

Pest & Crop Newsletter

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
and USDA-NIFA Extension IPM Grant



This work is supported in part by Extension Implementation Grant 2021-7006-35390 / IND90001518G-1027053 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and NCR SARE Award GNC20-311

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Alfalfa Weevil Management Guidelines

(Christian Krupke)

Pest managers throughout Indiana should be scouting their alfalfa for leaf feeding from weevil larva. Growing degree day estimates (see map below) indicate that hatch has begun in almost the entire state.

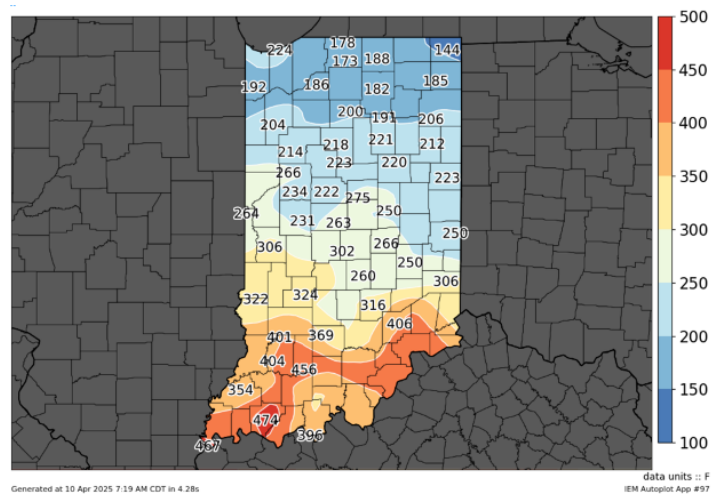
Alfalfa weevils are a consistent pest that is highly cold tolerant. Many alfalfa fields will require treatment to manage the larvae. As discussed in this newsletter 2 weeks ago, pyrethroid insecticides are still largely effective, but not bulletproof – resistance has been reported from parts of the US where alfalfa is grown most intensively and weevils are more consistently exposed to insecticides over a larger area.

With this in mind, it is good practice to do a post-treatment survey for live weevil larvae after spray applications. Remember to rotate chemistries (**even varying the pyrethroid of choice is better than doing the same thing every year**). There are also non-pyrethroid options for the control of this pest. See the alfalfa weevil management recommendations, [here](#).

Refer to the following table and map below for alfalfa weevil development and action steps in your area.

Alfalfa Weevil Management Guidelines Southern Indiana

Heat Units	% Tip Feeding	Advisory
200		Begin sampling. South facing sandy soils should be monitored earlier.
300	25	Re-evaluate in 7-10 days using the appropriate HU or treat immediately with a residual insecticide if 3 or more larvae are noted per stem and % tip feeding is above 50%
400	50	Treat immediately with a residual insecticide.
500	75	Treat immediately.
600	75+	If cutting delayed more than 5 days, treat immediately.
750		If harvested or harvesting shortly, return to the field in 4-5 days after cutting and spray if 1) there is no regrowth and weevil larvae are present OR 2) feeding damage is apparent on 50% of the stubble and weevil larvae are present.



Generated at 10 Apr 2025 7:19 AM CDT in 4.28s

data units :: F
IEM Autopilot App #97

Map generated by: Iowa Environmental Mesonet

https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/topics/pests/?state=IN&pest=alfalfa_weevil&sdate=2025-01-01&station=IN0177

Your Input Needed: Resilient Agricultural Practices And Priorities

(Christian Krupke)

Increasing interest in practices like cover cropping and soil health includes challenges across a range of agronomic factors, including pest management.

To help assess what's important to our clientele and improve the focus of our research and extension programs, we're requesting your input on a short survey – it should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and it is anonymous. Thank you for your time!

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8uAHZaj8Qlcwepg

A Redefining Of April Showers

(Beth Hall)

There is the common adage “April showers bring May flowers”. Apparently, Mother Nature utilized a rather liberal definition of “showers” last weekend and the end of last week by dumping over seven inches of rain in southern Indiana. This has pushed the 30-day percent of normal across most of the state over 200 percent – or double what is climatological normal for that period (Figure 1).

