

Pest & Crop Newsletter

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
and USDA-NIFA Extension IPM Grant



This work is supported in part by Extension Implementation Grant 2021-70006-35390 / IND90001518G-1027053 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and NCR SARE Award GNC20-131

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Corn Earworm (CEW) Trapping Updates

(Laura Ingwell)

For those of you with late plantings of sweet corn or field corn that is still in the late stages of silking, do not let your guard down! We are still recording high trap catches throughout the state. Almost every reporting location (except for the Purdue Student Farm) is catching a nightly average of moths exceeding the action threshold of 10 moth per night. It is no time to skip an application of insecticide, despite how alluring that may be this time in the season when we are all growing weary of long days in the field. We may even be seeing record trap catches during my time managing this monitoring network, with our research farm in Tippecanoe County capturing 1,268 over the weekend (an average of 422 per night!). Be sure you are sticking with a rotation in the application of your products. While I have not had any direct reports, some of my colleagues in other states monitoring resistance of CEW to pyrethroids begin to see this creep into the population late in the season. As always, you can keep an eye on our trapping network by clicking [here](#). And, in case you have forgotten, below are some photos of the variation found in the caterpillars (Fig. 1) and the adult moth (Fig. 2).



Figure 1: Corn earworm caterpillar variation in color. (Photo Credit: John Obermeyer)



Figure 2: Corn earworm adult, wings expanded, over corn silks. (Photo Credit: John Obermeyer)

Hot For August's End, Little Rain In Sight

(Jacob Dolinger)

Pattern changes, like the one we've experienced in the middle of the month, are quite typical for August. The humidity decreases a bit, the soils dry out, and sometimes, like we've recently experienced, the temperatures drop quite dramatically. It can be refreshing and exciting for Fall lovers to experience some crisp, cool air in mid-August.

That being said, it's always too soon to rule out more summer heat—especially when the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting a very likely chance of above normal temperatures for August 27-31 (Figure 1). In fact, NWS HeatRisk, an experimental product developed by NWS, is already forecasting category 2-3, moderate-major heat-related impacts starting Monday, August 26 and continuing through at least Tuesday, August 27. This means those who are sensitive to heat should reevaluate any outdoor work until the heat subsides. And not only is the CPC forecasting above normal temperatures in the near-term, but the monthly outlook for September is leaning toward above normal temperatures for Indiana as well.



Figure 1: the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting with confidence above normal temperatures for the rest of the month of August for Indiana and surrounding states.

On the flip side, there is almost no precipitation in the forecast across the Hoosier State through the end of the month (Figure 2). It appears that most of the state will receive 0.1 inches of precipitation, at best. While there are currently no drought conditions across Indiana, those with stakes in soil moisture should continue to monitor conditions

heading into the drier months, especially since D0 conditions (abnormally dry) have started expanding across northern Indiana (Figure 3).



Figure 2: Pattern changes mean drier conditions for Indiana through the end of August. At best, the state will see 0.10 inches of precipitation.

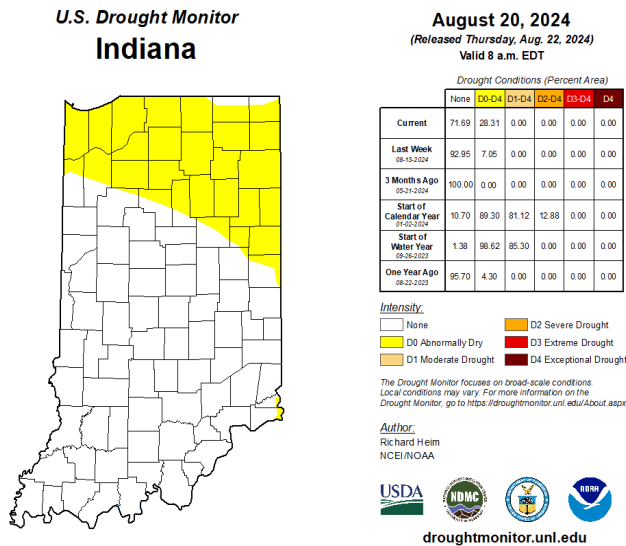


Figure 3: Abnormally dry conditions have been introduced for the northern third of Indiana.

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Speaking of soils and agriculture, growing degree days remain above normal across the state. Since April 1, the entire state has been above normal, and in some places by upward of 200-250 units (Figure 4).

Growing Degree Day (50 F / 86 F) Departure From Average

April 1 - August 21, 2024

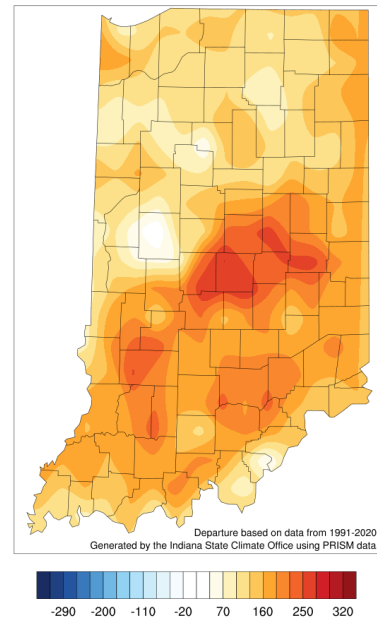


Figure 4: Growing Degree Days continue to remain above normal, even as the season comes to a close.