

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update October 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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Cereal Cover Crop Cooperators Needed

Cooperators are needed for a Michigan Soybean On-Farm Research trial. This is for sites just coming off winter wheat or seed corn going into soybeans for 2025. Sites that have a confirmed presence of soybean cyst nematode are preferable. The flyer below contains some information, but if you are interested in learning more or cooperating on this trial, please contact me, Nicolle Ritchie, at ritchi67@msu.edu or 269-858-8739 (text or call), or MSU Extension soybean educator Eric Anderson, eander32@msu.edu or 269-359-0565.



Michigan Soybean On-Farm Research

Cereal Cover Crop Trial Protocol

- All treatments must run across (perpendicular to) tile lines.
- **Site Selection:** Prefer sites that have a confirmed presence of soybean cyst nematodes.
- This trial will have two treatments (option for three):
 1. Wheat or cereal rye cover crop established in the summer or fall prior to planting soybeans
 2. No cover crop
 3. (Optional) Wheat or cereal rye cover crop (in addition to other strip) established in the summer or fall prior to planting soybeans.
- The cereal rye and wheat cover crop should be planted at a rate of 60 – 120 pounds of seed per acre following the previous crop.
- Cooperators can use tillage and/or herbicides to terminate the cover crop in the spring. When herbicides are used to terminate the rye/wheat, the application must be made no later than 5 days after planting the soybeans.
- All treatments (including the no cover crop check strips) must be wider than the combine header to ensure that the harvest area is similar for all the treatments.
- Always leave a border at least 60 feet wide before planting the first treatment when not planting next to a tree line.
- Always leave a border at least 90 feet wide before planting the first treatment when planting next to a tree line.
- Please follow the applicable plot plan for 2-treatment (top) or 3-treatment (bottom) protocol:

Cover Crop	No Cover Crop	Cover Crop	No Cover Crop	Cover Crop	No Cover Crop	Cover Crop	No Cover Crop	Cover Crop	No Cover Crop	Cover Crop	No Cover Crop
Replication 1	Replication 2	Replication 3	Replication 4	Replication 5	Replication 6						

Cereal Rye Cover Crop	Wheat Cover Crop	No Cover Crop	No Cover Crop	Cereal Rye Cover Crop	Wheat Cover Crop	Wheat Cover Crop	No Cover Crop	Cereal Rye Cover Crop	Cereal Rye Cover Crop	No Cover Crop	Wheat Cover Crop
Replication 1	Replication 2	Replication 3	Replication 4								

Three Free Soybean Seed Quality Kits Available – First Come, First Serve

Every year since 1986 a group of researchers around the country conduct a benchmarking soybean seed quality (oil/protein composition) survey for the US soybean crop. Results are used very broadly for international promotion of exports and for many research projects. Ideally, growers send in a sample year after year. This project is funded by United Soybean Board.

Sending in a sample is very straightforward: collect a ~2 lb sample of a single variety from the combine/truck/wagon/bin during harvest to fill the pre-labeled bag, add a few lines of information on the bag, put it in the pre-paid shipping bag and drop it in a USPS mailbox. All supplies and detailed instructions are included in the sampling kit. All personal information remains confidential and only aggregated data are reported. Samples must be mailed in by October 21, 2024, to be included in the initial report. Samples received by December 9, 2024, will still be analyzed but only available in later online reports. Growers will receive their individual sample results by mail in December.

Reports from previous years can be found at <https://extension.umn.edu/soybean/soybean-seed-quality>. Data is available at [Harvest Soy Quality Survey Map](#).



Please contact me, Nicolle Ritchie, at ritchi67@msu.edu or 269-858-8739 (text or call) to receive a kit. In some cases, I can help with sampling if needed. I only have three kits available right now, so act quickly if you are interested!

