CFAES COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

# Auglaize County ANR

## News from OSU Extension

April 28, 2023

# Weather Update

**Author Aaron Wilson, Edited by Jamie Hampton**

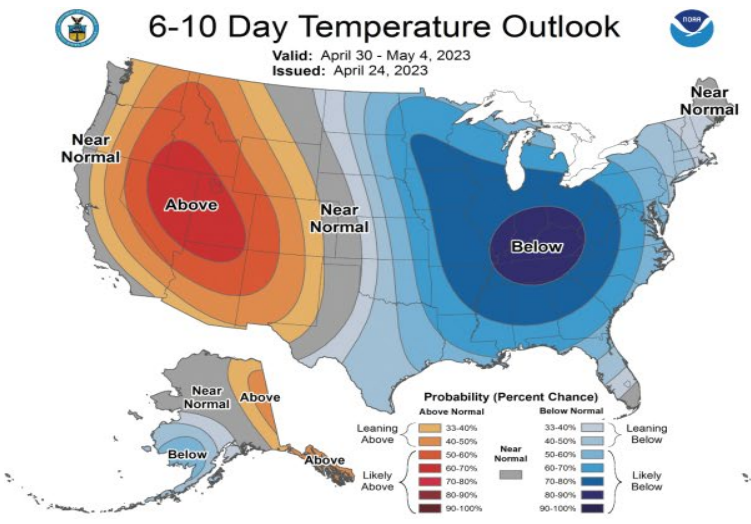
The weather took a turn this past week toward cooler temperatures, running 1-3°F below average across much of the state. This has dropped daily average soil temperatures about ten degrees off their high points last week. Northern locations are now running in the mid to upper 40s, with low to mid 50s across central and southern Ohio. Precipitation varied across Ohio last week, from less than 0.2" in northwestern counties to isolated amounts greater than 2" (Figure 2-left), with the heaviest falling along and to the east of I-71.

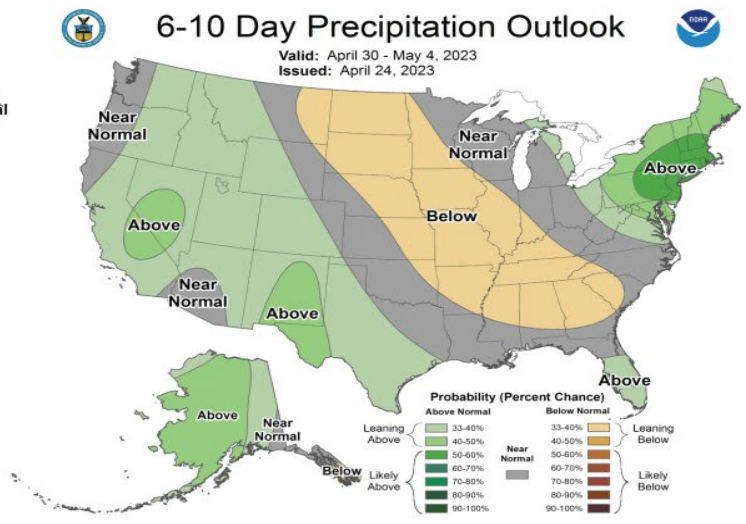
CoCoRaHS observations show 2.31" fell in Licking County with a report of 2.26" out of Lorain County. Soils continue to dry out across portions of western and southeast Ohio, with soil moisture starting to drop below the 30th percentile compared to historical conditions. For more complete weather records for CFAES research stations, including temperature, precipitation, growing degree days, and other useful weather observations, please visit https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weather1/.

**Weather Forecast**

High pressure will slowly take control through mid-week this week, though a few isolated showers (possibly mixed with grapel/snow pellets) are possible on Tuesday. Overnight temperatures will flirt with freezing across the state Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, so Frost and Freeze Warnings/Advisories will likely be in place. Daytime highs will only reach the 50s through Thursday. Temperatures will moderate into the 60s on Friday through the weekend, but a complex system will bring ample moisture to the state over the weekend through Monday.

