

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update June 18, 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:

- Announcements
- Crop and Pest Update
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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>

NEW Mini-video Series Highlighting Free Agronomy Tools Online

The [Innovative Agronomy Tools Mini-video Series](#) highlights several free tools and resources on equipment, farm business, on-farm research, pesticides, pests, soil health and fertility, and weather. Being able to innovate and adapt is important for farm success, but it can be overwhelming to make changes. A good tool or resource should make your life easier in some way. It might inform decision-making, simplify calculations or analyze and organize data in a practical way. It should be user-friendly, affordable and reliable or trustworthy. This series is not an exhaustive list but a starting point.



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/>



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





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](#).

Host a Refrigerated Trailer for Deer Management at No Cost to You

Your deer management activities can help Michiganders in need! All deer will be processed and donated to Michigan food banks. If you farm in Branch, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph or Van Buren Counties and interested in hosting a trailer this summer **please contact Dave Laing at (269) 858-8167.**



= 160 Servings

Farmers: Donate Venison with a Refrigerated Trailer*

Courtesy of the Hunters Feeding Michigan program, farmers can reserve refrigerated trailers at no cost to donate harvested deer. All deer will be processed and donated to Michigan food banks, at no cost to you. Your deer management activities can help Michiganders in need!

Free Trailer Reservation Includes:

- ✓ Trailer drop-off and pickup at farm
- ✓ Processing of donated deer
- ✓ Venison distribution to local food banks



If you farm in Branch, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph or Van Buren Counties and interested in hosting a trailer this summer please contact Dave Laing at (269) 858-8167



Monetary donations for deer processing can be mailed to:
330 Marshall St., Suite 103, Lansing, MI 48912
Payable to: Food Bank Council of Michigan
Memo: Hunters Feeding Michigan



*Due to added disease testing costs, trailers will not be provided in counties of known Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Bovine

Crop and Pest Update

Early planted **soybeans** are at V4-5. Once soybeans reach V2-3, nodules are easily visible on roots. This is a good time to check on nodulation, especially if the plants seem yellower, stunted or less robust than expected. For more information on evaluating soybean nodulation, check out “[Evaluating nodulation in soybeans](#)” from PennState Extension.



Early planted **corn** is at V6-7. Side dress nitrogen continued to go out in corn as weather and field conditions permitted. Significant water and nitrogen uptake starts around V6 and continues through pollination.



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Winter wheat is at Feekes 11.1 (kernel milky ripe) and 11.2 (soft dough). Some fields are experiencing premature canopy senescence due to previous dry weather, leaf infection or plant stress. Early yellowing or browning of foliage can reduce grain fill and affect test weight.



Potatoes are in various stages of bloom and row closure. Overly wet soil conditions can cause lenticels to swell and burst, opening up wounds in the tuber where pathogens can enter.



Alfalfa and **forage** regrowth is looking good. **Potato leafhopper** adults and nymphs may be in fields. Potato leafhopper is an especially difficult pest because visible symptoms (v-shaped yellowing at leaf tips, referred to as hopperburn) don't appear until after it is too late to correct them. For comprehensive potato leafhopper threshold tables based on product cost and hay price, check out [potato leafhopper from Iowa State University](#).



Irrigation and Water Use

- Corn at V4–V6 is using approximately **0.20 to 0.40 inches of water per week**. After V6, crop water use increases rapidly and can exceed **0.60 inches per week**.
- Soybeans at V3–V5 are using approximately **0.60 to 0.85 inches of water per week**, with water demand continuing to increase as the crop develops.
- Potatoes in the tuberization and blossom stages continue to have a high-water demand, requiring **more than 1 inch of water per week**.
- Many areas of Michigan have received significant rainfall over the past several days. Where these rainfall amounts were received, they should be sufficient to meet crop water requirements in the short term.

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- Continue monitoring crop growth stages, soil moisture conditions, and weather forecasts when making irrigation decisions, as water demand will continue to increase with crop development.