Cass County: MSU Extension Part-time Secretary Application Closes October 8

Be the “face” of MSUE in Cass County in a way that allows clientele, and potential clientele, to quickly access Extension system information. Direct clientele to appropriate information and resources and assist with the logistics and promotion of MSUE educational events in the county. Support MSUE staff for consistent delivery of Extension programs, and work to foster a welcoming, inclusive environment for visitors and staff. [View full description and apply through the MSU careers page](#). Search for posting #960632 using the Job Search field.

Van Buren County: October 19 is Final Recycle Roundup for 2024

The final Recycle Roundup for 2024 is coming up quickly! Held in Lawrence at the Van Buren Tech Center (250 South Street, Lawrence 49064) on Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Tire registration is required at least two-days in advance by calling or [filling out this form](#)! Be sure to watch out for follow-up communication! Bring any of these items and proof of Van Buren County residency or land ownership (i.e. driver’s license, tax bill):

💡 Household hazardous waste (cleaners, lightbulbs, pesticides, batteries, etc.)

🔴 Oil-based paint

📄 Paper for shredding

📁 Electronics

📦 Foam (Styrofoam™/polystyrene)

🚗 Passenger & Semi Tires (RSVP required)

For questions, contact Recycling Coordinator Kalli Marshall at ResourceRecovery@VanBurenCD.org or by calling 269-633-9314.

St. Joseph County: October 2 (tomorrow) Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Household hazardous waste will be accepted at the St. Joseph County fairgrounds on Wednesday, October 2 from 2 pm to 6 pm. Electronics, hazardous materials, paint, paper materials, and tires may all be accepted. Some items have limitations or fees applied for drop off (see flyer below for more details). No company/industrial waste, explosives, grills, glass, plastics, Styrofoam, waste oil, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, or air conditioners will be accepted. Email finance@stjosephcountymi.org with questions.

**AT FAIRGROUNDS IN CENTREVILLE
USE MAIN (M-86) ENTRANCE
****DONATIONS ACCEPTED ****
PACKAGE ITEMS SAFELY FOR TRANSPORT
WILL ACCEPT ALL ITEMS IN BLACK**

<p>WILL NOT ACCEPT ITEMS IN RED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Company/Industrial Waste - Household Only • No Explosives • No Grills • No Glass • No Plastics • No Styrofoam • No Waste Oil - take to auto parts store or Walmart • No Refrigerators • No Freezers • No Dehumidifiers • No Air Conditioners <p>ELECTRONICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cables, Wires • DVD Players • Game Systems • Laptop Computers • Printers • Microwaves • Monitors • Personal Computers • Scanners • Telephones • Televisions - LIMIT 2 or \$10 each. • VCR's 	<p>HAZARDOUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Batteries (includes car batteries) • Diabetic Test Strips • Fluorescent Bulb • Lithium (LED) Light Bulbs • Old Gas • Pharma needles (sharps) • Pesticides • Pool Chemicals • Smoke Alarms <p>FEE: Up to 100 pounds FREE \$2.00/lb for 100+ pounds.</p> <p>PAINT/STAIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latex Paint • Oil Based Paint/Stain <p>FEE: \$3.00 per can Latex Only</p>	<p>PAPER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardboard • Junk Mail • Magazines • Newspaper • Phone Books <p>TIRES</p> <p>FEE PER TIRE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passenger/Light Truck - residents up to 10 FREE then \$2.00 each • Semi - \$5.00 each • Tractor - \$25.00 each <p>Tires must be Off Rims, Free of Mud, Concrete, Tree Vines, etc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLEASE NOTE: APPLIANCE AND SCRAP METAL VENDOR IS NOT ATTENDING</p>
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Funding for Scrap Tire Disposal was made possible by the Michigan EGLE Grant. Programs offered by St. Joseph County and the Solid Waste Committee

QUESTIONS EMAIL [FINANCE@STJOSEPHCOUNTYMI.ORG](mailto:finance@stjosephcountymi.org)

Underserved, Value-Added, and Regional Food Systems Grant Opportunity

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is now accepting applications for the latest round of the underserved, value-added, and regional food systems grant. The Underserved, Value-Added, and Regional Food Systems Grant Program is designed to promote the expansion of value-added agriculture production and processing, help develop food systems, improve healthy food access, and expand underserved business development within the state to enhance Michigan's food and agriculture industry. These grants will be focused on supporting the state's agri-food business and farming operations. Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. (EST) on October 29, 2024.

