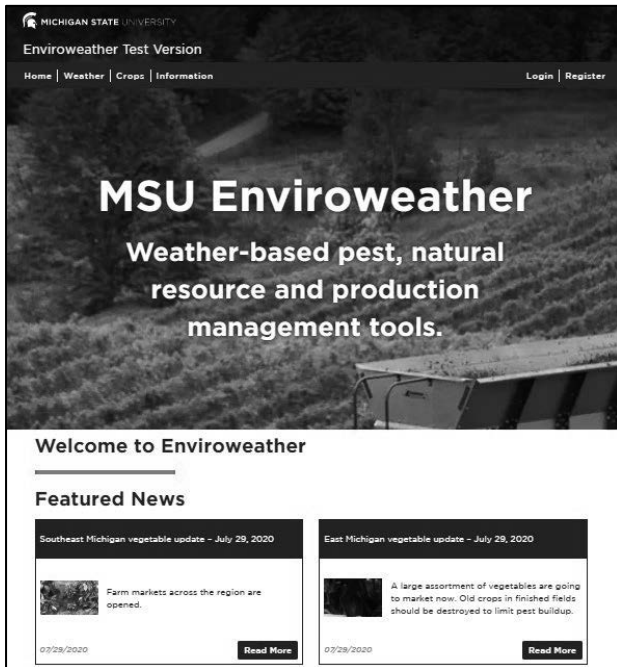


Enviroweather: Tools for Pest, Disease and Production Management



Do you need current weather information for your farm? Would you like to know when to schedule management activities for pests and diseases? Enviroweather can help.

Enviroweather is a free online resource that provides Michigan growers, farm managers, crop scouts and consultants access to local weather information and a suite of weather-based tools available to help manage a variety of crops. These tools include summaries of weather conditions, models that predict insect, disease and crop development and water-use tools.

The Enviroweather program unveiled a publicly accessible demo version of our newly redesigned website in August 2020, and that website was tested and improved during 2021. For the 2022 growing season, the old Enviroweather website will be retired. That means the Enviroweather web address (enviroweather.msu.edu) will take you to the newly developed website. The existing "old" or "legacy" website will remain running in the background so that users can access the legacy site from links on the new site. This arrangement will allow users to switch back and forth between website versions as needed, and this will also make it easier to become familiar with the layout and functions of new website.

You should expect to see some subtle changes in the website over time as we continue to develop some features. We are still in the process of adding some of our models to the new website, so models and applications that are not yet developed for the new site will link to models on the legacy website. The legacy website will remain accessible through at least the end of the 2022 growing season.

The new Enviroweather web platform features multiple changes that were designed to satisfy critical

needs and make improvements previously identified from user surveys. The new design will be easier to use than the legacy website, and it is geared toward viewing on smartphones and tablets. One major change offered in the new site is that a user can create an account and save preferences on a dashboard. This will provide faster access to the weather information and crop and pest models that are most important for each user's production operation. The new site also includes a feature where a user can create "Custom Sites" that can be used to distinguish different sections of a farm that may need different management strategies.

As with any new technology, it may take a little time to get used to a new way of doing things on the new Enviroweather website. To help with this, user guides are available through the Information link on the menu bar near the top of the page. In addition, each model or tool on the website has a "Description" tab that contains additional information on running and interpreting the model to help with decision making.

Enviroweather will host several webinars during the fall of 2021 and continue through the winter and spring of 2022. These training webinars will demonstrate how to set up an account and a dashboard, how to save preferences, and help users navigate the new website. Announcements for these will come through MSU Extension News at canr.msu.edu/outreach. If you haven't done so already, be sure to sign up for MSU Extension News e-newsletters for the crops and other topics that are most relevant for you.

As always, Enviroweather welcomes your feedback, and the new website includes a straight-forward way to share your comments and ask questions about the new platform. The Feedback Form is available under "Information" on the menu bar. In addition you can always contact the Enviroweather Program Coordinator, Keith Mason at masonk@msu.edu or 517-355-3897 for assistance with the tools and features on either website.

Keith Mason - Enviroweather Coordinator
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