Recent storms across Michigan have also caused damage to irrigation equipment in some areas. Because irrigation systems represent a significant investment, now is a good time to review your insurance coverage and determine whether storm-related damage to irrigation equipment is covered under your policy. Understanding coverage details before damage occurs can help avoid unexpected costs and delays during the growing season. Learn more about irrigation system insurance considerations in [this article from MSU Extension](#).

This year, [weekly crop water use updates](#) will continue to be shared through the southwest Michigan 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.

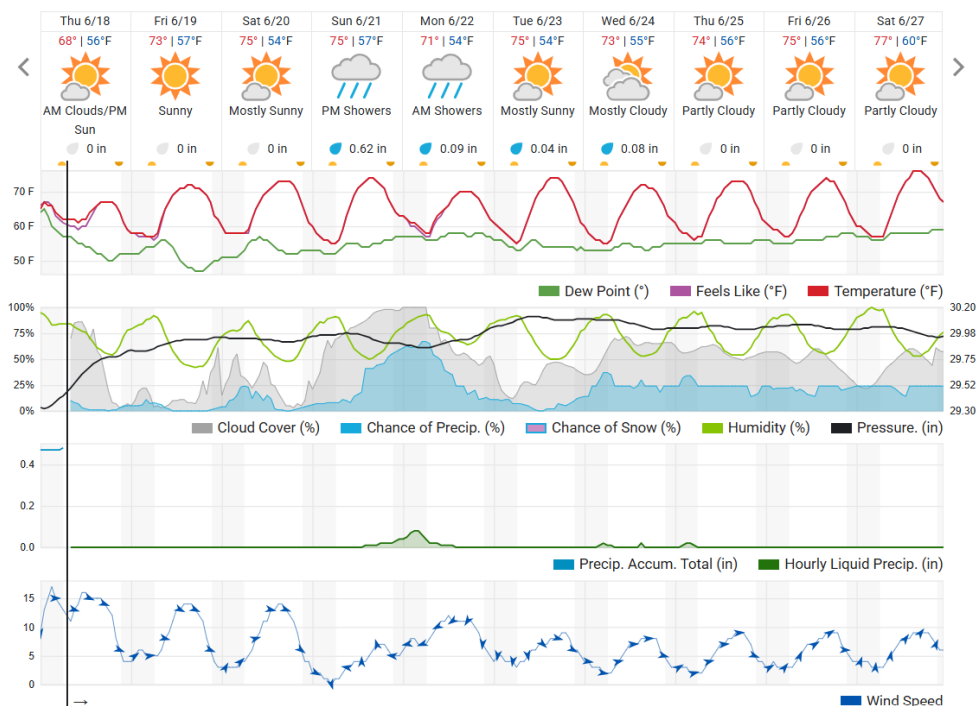
Estimated Weekly Crop Water Use for Field Crops in Michigan (in/week)

Week of June 15 - 21, 2026

Crop	Growth stage	Crop water use (in/week)			
		Constantine	Berrien Springs	Entrican	Hart
	Reference ET	1.08	1.04	1.02	0.95
Corn	V4	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.17
	V6	0.38	0.36	0.36	0.33
	V8	0.60	0.58	0.57	0.53
Soybeans	V2	0.43	0.42	0.41	0.38
	V3	0.65	0.62	0.61	0.57
	V4	0.84	0.81	0.80	0.74
Potato	Early vegetation	0.54	0.52	0.51	0.48
	Tuberization	1.08	1.04	1.02	0.95
	Blossom	1.08	1.04	1.02	0.95

