

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update July 2, 2026

Here are updates from the MSU Extension Field Crops team in Southwest Michigan. If you have any items you would like me to include in future email updates - whether events you want others to know about or topics you would like to have addressed - please send an email or call the St. Joseph County Extension office.

Contents:

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FREE Pivot System Evaluations through the Mobile Irrigation Lab

The mobile irrigation lab is looking for more pivot systems to evaluate! If you have one or more pivots and are interested in a free system evaluation, sign up here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/irrigation/mobile-irrigation-lab>

Michigan adopts the new National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual

The [Michigan Pesticide Safety Education Program \(PSEP\)](#) at Michigan State University has adopted the English version of the newly released National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual Third Edition (2025), developed by the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative (PERC). The new manual became available for purchase through [Michigan State University Extension](#)'s online [Pesticide Safety Study Manual Site](#) on May 1, 2026. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) will begin administering certification examinations based on the new manual effective Aug. 1, 2026. Read more [here](#).

FREE 2026 Summer Irrigation Workshop July 30 9 am to 2:30 pm

Join Michigan State University Extension at the Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners for a hands-on irrigation field workshop focused on improving irrigation timing, efficiency, and decision-making in Michigan field crop systems. Please pre-register: <https://pears.io/events/msuext/7527/>



The poster is for the 2026 Summer Irrigation Workshop. It features a dark green background with a faint image of an irrigation system. At the top left is the Michigan State Irrigation Lab logo, and at the top right is the Michigan State University Extension logo. The main title '2026 SUMMER IRRIGATION WORKSHOP' is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below the title, a white box contains a description of the workshop. To the right, a yellow box contains registration information, a QR code, and the text 'Free - Lunch provided!'. Below the description, a yellow box lists the topics. To the right of the topics, a white box contains the date, time, and location. At the bottom, a white box contains logos for various sponsors.

MICHIGAN STATE Irrigation Lab

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

2026 SUMMER IRRIGATION WORKSHOP

Join Michigan State University Extension for a hands-on irrigation field workshop focused on improving irrigation timing, efficiency, and decision-making in Michigan field crop systems.

Register:
<https://pears.io/events/msuext/7527/>



Free - Lunch provided!

Topics:

- Hands-on Texture Testing (Bring your soil sample!)
- How to Test Pressure, Flow Rate and Uniformity - Mobile Irrigation Lab Demo
- Trade Show and TAPS Tour
- Soil Moisture Sensors and Basic Irrigation Scheduling Concepts
- Variable Rate Irrigation and Fertigation
- Irrigation Safety
- Future of Michigan Irrigation Roundtable

Credits: 2 RUP, 2.5 CCA (SW)

July 30th
9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Location
KELLOGG BIOLOGICAL STATION
10461 N 40th, Hickory Corners, MI 49060

Sponsors:

- Project GREEN
- Sentek
- croptx
- komet
- MSUTAPS
- MICHIGAN SOYBEAN COMMITTEE
- Farm SERVICES
- Michigan Irrigation

Montcalm County Potato Field Day August 6 from 9:45 am to 1 pm

MSU Extension and the Michigan Potato Industry Commission would like to invite all producers, agribusinesses, and community members to join us for the Potato Field Day at the Montcalm Research Farm!



MSU Enviroweather is Now an App!

Access MSU Enviroweather from the comfort of your own phone with the new app. Check out this video to see how to use Enviroweather—both the app and the website: [Innovative Agronomy Tools: Enviroweather](#).

Crop and Pest Update

Soybeans are generally between V6 and early reproductive stages (R1–R2) across southwest Michigan. As fields enter reproductive growth, reviewing labels is key as R1 is the cut-off for glufosinate and R2 is the cut-off for glyphosate applications. **Corn** across the region is between V7 and V9, with some earlier-planted fields approaching V10. Corn growth has accelerated with warmer temperatures this week following the slower development reported in mid-June. [Tar spot has been detected in central Indiana](#), but current corn growth stages are still ahead of the optimum timing for a single fungicide application.



Western bean cutworm moth traps in Berrien, Van Buren and St. Joseph counties recorded 13, 11 and 15 moths, respectively. These numbers indicate that moth flight is underway but remain well below levels that would warrant management decisions. Peak flight is still ahead, so prepare to monitor trap reports and scout earliest planted fields that will enter late whorl stage to early tasseling first during peak flights in the next few weeks.

