

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update April 18, 2024

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.

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## Join the Cover Crop Service Provider Directory

A cover crop service provider directory is in the works. If you sell cover crops or provide cover crop related services (such as custom seeding, consultation, seed cleaning, etc.), you can [submit your information](#) to be included in the directory. The published directory will be available starting May 1 and will be updated throughout the season. Refer to the article [Making customer connections in cover crops: Join the cover crop service provider directory](#) for more information.

## Wheat Virus Survey

Viruses of wheat can impact production and yield. MSU graduate student Keeley Satterfield of the Field Crops Pathology Program in partnership with the Michigan Wheat Program will be conducting a wheat virus survey to understand the prevalence of viruses across Michigan's wheat producing areas. If you are interested in having your field or fields sampled, please click on the link below and complete the survey: <https://forms.gle/5juFfUbdUqMyagvQ9>

## Last Chance(s) for In-Person Pesticide Applicator Testing

MDARD recently added five new locations for in-person pesticide applicator testing, three of which are in or around Southwest Michigan. There will be testing **in Spanish** on April 24-25 at the MSU Trevor Nichols Research Farm in Fennville. For a complete schedule and more information, contact Filiberto Villa, (269-830-2309; [gomezfil@msu.edu](mailto:gomezfil@msu.edu)) or Carlos Garcia ([garcias4@msu.edu](mailto:garcias4@msu.edu)).

There will be testing **in English** on May 13 at Glen Oaks Community College in Centreville, and there will be testing **in English** on May 15 at the MSU Extension Hillsdale County Office in Hillsdale. [Click here](#) for more information and to register for testing.

## Field Crops Update

**Soybeans and corn** are expected to start moving here soon. This past week, conditions were great for getting sprayers across fields to burn down cover crops and for tilling fields blanketed in winter annuals. Very little planting has occurred so far, and with cooler temperatures forecast next week, that is unlikely to change quite yet. Seed treatment and some spring cultivation are ongoing.

**Winter wheat** is at Feekes 6 (jointing), where the growing point has now moved aboveground. With the possibility of freezing temperatures this weekend, there has been some concern about how it will affect the wheat. Dennis Pennington, MSU Extension wheat specialist, said that at this point, wheat can survive temperatures down to 24 degrees F for a few hours, so Southwest Michigan should be well ahead of that threshold. In short, the cooler temperatures coming up shouldn't damage the wheat.

With the past rainfall and the forecast rainfall, fields are more susceptible to nitrogen loss. This comes at an especially critical time as nitrogen uptake will increase with stem elongation, so it's important to watch for early symptoms of deficiencies. Yellowing of plant leaf tips, and particularly of older or lower leaves on the plant, are often the first indication. Powdery mildew has started up near Allegan way in lush fields, so that is another thing to keep in mind as you scout your wheat this week.



**Potatoes** started planting a few weeks ago and continued this week with a short run of dry weather. At the beginning of the week, they were considerably behind normal on planted acres and are still behind historic, although have narrowed the gap, sitting at an estimated 50% planted. The cooler temperatures forecast for next week will hopefully allow growers to get most of their remaining potatoes into the ground at a lower seed piece decay risk, although the moisture this weekend and next could slow progress down significantly.

### Crops and Pests

**Black Cutworm** moths are present in the state. Bucket traps in Berrien (near Berrien Springs) and St. Joseph Counties have caught the following:

Date	Berrien 2	Centreville 2	Sturgis 2
4/8	0	2	1
4/15	0	12	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>

One **True Armyworm** moth was trapped in Berrien County this week.

