identify plants is a worthy skill.

It is the policy of the Purdue University that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue is an Affirmative Action Institution. This material may be available in alternative formats. 1-888-EXT-INFO Disclaimer: Reference to products in this publication is not intended to be an endorsement to the exclusion of others which may have similar uses. Any person using products listed in this publication assumes full responsibility for their use in accordance with current directions of the manufacturer.

Too many of us learned how to identify poison ivy from the unfortunate contact we had with it on a hike or learned how to identify it from someone else that felt itchy discomfort. Some individuals have taken an interest in foraging out food resources in the great outdoors. They took time to learn what was edible, would cause a stomach ache, or even death if a plant or parts of a plant made it to their mouths and swallowed. One cannot be most effective in controlling a pesky plant in a field where there are desirable plants without identifying the pesky plant. Can the problematic plant be controlled with cultivation, or crowded out with proper fertilization and reduced grazing pressure? What herbicides will best control the weed without doing harm to the desired plants?

Early in my career, I would identify plants with library-type books, field guides and plant identification keys. When using a key, it is imperative that you learn plant morphology terms first or the key will have little value. Decades later, I still find these resource materials useful but there are abundant online resources and a few great apps that can help narrow down what the plant in question may be.

At the Purdue University Crop Diagnostic Training and Research Center there are over 40 large tile rings planted singly to common Midwest USA forages. Most impressive are the over 300 tile rings (by my guesstimate) that have a weedy-type plant in each ring. The hours of time taken by Diagnostic Training Center staff to manage the plants in the rings in a year are many; the value the rings give helping educate agriculturalists about plant identification and management is immense.



Many forage species at the Purdue University Crop Diagnostic Training and Research Center are used for identification education. Photo contributed by Keith Johnson, Purdue University Extension Forage Specialist

Keith Johnson, Purdue University Extension Forage Specialist