The Weather Prediction Center is currently forecasting 0.75-2.00" of precipitation this week, heaviest across eastern Ohio. The 6-10 day outlook from the Climate Prediction Center and the 16-Day Rainfall Outlook from NOAA/NWS/Ohio River Forecast Center show below average temperatures are likely with near normal precipitation (Figure 4). Climate averages include a high-temperature range of 66-71°F, a low-temperature range of 45-48°F, and weekly total precipitation of about 0.85-1.15". Click HERE for the CORN article



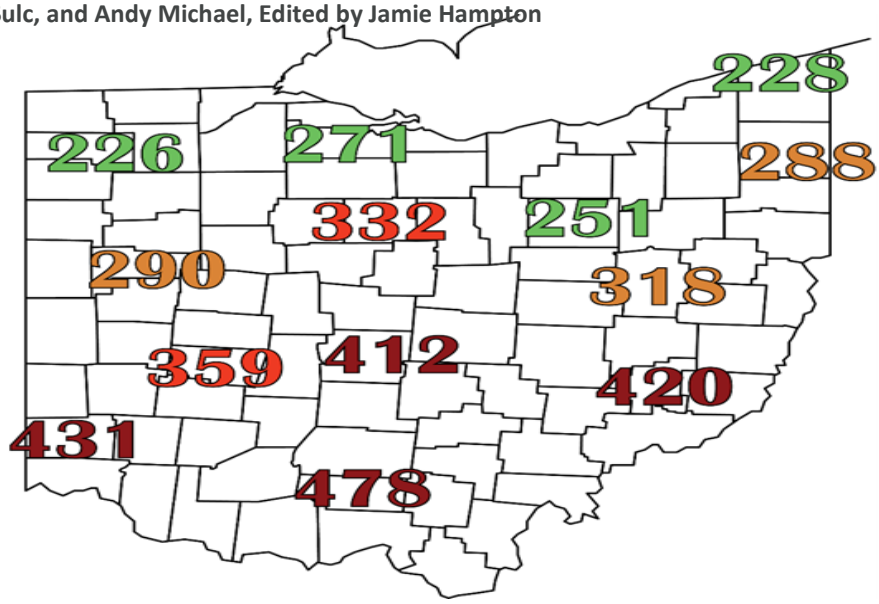
# Alfalfa Weevil Update

**Authors Aaron Wilson, Kelley Tilmon, Mark Sulc, and Andy Michael, Edited by Jamie Hampton**

Despite this week's cold weather, enough locations have accumulated enough degree days that some farmers are experiencing noticeable damage from alfalfa weevil. In this degree-day map, anything other than green is a location deserving closer attention.

Alfalfa fields should be scouted weekly for weevils until at least the first harvest. Follow-up scouting may be needed after the first harvest in heavily infested fields. Spot problem fields early by checking alfalfa tips for feeding damage – small holes and a tattered appearance. Fields that have a south facing slope tend to warm up sooner and need to be checked for weevil earlier. Here is a video about scouting weevils in alfalfa: https://forages.osu.edu/video

Scout for alfalfa weevils by collecting a series of 10 stem samples from various locations. Place the stems tip down in a bucket. After you've collected 10 stems, shake the stems vigorously into the bucket and count the larvae. Divide this number by 10 to get the average number of larvae per stem. Do this procedure at least 3 times (for a grand total of 30 stems, in 10-stem units).