## Weather Update

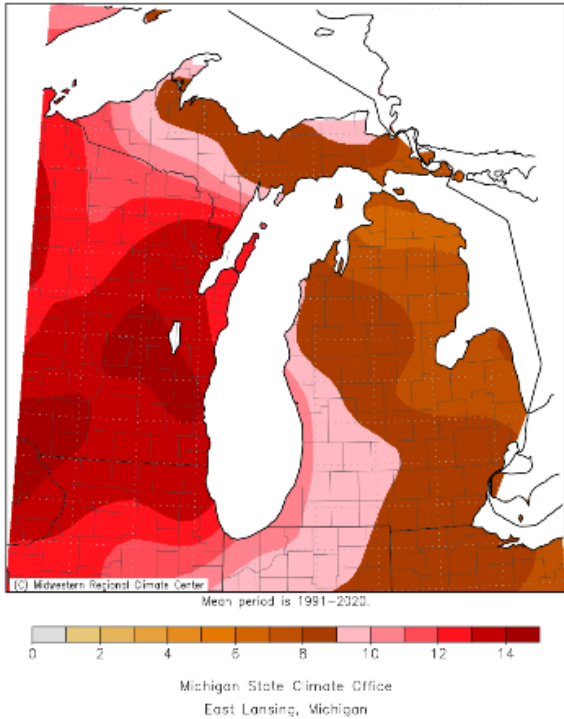
The sunny, warm weather nearly all this past week led to a steady increase in soil temperatures and air temperatures being about eight to twelve degrees F above normal throughout the state, but that pattern is not forecast to continue. The passing of another cold front will bring precipitation overnight Thursday, and the ensuing high-pressure system with Canadian-origin air mass will bring a significant cooldown this weekend and into next week, including a risk

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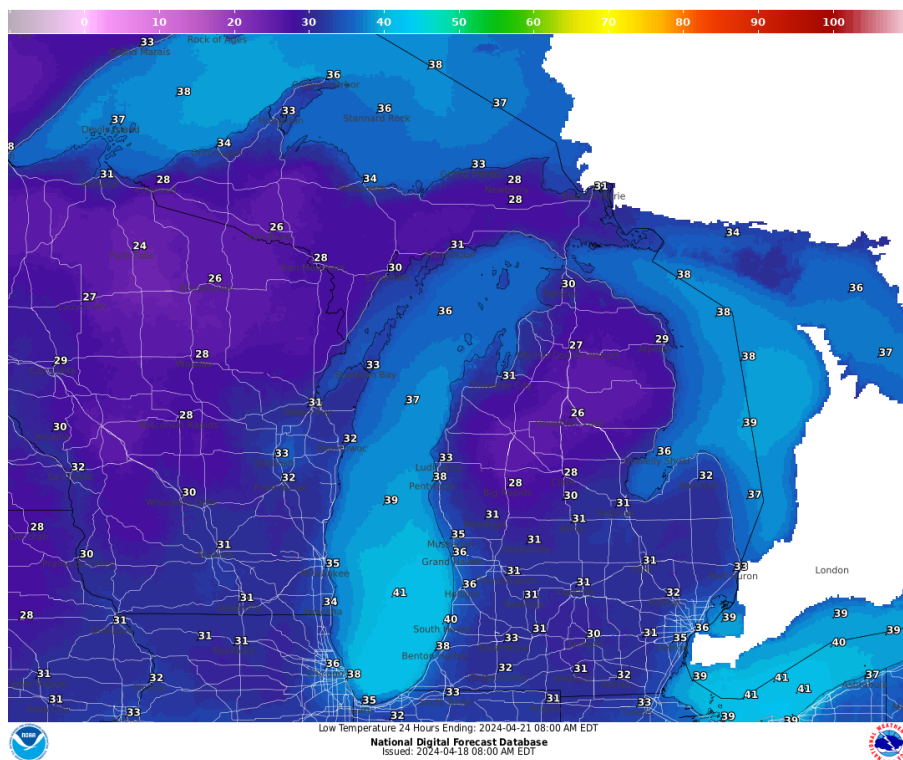
for frost or freezing temperatures. Although next week will be cool and wet, it is expected to trend slightly warmer until returning us to above normal temperatures by the last week of the month.

For a weekly weather outlook from MSU's Jeff Andresen, join the free [Virtual Breakfast](#) meeting every Thursday through Sept 19. The weather update starts around 7:30 am (after the weekly topic).