Winter wheat has reached Feekes 11.3-11.4 as kernels continue to mature and fields move toward harvest. Recently, warm weather have progressed dry down, however upcoming rain may delay harvest and increase the threat of preharvest sprout. Dennis Pennington urges folks to “begin harvesting those fields when grain moisture drops to 19% to 20%” to reduce risk for pre-harvest sprout. ([Read more of Dennis’ tips for preparing for a successful wheat harvest this year in this recent Farm Progress article](#))



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Potatoes are in full bloom and with the combination of high temperatures, humid conditions, and dense canopies foliar disease development risks are high. Fields should be monitored closely for blight and other fungal diseases.



This week was perfect for second-cut **alfalfa** and **forage** haymaking across the region.



Irrigation and Water Use

Warmer temperatures this week have increased crop water demand, with evapotranspiration (ET) reaching approximately 1.30 to 1.60 inches per week across the region. Corn at the V8 growth stage is using about 0.80 inches of water per week, while soybeans at the V4–V5 growth stage are using approximately 1.20 inches per week.

Potatoes in the blossom and tuberization stages remain at peak water demand, requiring about 1.50 inches of water per week.

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Low to moderate rainfall is expected this week, but it may not be sufficient to meet crop water needs in all areas. Continue monitoring crop growth stages, soil moisture conditions, recent rainfall, and weather forecasts when making irrigation scheduling decisions.

This year, [weekly crop water use updates](#) will continue to be shared through the SW MI Crop Updates, and for added convenience, updates will also be sent through direct email and text messages. Sign up [here](#). If you would like to see an additional location included in the report, please contact Angie Gradiz at gradizme@msu.edu or 531-249-4956.

Estimated Weekly Crop Water Use for Field Crops in Michigan (in/week)

Week of June 29 - July 5, 2026

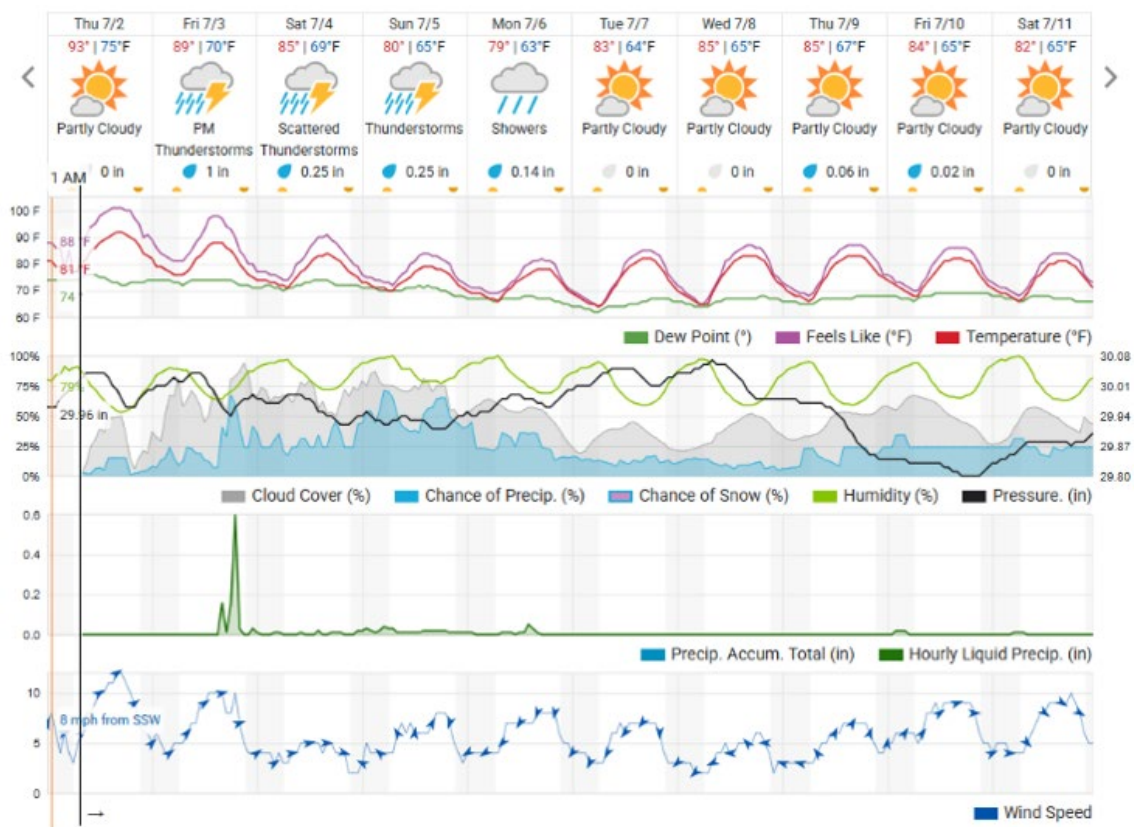
Crop	Growth stage	Crop water use (in/week)			
		Constantine	Berrien Springs	Entrican	Hart
	Reference ET	1.53	1.61	1.47	1.34
Corn	V6	0.54	0.56	0.51	0.47
	V8	0.86	0.90	0.82	0.75
	V10	1.16	1.22	1.12	1.02
Soybeans	V3	0.92	0.97	0.88	0.80
	V4-V5	1.19	1.26	1.15	1.05
	R1	1.53	1.61	1.47	1.34
Potato	Tuberization	1.53	1.61	1.47	1.34
	Blossom	1.53	1.61	1.47	1.34
	Tuber bulk	1.39	1.47	1.34	1.22

