Issue: 2025:26
August 29, 2025

Pest & Crop Newsletter

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
and USDA-NIFA Extension IPM Grant

PURDUE UNIVERSITY | Extension - Entomology

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 GNC20-311

In This Issue

Mid-season Insect Pests In 2025: Survey Results

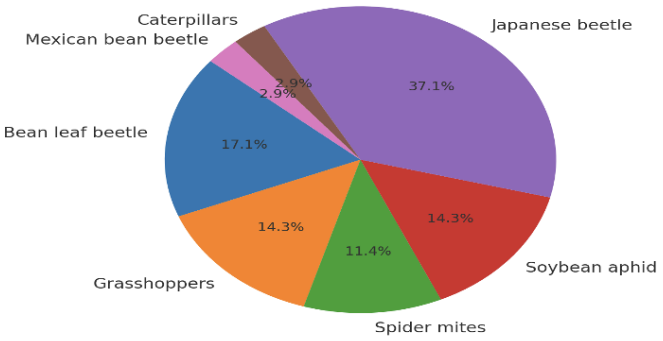
(Christian Krupke)

About a month ago, we published an article asking readers for input on what pests they were seeing and what levels of economic damage may be out there in corn and soybean fields. The results are presented below:

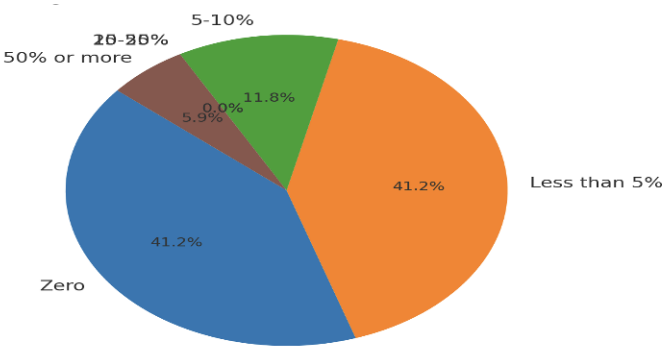
Do you scout for mid-season insect pests?

26=Yes 4=No

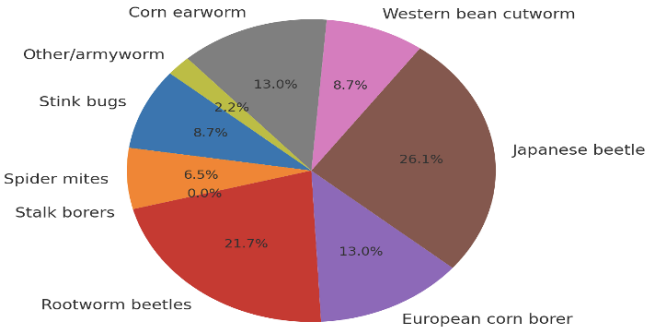
Q1: Which pests are commonly found causing crop damage during mid-season scouting of soybeans (check all that apply)?



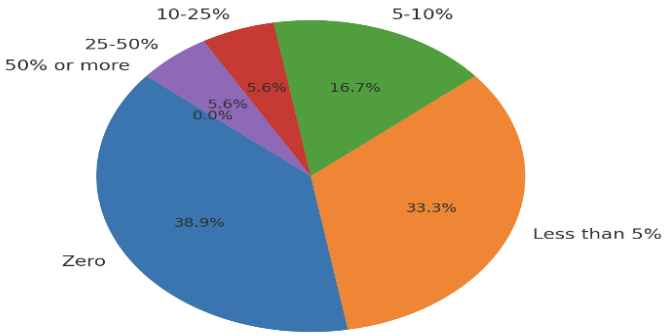
Q2: What percentage of soybean fields that you scout exhibit mid-season insect damage over threshold?



Q3: Which pests are commonly found causing crop damage during mid-season scouting of corn (check all that apply)?



Q4: What percentage of corn fields that you scout exhibit mid-season insect damage over threshold?