Average Maximum Temp. (°F): Departure from Mean  
April 10, 2024 to April 16, 2024

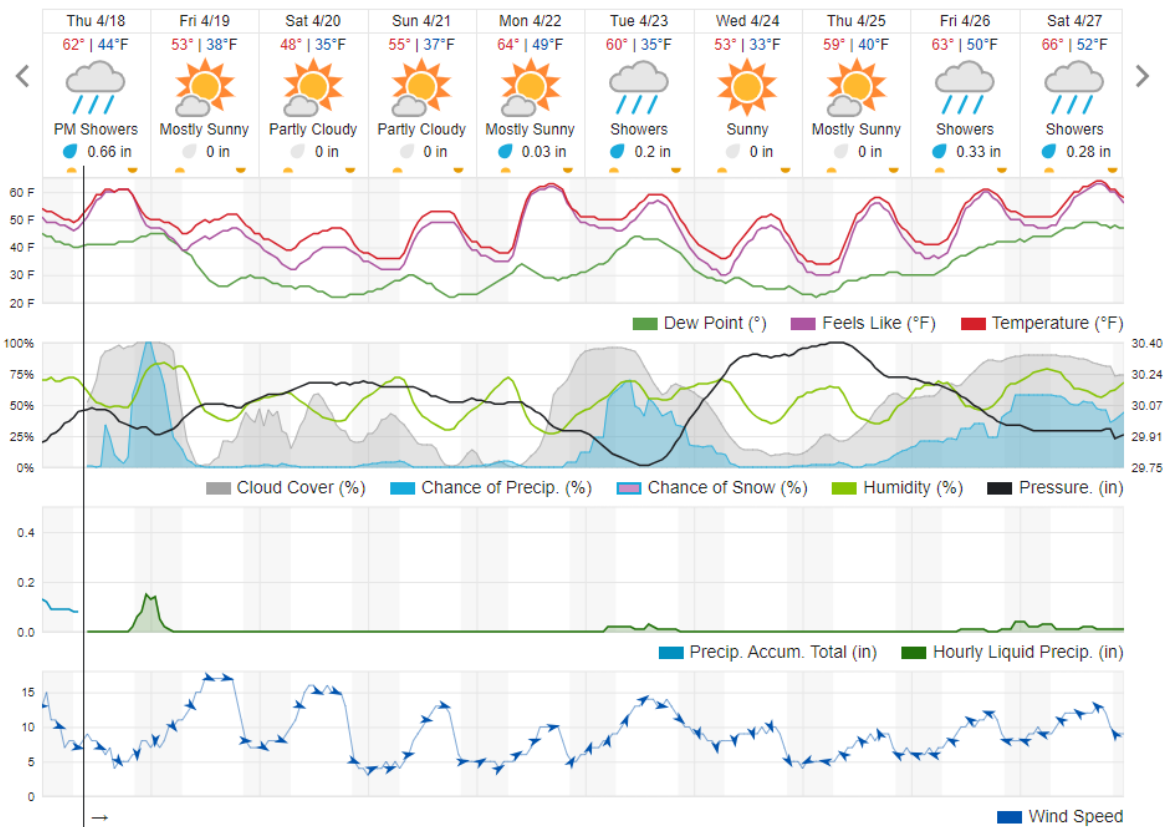


Average temperature departures from normal for Michigan April 10 - 16, 2024.