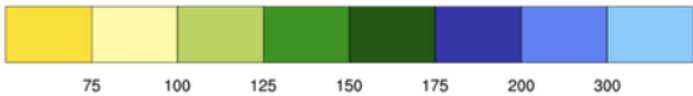
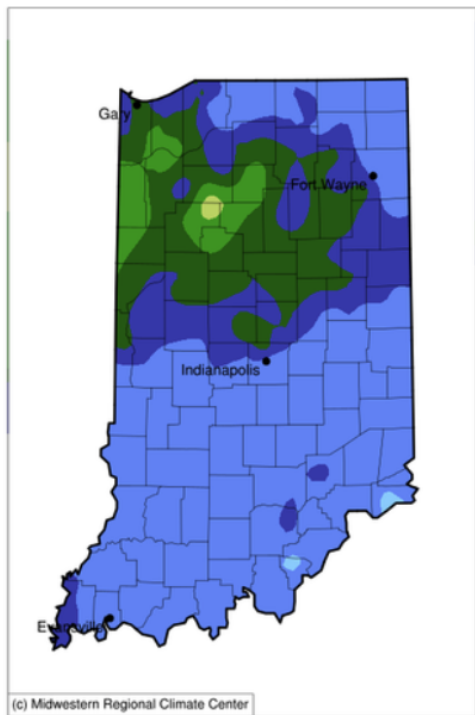


Figure 1. Precipitation presented as the percentage of normal for the period March 11 through April 9, 2025.

One might think this would mean all of Indiana would be void of any drought or even areas classified as 'Abnormally Dry (D0)'. But alas, that is not the case for several reasons. Figures 2 and 3 show the U.S. Drought Monitor map based on data through April 1st and April 8th, respectively. While all the Abnormally Dry (D0) areas from the April 1st map has been removed for April 8th, the area that was previously labeled Moderate Drought (D1) is now Abnormally Dry (D0). Why not remove everything? First, the 90-day precipitation amounts compared to normal are still slightly below normal in the current Abnormally Dry (D0) area. Granted, a 90-day period is considering conditions from a while back in time but could still cause impacts in the broader scope of water management and planning. The other reason is that the classification of Abnormally Dry (D0) is often used as a transition indicator, suggesting conditions are either progressing toward drought or away from drought. Therefore, given the copious amount of rain recently experienced across the state, one can certainly argue that where there was Moderate Drought (D1) previously, conditions are improving.