Looking over these results, a couple of key points occurred to me:

- First, Japanese beetles are clearly the big player in both crops (#1 in both). Although these generalist feeders are common in virtually any environment (including homes, parks, gardens, etc.) during July and into August, they are usually restricted to cropping field borders because they frequently pop back and forth between multiple potential hosts – they are not restricted to corn or bean fields.
- The second key point are the very low overall damage levels in both corn and soybeans. Roughly 40% of both are estimated to have no treatable (above threshold) levels of damage. When we include the “below 5%” category as well, we have roughly 70-80% of corn and soybean fields included with a low likelihood of damage at this time of year. This is encouraging from a crop health point of view, and matches up with anecdotal reports and what we see in our research trials – even when we are trying to encourage and promote pest infestations, it’s difficult to get those numbers up over economic thresholds. A very different story than 15-20 years ago! Pest numbers are

down, and although all of the reasons behind the trend are not clear, these trends offer an opportunity to save time and money when it comes to insect pest management.

Will 90°F Temperatures Return: A History Of Late-Season Heat In Indiana

(Jacob Dolinger)

Cooler temperatures are here to stay, for now. Low temperatures have bottomed out in the low to mid-50s across northern Indiana in recent days, with isolated pockets of temperatures in the 40s. That's 5-10°F below normal for low temperatures across the northern half of the state. High temperatures have also been below normal, with highs staying in the 70s just in time for Labor Day Weekend, despite normal high temperatures for much of the state usually still in the low 80s.

That's welcome news for anyone who has struggled with what has been one of Indiana's most humid summers on record. In Lafayette, the dew point temperatures rose to 75°F or above for 122 hours so far this year, the fifth most of any summer since dew point observations began in 1996. In Terre Haute, dew point temperatures at or above 75°F were observed for 464 hours—the most of any summer since records began there in 1996. The reason 75°F is chosen as a benchmark is that it is when humidity is considered oppressive.

So, after this summer of humidity, it's worth getting a little excited about fall weather. Some folks may be wondering, though: is that all? What's the chance of more summer heat? It's certainly not unheard of. While oppressive dew points become considerably less likely in September and October, the actual air temperature can rise well into the 80s and even 90s in early Autumn. Indianapolis observed 90°F+ temperatures on September 19 and September 21, 2024—just in time for the astronomical Fall. In 2019, temperatures rose to 92°F from September 30 to October 2 in Indianapolis. Even as far north as South Bend, temperatures at or above 90°F have been observed in September in 18 of the past 25 years, and once in October in 2019. It's essential to note that many of these 90°F observations in September have occurred right around or just after the Autumnal Equinox (usually September 22), which leaves plenty of time this year for such heat to occur.

Even with all of these historical data in mind, just because the temperature doesn't reach 90°F doesn't mean it won't feel hot heading through September and October. The threshold that constitutes above normal temperatures—aka "heat"—changes heading into the Fall. Since the normal high temperatures in the state fall below 80°F for much of September, it only takes a few days of temperatures a few degrees above 80°F and a dew point temperature around 70°F for it to feel summery. For the folks hoping for a final stretch of summery weather, you may be in luck: the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) has a likely chance of above normal temperatures from September 6-19.

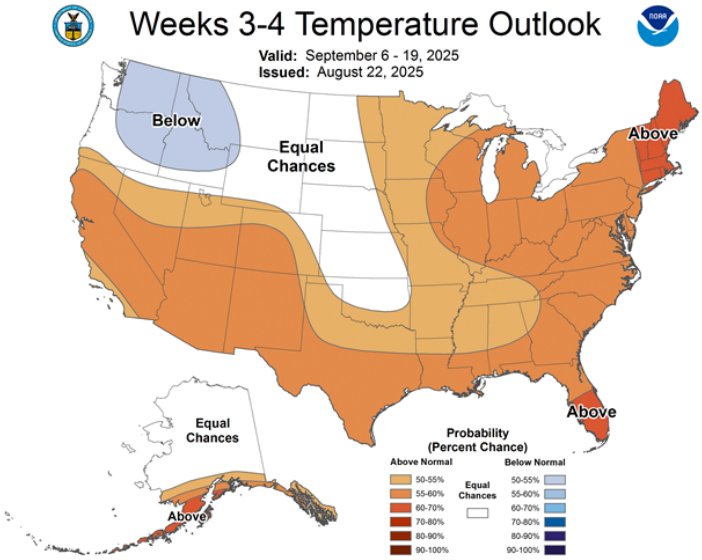


Figure 1: The CPC displays a 55-60% chance of above normal temperatures for much of the eastern and southern U.S. heading through mid-September.

Pest&Crop newsletter © Purdue University - extension.entm.purdue.edu/newsletters/pestandcrop
Editor: Tammy Luck | Department of Entomology, Purdue University, 901 Mitch Daniels Blvd, West Lafayette, IN 47907