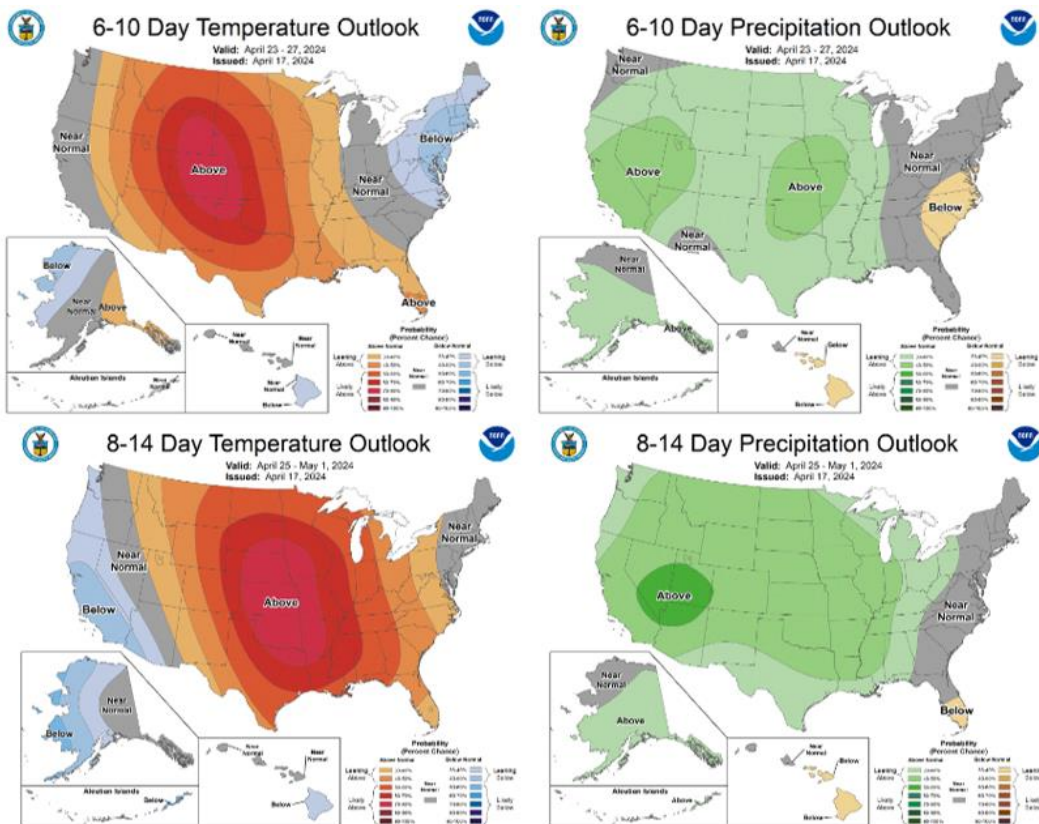


Low temperature forecast for Sunday, April 21, 2024.

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Ten-day weather forecast for Kalamazoo according to [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com). Note significant precipitation this weekend and next.



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

## Calendar

(Note: Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined.)

- Apr 1- 26** [St. Joseph County Conservation District Spring Tree Sale](#). Place tree orders online or by calling 269-467-6336 Ext. 5. Order deadline is Apr 26. Order pick-up is May 3-4 at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds Barn #28.
- Apr 24** [2024 Cover Crop Termination Field Day](#). 10:00 am. MSU Agronomy Farm, Lansing, MI. This event is an opportunity for farmers and ag professionals to get caught up on the latest recommendations for successful termination across cover crop species. Free event; lunch included. Pre-register by April 19.
- Apr 24-25** [In-Person Pesticide Applicator Review and Testing in Spanish](#). 9:00 am. MSU Trevor Nichols Research Farm, Fennville, MI. Michigan State University Extension and The Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) are inviting Spanish speaking berry growers and farm workers to attend a workshop in Spanish to prepare for the test to obtain the Michigan Private Pesticide Applicator Certification.
- Apr 25** [Virtual Breakfast: Conservation Practices](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- May 1, June 5, Jul 31** [Scouting School Day 1](#). 8:30 am. Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center, Frankenmuth, MI. \$150/person. Scouting School is spread across 3 dates (May 1, June 5, and Jul 31). May 1 will start with scouting basics which includes weed ID, scouting patterns, and more. June 5 will consist of hands-on disease scouting in the field with Dr. Marty Chilvers. July 31 will include hands-on insect scouting in the field with Chris DiFonzo. Enrollment is limited to 30 participants to ensure hands-on participation. Register online by April 26. (Register once for all three days.)
- May 2** [Virtual Breakfast: Staging Crop Growth Stages](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- May 2** [St. Joseph County Household Hazardous Waste Collection](#). 2:00 pm. Households (no businesses) can dispose of electronics, hazardous waste, paint/stain, paper, and tires to the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds. Be aware that some items require fees. No explosives, grills, glass, plastics, Styrofoam, waste oil, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, or air conditioners will be accepted. Contact [finance@stjosephcountymi.org](mailto:finance@stjosephcountymi.org) for more information.
- May 9** [Virtual Breakfast: Managing Corn and N After Waterlogging](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- May 13** [In-Person Pesticide Review and Testing](#). 8:30am. Registration starts at 8:00 am. Glen Oaks Community College. MDARD will administer testing for pesticide application certification following a mandatory four-hour review. Lunch will be provided.
- May 16** [Virtual Breakfast: Post Weed Control Management](#). 7:00am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.