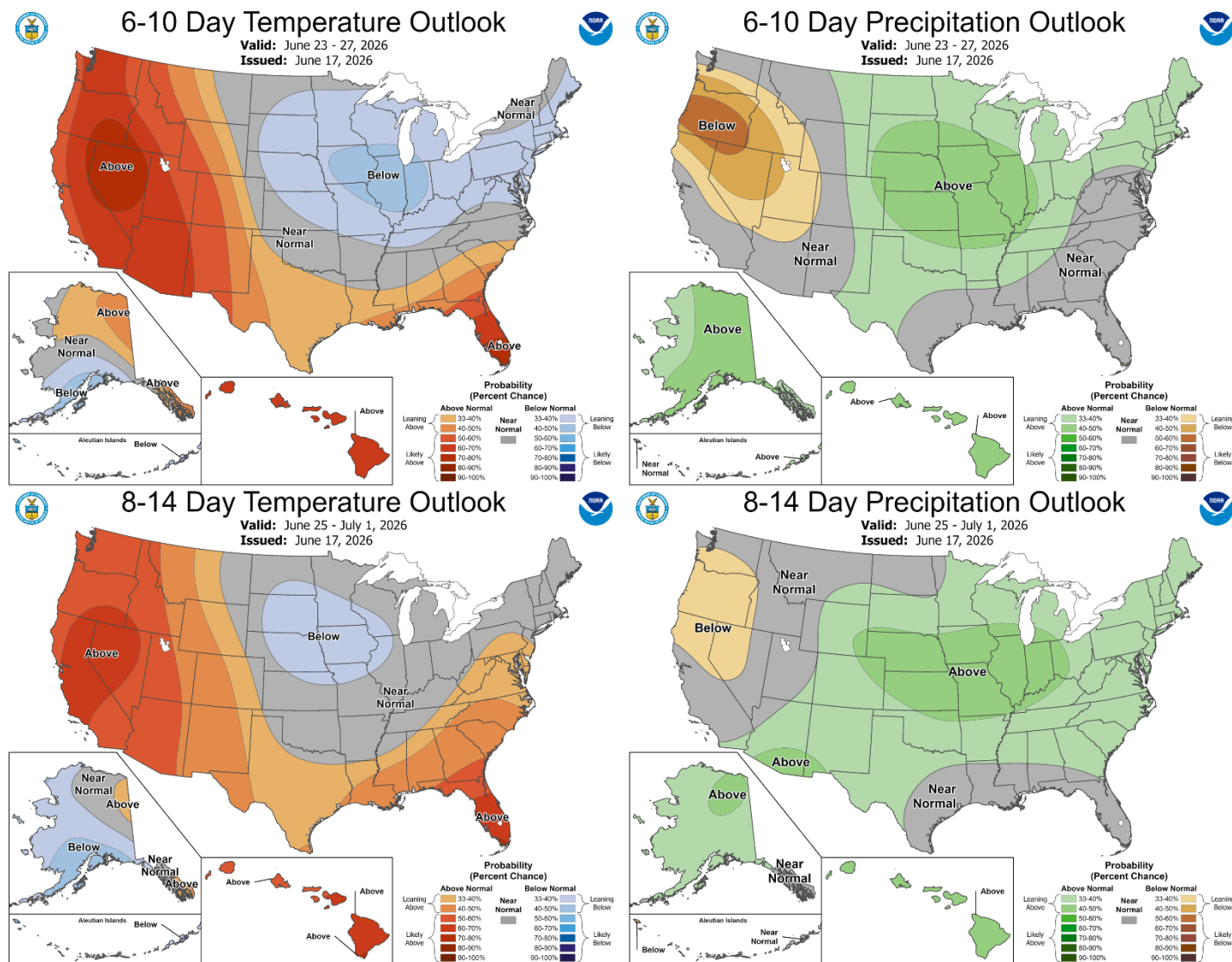
Weather Update

Storms late last Thursday, June 11, with high winds caused damage to trees, houses, irrigation systems and some crops. Temperatures cooled considerably and have remained low into this week. Several evenings with rainfall brought the total weekly precipitation to just under 2 inches for the Constantine Enviroweather station. Hail in the middle of the week shredded leaves and caused a range of crop damage in parts of the region. Sunday, June 21, is the next chance for significant precipitation, and temperatures will remain cool throughout the upcoming week.