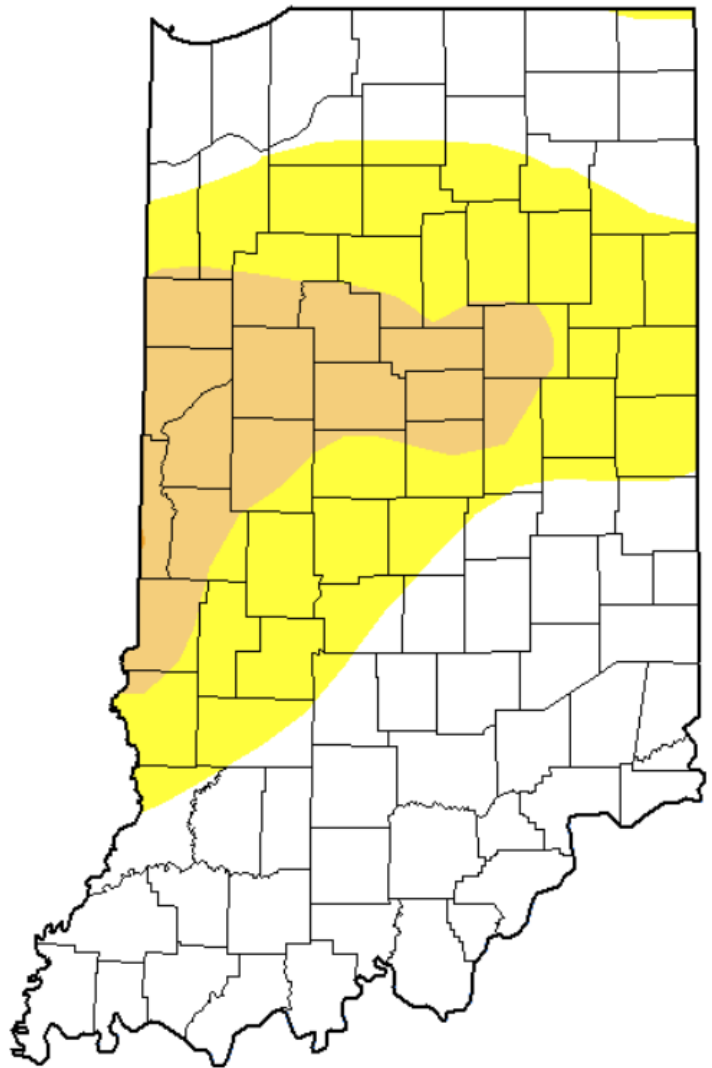
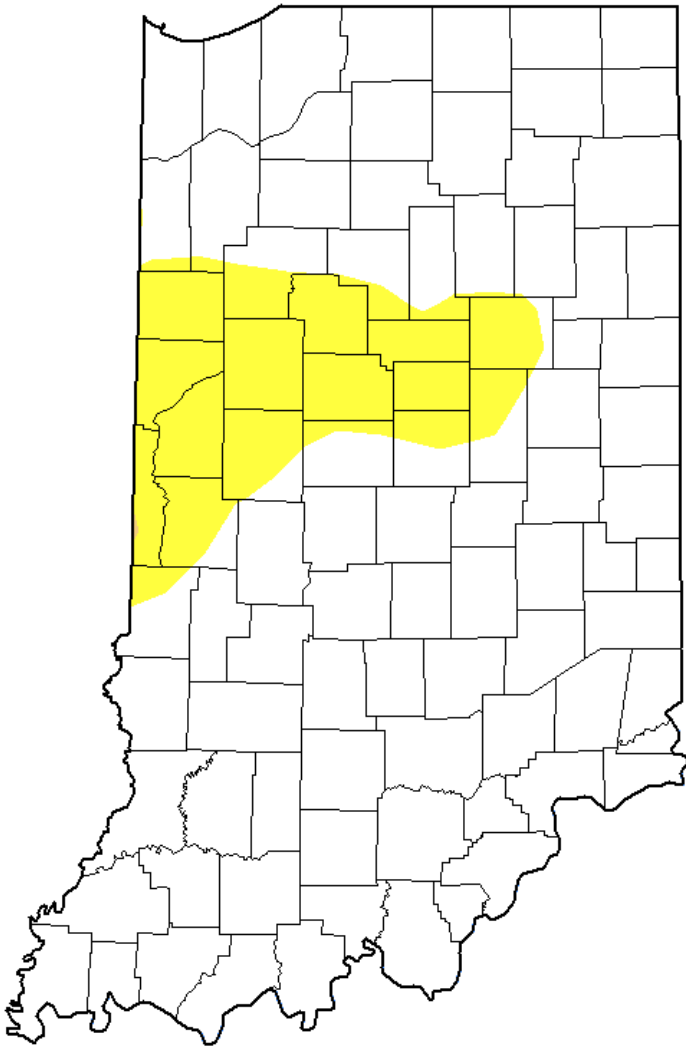


Figure 2. U.S. Drought Monitor representing conditions through April 1, 2025. Yellow indicates conditions are Abnormally Dry (D0); brown indicates conditions are in Moderate Drought (D1).

Figure 3. U.S. Drought Monitor representing conditions through April 8, 2025. Yellow indicates conditions are Abnormally Dry (D0); brown indicates conditions are in Moderate Drought (D1).



Looking ahead, the 7-day precipitation totals are expected to be less than half an inch across the state with the higher range more likely in the southern counties. Beyond 7 days out to April 23rd, temperatures are favored to be cooler than normal with slight probabilities of precipitation being above normal. There is a slight risk of an extreme cold event throughout most of Indiana (except for far northern counties) April 17-18 and a slight risk of heavy precipitation in southwestern counties April 17-19.

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