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- May 23** [Virtual Breakfast: Dry Bean Planting Options](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- May 30** [Virtual Breakfast: Wheat Fungicide Recommendations](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- June 6** [Virtual Breakfast: Sprayer Setup](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.

## MSU Extension Digest Briefs

[WHEAT WATCHERS WEEK OF APRIL 15, 2024](#) - See how the wheat crop is progressing across the state this week.

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 18, 2024

[WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND A SWARM OF BEES?](#) - Contact a local beekeeper if you find a swarm of honey bees.

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 18, 2024

[FIELD CROPS VIRTUAL BREAKFAST SERIES CONTINUES WITH CONSERVATION FOR SOIL HEALTH](#) - Join the Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series on April 25 as Abby Smith with the Natural Resources Conservation Service discusses conservation practices.

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 17, 2024

[MSU EXTENSION'S FREE PRODUCE SAFETY TEXTING SERVICE EXPANDS TO SERVE NORTH CENTRAL REGION](#) - The free produce safety texting service, which provides farm workers and their employers with one weekly produce safety text, will now be available to many more growers and their employees.

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 17, 2024

[AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES ARE UNDERGOING SIGNIFICANT LABEL CHANGES THAT GROWERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF](#) - An ever-increasing number of pesticide labels require applicators to utilize the Bulletins Live! Two system to check for additional use limitations to protect endangered species and their habitat.

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 17, 2024

[WHEAT WATCHERS WEEK OF APRIL 8, 2024](#) - See how the wheat crop is progressing across the state this week.

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 11, 2024

[DIG INTO SUSTAINABLE FARM INNOVATIONS WITH A SEARCH TOOL AND MAP OF SARE GRANT PROJECTS](#) - Find hundreds of SARE grants funded in Michigan and thousands nationally.

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 09, 2024

[STACKED PRACTICES: THE KEY TO PHOSPHORUS LOSS REDUCTION](#) - Soil health alone will not achieve our water quality goal. Nutrient management is a good start, but it's best when combined with water management to achieve our water quality goal.

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 05, 2024

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update - April 18, 2024 - 7

WHEAT WATCHERS WEEK OF APRIL 1, 2024 - See how the wheat crop is progressing across the state this week.

**PUBLISHED ON APRIL 04, 2024**

OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK FOR THE 2024 WINTER WHEAT CROP - Michigan Wheat Program and Michigan State University have put together a 2024 winter wheat outlook following newly released planting intentions from the USDA.

**PUBLISHED ON APRIL 03, 2024**

SARE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE - Looking for practical information on sustainable farming and ranching, or for training opportunities?

**PUBLISHED ON APRIL 03, 2024**

MANURE HAS VALUE, TEST AND TAKE CREDIT THIS SPRING - Manure nutrients vary based on when and how it is applied. But there are always nutrients in it, and benefits to reducing fertilizer.

**PUBLISHED ON APRIL 03, 2024**

MAKING CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS IN COVER CROPS: JOIN THE COVER CROP SERVICE PROVIDER DIRECTORY - Developing a resource for landowners in Michigan to easily access cover crop seed and service providers.

**PUBLISHED ON APRIL 01, 2024**

2024 STATUS OF HERBICIDE-RESISTANT WEEDS IN MICHIGAN - Each year, new herbicide resistance cases are identified by MSU Plant & Pest Diagnostics.

**PUBLISHED ON APRIL 01, 2024**

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