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The department will host an informational webinar on October 15, 2024, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams virtual platform. No registration will be required for participation in the webinar. Details for the webinar can be found [on their website](#). Those interested in applying can view the application and grant guidelines [online](#). All applications must be submitted through the [MiAgGrants system](#).

For more information about MDARD's grant programs, visit www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants.

Harvest Update

Soybean harvest is well underway, and significant progress has been made on earlier maturing varieties. Double cropped soybeans are still quite green, but other soybeans are drying down in preparation for harvest. So far, yields are reported to be mostly good. Yield and quality took a little bit of a hit in many earlier maturing varieties that got too dry before harvest. The article [“Harvest Considerations for Overly Dry Soybeans”](#) goes into the economic and ecological pros and cons of harvesting soybeans beyond the ideal moisture.

Seed corn harvest continued with little delay from the recent precipitation. It is starting to wrap up now as relatively few acres remain.

Commercial corn harvest began last week and is slowly picking up speed. Several fields are still drying down.

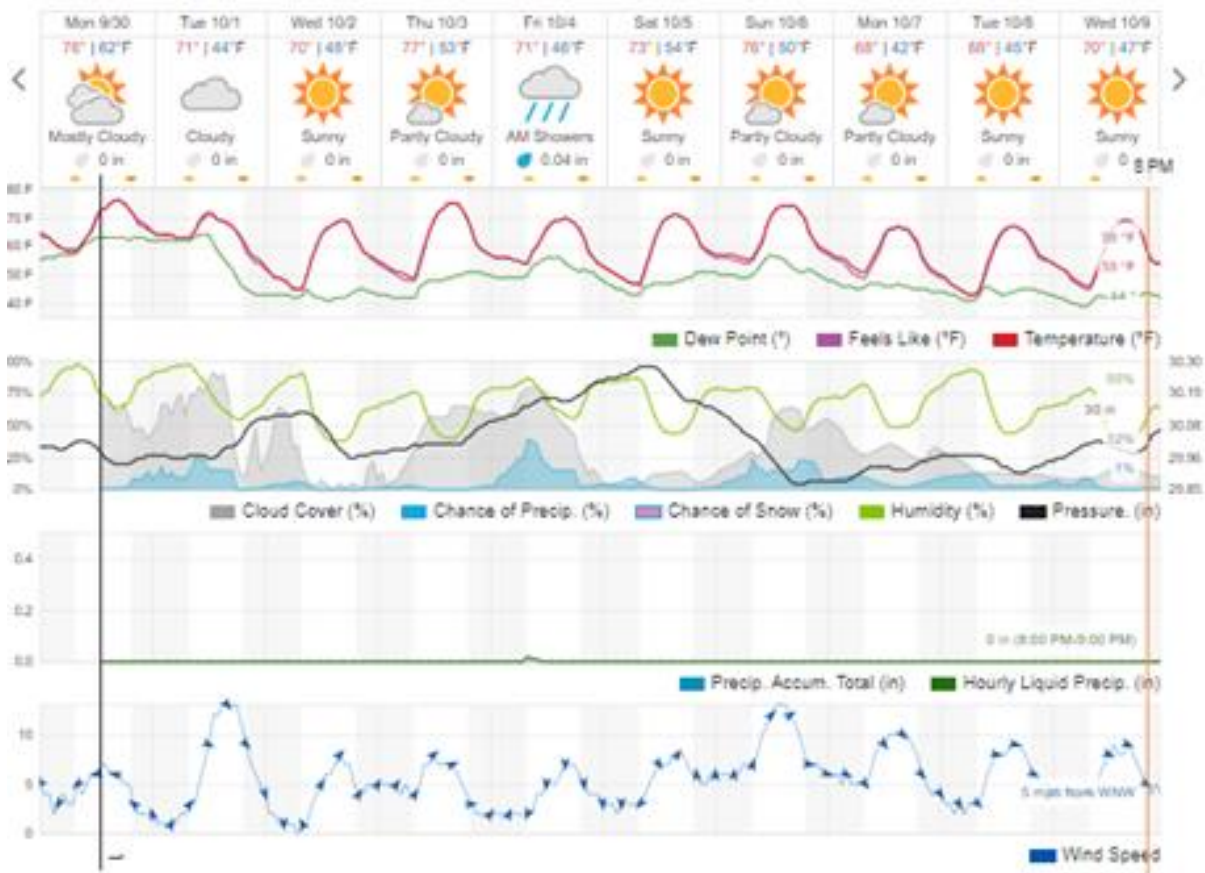


Potato harvest was stop-and-go due to precipitation, but now with a clear forecast, it is expected to pick back up. The hot and dry conditions in much of September contributed to some reduced quality by increasing the likelihood of bruising at harvest and on the line, but overall quality and yields have been mostly satisfactory.