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

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The 6-10 day (Jun 23-27, top) and 8-14 day (Jun 25 - July 1, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

Calendar

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

- Jun 25** **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Corn and Soybean Disease Mgmt.** 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 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 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 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 and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

Michigan adopts the new National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual

Published on June 17, 2026

Michigan pesticide applicators will transition to updated training materials and certification exams designed to reflect current federal pesticide safety, stewardship and regulatory competency standards.

Cercospora leaf spot of sugarbeet

Published on June 17, 2026

Cercospora beticola Sacc.

Michigan's H-2A wage offers in first half of Fiscal Year 2026

Published on June 16, 2026

Recent changes have important implications for Michigan growers, especially those hiring workers for harvest, equipment operation, trucking, packing and other tasks.

Corn and soybean disease update on the Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series

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Published on June 15, 2026

Field crops pathologist Martin Chilvers will offer tips on staying ahead of tar spot, white mold and more during the Virtual Breakfast Series on June 25.

Wheat Watchers Week of June 8, 2026

Published on June 11, 2026

See how the wheat crop is progressing across the state this week.

Southwest Michigan field crops update – June 11, 2026

Published on June 11, 2026

Sidedress nitrogen is starting to go out in early planted corn. Wheat kernels are milky white, and full bloom started in potatoes.

Not ready for no-till? Exploring the reduced tillage spectrum

Published on June 11, 2026

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

Innovative agronomy tools and resources: Weather

Published on June 9, 2026

Innovation and adaptability are important for farm success. Explore these free tools and resources on weather forecasting and crop management.

Innovative agronomy tools and resources: On-farm research

Published on June 9, 2026

Innovation and adaptability are important for farm success. Explore these free tools and resources to access regional on-farm research data.

Innovative agronomy tools and resources: Farm business

Published on June 9, 2026

Innovation and adaptability are important for farm success. Explore these free tools and resources that can help improve farm business management and networking.

Innovative agronomy tools and resources: Pesticides

Published on June 9, 2026

Innovation and adaptability are important for farm success. Explore these free tools and resources on pesticide products, certification and safety.

Innovative agronomy tools and resources: Soil health, conservation and fertility

Published on June 9, 2026

Innovation and adaptability are important for farm success. Explore these free tools and resources on improving soil health, conservation and fertility practices and decision-making.

Innovative agronomy tools and resources: Pests

Published on June 9, 2026

Innovation and adaptability are important for farm success. Explore these free tools and resources on improving pest forecasting, identification and monitoring.

Innovative agronomy tools and resources: Equipment

Published on June 9, 2026

Innovation and adaptability are important for farm success. Explore these free tools and resources that can help improve farm equipment performance.

Overview of Lady Bird Deeds in Michigan

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Published on June 8, 2026

Explore the use of a Lady Bird Deed for your estate.

Making customer connections in soil health with the Soil Health Service Provider Directory

Published on June 4, 2026

Formerly the Cover Crop Service Provider Directory, this expanded directory makes it easier for farmers in Michigan to access soil health services.

Upcoming MSU events to bolster the sustainability of your farm

Published on June 4, 2026

Field days and workshops highlight research-based ideas to maximize return on investment and solve problems on the farm.

Wheat Watchers Week of June 1, 2026

Published on June 4, 2026

See how the wheat crop is progressing across the state this week.

Bringing in a community context for regenerative agriculture: Connecting farms and lakes

Published on June 4, 2026

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

Southwest Michigan field crops update – June 4, 2026

Published on June 4, 2026

Sporadic potato flowering began. Great progress was made on planting and field work.

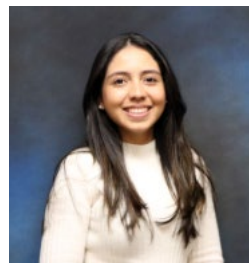
Michigan's annual wheat field day returns June 16

Published on June 2, 2026

The Michigan Wheat Program's annual summer field day will be Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at the MSU Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center.



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