Weather Update

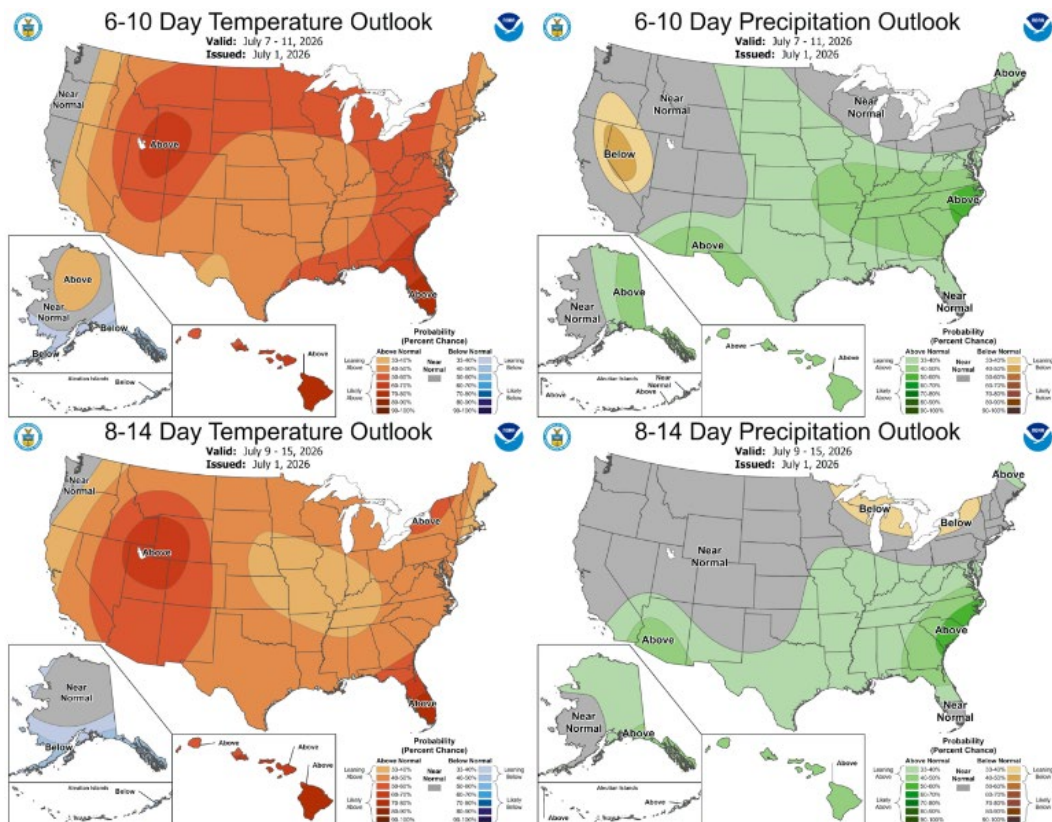
This past week, most of Michigan was in an extreme heat warning with high heat and high humidities leading to heat index values up to 110. Precipitation fell late last week and into the weekend, ranging from about 0.10 inches to over 1.5 inches across the southwest region.

Thunderstorms are expected to hit Friday (July 3rd) and will carry into the weekend with scattered storms expected. Next week should cool down by an average of 10 degrees.

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Ten-day weather forecast for Kalamazoo according to wunderground.com.



The 6-10 day (July 7-11, top) and 8-14 day (July 9 - 15, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

Calendar

[Note: Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined.]