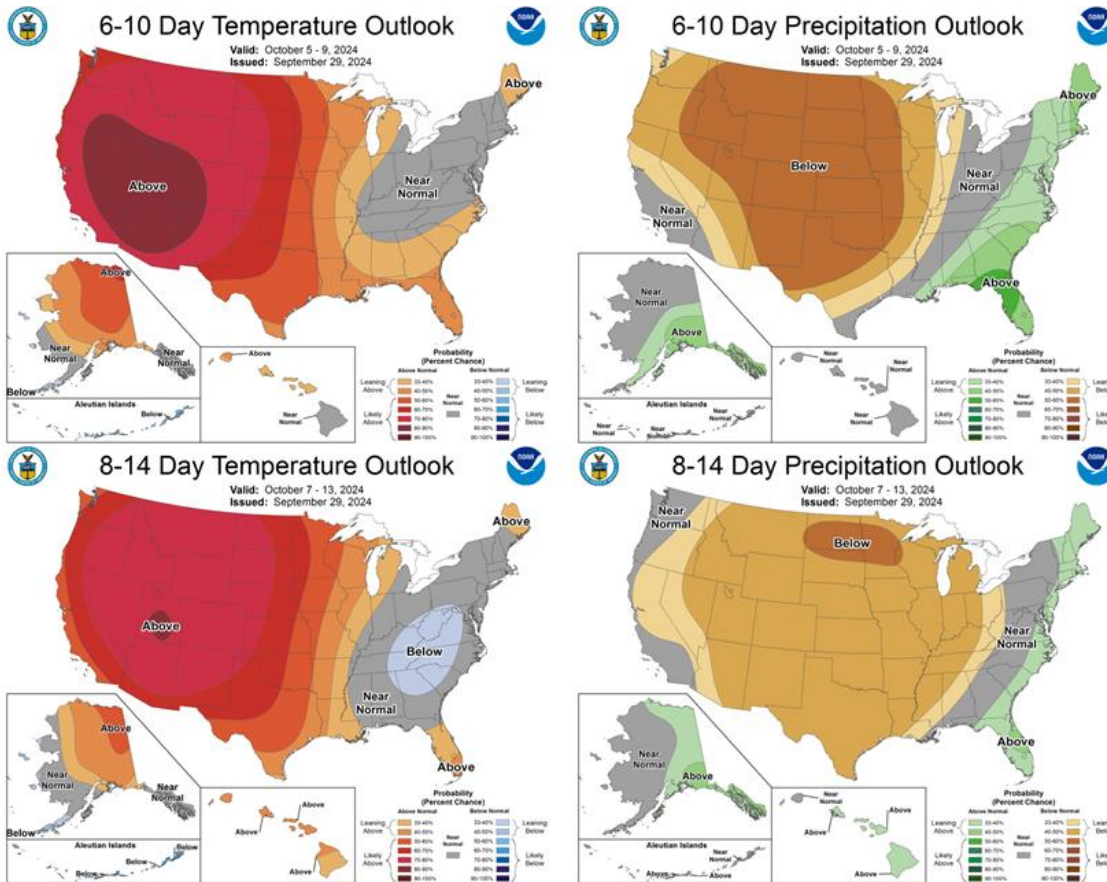
Weather Update

Scattered showers the weekend before last turned into a day or two of drizzle and light rain. In the past ten days, southwest Michigan received anywhere from less than 0.25 inches of precipitation in the northern counties and 1.25 inches of precipitation in the southern counties. This week forecasts a chance for scattered showers coming into the weekend, but otherwise the days are expected to be moderate and dry, which is good news for fieldwork.

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



The 6-10 day (Oct 5-9, top) and 8-10 day (Oct 7-13, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

Calendar

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

- Oct 2** **[St. Joseph County Household Hazardous Waste Collection](#)**. 2:00 - 6:00 pm. St. Joseph County Fairgrounds. Household hazardous waste, electronics, paint, paper materials, and tires will be accepted at the St. Joseph County fairgrounds. Some items have limitations or fees applied for drop off.
- Oct 19** **[Van Buren County Recycle Roundup](#)**. 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Van Buren Tech Center. Bring household hazardous waste, oil-based paint, paper, electronics, foam, and tires (RSVP required for tires) and proof of Van Buren County residency or land ownership (i.e. driver's license, tax bill).
- Oct 19** **[Michigan Beekeepers Association 2024 Fall Conference](#)**. 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Benzie Central High School. This conference includes a honey show, three tracks of presentations on pollinator plants, alternative hive styles, honeybee colony health and more. \$40 for members, \$60 for non-members.
- Nov 6** **[Farm Labor and Michigan Agriculture](#)**. 8:00 am. Join this free one-day to learn from local and national farm labor experts in academia, government agencies, and industry groups about Farm Labor Scarcity and Food Security in the United States.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

[Michigan Beekeepers Association 2024 Fall Conference](#)