- Jul 9** **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Irrigation Mgmt Considerations.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.
- Jul 16** **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Insect Management.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season. **1 RUP**
- Jul 23** **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Field Drainage and Water Management.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.
- Jul 23** **Verona Green Pasture Walk.** 6:00-8:00 pm. Bad Axe, MI. Join us for a pasture walk!
- Jul 30** **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Late Summer and Fall Cover Crops.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.
- Jul 30** **2026 Summer Irrigation Workshop.** 9 am-2:30 pm. Kellogg Biological Station. This irrigation-focused workshop is designed to bring producers, stakeholders, industry professionals, and researchers together for a day of hands-on learning and collaboration. **2 RUP, 2.5 CCA**
- Aug 6** **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Hot Topics!.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season. **1 RUP**
- Aug 6** **Montcalm County Potato Field Day.** 8:45 am-1pm. Montcalm Research Center. Hands-on education on irrigation and storage handling. Then enjoy a cold drink, dig through potato varieties, and learn one-on-one from peers and researchers during Dig'n'Drinks (new!). **RUP**
- Aug 11** **Michigan Agricultural Irrigation Water Use Efficiency Program.** 10:00-1:00 pm. MSU Dairy Cattle Teaching Center. Join the Michigan Agricultural Irrigation Water Use Efficiency Program for an in-field demonstration on August 11, 2026.
- Aug 13** **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Nematode Management.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season. **1 RUP**
- Aug 20** **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Establishing New Hayfields.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.
- Aug 27** **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Irrigation Investment Economics.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals

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and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.

- Sep 3** **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Farmland Valuations.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.
- Sep 10** **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Precision Agriculture.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.
- Sep 17** **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Late Season Weed Control.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

MSU Extension Field Crops Virtual Breakfast to feature irrigation management on July 9

Published on July 2, 2026

The 2026 Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series continues July 9 with guest speaker Younsuk Dong, irrigation specialist for Michigan State University.

When temperatures soar, MSU Extension has answers to help you keep cool

Published on July 1, 2026

MSU Extension's expert guidance and resources can help Michiganders navigate the impacts of extreme heat at home, on the farm, and outdoors.

Heat stress prevention among farmers heading into Michigan's summer

Published on June 29, 2026

A tragic case study of fatal heat stroke illustrates why acclimation, rapid cooling and proactive employer prevention plans are necessary to save lives when high temperatures and physical labor combine.

Thinking about making a postemergence herbicide application in soybeans approaching flowering?

Published on June 25, 2026

Farmers need to consider several restrictions to avoid crop injury and stay on label when making postemergence herbicide applications in soybeans.

Insect friend or foe? Brown insect with triangular head and tent-like wings

Published on June 25, 2026

Several brown lacewings have been spotted this year already. Are they agricultural friends, foes or something in-between?

Southwest Michigan field crops update – June 25, 2026

Published on June 25, 2026

Rainfall and cool temperatures slowed down fieldwork and plant development.

EPA seeks public comment on draft fungicide strategy to protect endangered species

Published on June 24, 2026

The 60-day public comment period ends on June 29, 2026.

Field crop fundamentals - Forage crop uses explained

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Published on June 24, 2026

Depending on your farming goals, forage crops can be used in different ways, opening different markets, opportunities and benefits.

Making high residue work in regenerative farming: How to reduce risks and protect yield

Published on June 23, 2026

While regenerative practices aim to improve soil, water, nutrient cycling and biodiversity, they also come with challenges. Learn key insights on how to navigate and implement these different principles.

Field days, workshops and webinars for farmers transitioning to organic

Published on June 23, 2026

Sign up now to learn from organic farmers.

Did your county trigger 2025 insurance payments from SCO and ECO?

Published on June 22, 2026

Yield was a major factor in which counties received payments.

Nutrient removal rates in harvested grain: corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, dry beans and canola

Published on June 18, 2026

Nutrient removal by harvested portions of grain crops is an important consideration in deciding fertilizer rates.

Protecting the farm: Medicaid and what farmers should know recording now available for viewing online

Published on June 18, 2026

Watch the recorded webinar to learn more about Medicaid planning within farm estates.

Southwest Michigan field crops update – June 18, 2026

Published on June 18, 2026

Side dress nitrogen continued as weather permitted. Wheat kernels are at milky ripe to dough stages.

MSU Extension's Summer Irrigation Workshop returns July 30

Published on June 18, 2026

Join Michigan State University Extension on July 30 for hands-on demonstrations, field tours and practical irrigation management strategies to improve water use efficiency.

Alternaria leaf spot of sugarbeet

Published on June 17, 2026

Alternaria alternata (Fr.) Keissl. and *Alternaria brassicae* (Berk.) Sacc.



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