Published on September 30, 2024

The fall beekeeping conference will be held in Benzie County and include a honey show, three tracks of presentations on pollinator plants, alternative hive styles, honeybee colony health and more!

[Fall-time farm management decisions and how Michigan State University Extension can help](#)

Published on September 27, 2024

Fall is a great time to review your farm production year's status and outlook. Free education and resources are available to help make difficult decisions or adjustments for successful farm management.

[Fundraising campaign to support Michigan State University Extension apiculture programs](#)

Published on September 26, 2024

Make a gift to support Michigan beekeepers and honeybees.

[Avoid significant yield loss in soybeans by sampling for soybean cyst nematode](#)

Published on September 20, 2024

Fall is the time to collect soil samples for soybean cyst nematodes to plan for next year.

[Agricultural Drainage Bulletin](#)

Published on September 19, 2024

This bulletin briefly describes the history, need, types and extent of Michigan drainage as well as the pros and cons, and environmental impact related to drainage.

[Mole Drains Bulletin](#)

Published on September 19, 2024

Mole drains are unlined tunnels (mole channels) in the clay subsoil formed by a mole plow. This bulletin explains how mole drains affect drainage efforts.

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Iron Ochre Bulletin

Published on September 19, 2024

Iron ochre can cause clogging of the subsurface (tile) drainage system. This bulletin describes the iron ochre issue and its mitigation methods.

A Guide for Monitoring Phosphorus Bulletin

Published on September 19, 2024

Subsurface drainage discharge and surface runoff are pathways for phosphorus (P) loss from subsurface-drained farms. Monitoring P loss is important to evaluate the P reduction performance of conservation practices. This bulletin covers three sampling strategies and two monitoring objectives.

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