*"anything other than green is a location deserving closer attention.."*

Alfalfa weevil larvae go through four growth stages (called instars). The shaking will dislodge the late 3rd and 4th instar larvae which cause most of the foliar injury. Close inspection of the stem tips may be needed to detect the early 1st and 2nd instar larvae. Also record the overall height of the alfalfa. The treatment threshold is based on the number of larvae per stem, the size of the larvae and the height of the alfalfa according to the following table. When alfalfa is around 12-16 inches in height, growers can consider an early harvest rather than spraying, if they feel the current growth is sufficient to justify the cost of harvest or if spraying can't be done for some reason (e.g., organic production). When alfalfa stem height is over 16 inches, we would always recommend an early cutting. In those fields which are cut early for alfalfa weevil, the regrowth should be checked closely to make sure weevils that are still alive do not prevent good regrowth.

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# Where can I hunt for morel mushrooms in Ohio?

Author Katie Woods, Edited by Jamie Hampton

In Ohio State Parks, mushroom hunting is permitted, but pay attention to specific rules at parks. Ohio's state forests all permit mushroom hunting, too.

Morels grow in forested areas and on the edges of forested areas. According to University of Nebraska-Lincoln, morels like loose soil that's rich with humus, high humidity and decaying vegetation like rotting fallen trees and stumps. They can also be found in ravines and deciduous woodlands that aren't close to streams. Like all food that's grown in the wild, it's a good idea to clean morels off before cooking them. Oregon State University Extension offers the following advice for cleaning mushrooms:

•Brush off dirt with your fingers or a paper towel. Morels can trap dirt.

•Quickly rinse under running water. Pat dry with a paper towel. Or soak morels in salt water overnight in the refrigerator.

Make sure morels are dry and firm, but still springy.

# “Butterweed” . . . Coming Soon to a Field Near You, Author Christine Gelley


Based on the last couple year’s experience, fields of yellow flowers are soon to be abundant across Ohio. Hopefully conducive April weather for planting new crops will help reduce the prevalence of a toxic winter annual plant that often creates these blankets of yellow.

The scenes that result are deceptively beautiful with their sunny appearance but may actually pose a deadly threat to livestock if the plant happens to be cressleaf groundsel, which is also known as butterweed. Cressleaf groundsel is a weed known to cause livestock poisonings in harvested or grazed forages.

Cressleaf groundsel is a member of the aster family and displays yellow daisy like blooms in the springtime on upright hollow stems that have a purple hue. These plants are winter annuals, meaning the seed germinates in the fall producing vegetative growth and then flowers in the springtime. If allowed to set seed, the plants will appear again in greater numbers the year following. The plants typically go unnoticed in the fall, which is the best time for weed control. Cressleaf is most commonly found in annual crop settings because bare soils in the fall and spring allow the plants to grow without competition from the crops. However, it can be found in pastures and hayfields if seed travels from an infested field nearby. Effective herbicide control can be accomplished in the fall using products that contain 2,4-D. If the plants are already flowering, mowing and removing the plant residue is the best option to prevent animal consumption and seed deposition.

There are other yellow flowers with a similar appearance blooming now that are less concerning, but problematic as competition in crop stands. One that is commonly confused with cressleaf groundsel is another winter annual called yellow rocket. Unlike cressleaf, yellow rocket is in the mustard family. The flowers look very different from cressleaf and the plants are typically shorter on green stems and grow with a taproot. Although yellow rocket can cause digestive upset if consumed in large quantities, it is not considered poisonous or noxious.

Before implementing any weed control program, getting an identification confirmation is very important! Study the whole plant before making a judgement call on how to address it’s presence.

# Field Research

**Jamie Hampton**

What are you doing out there, is a question that I get from time to time when folks see me and my colleagues out in fields. We are collecting data for research trials that are in Auglaize and a few surrounding areas.

Figure 1

This past week I was out collecting biomass samples (figure 1), soil temperatures and moisture (figure 2),

Figure 2

as well as taking some gas samples from out Western Agriculture Research Plots.


# Are You Celebrating Trees Today?

Author Amy Stone, Edited by Jamie Hampton

Happy Arbor Day! This year Arbor Day will be celebrated on Friday, April 28, 2023 in Ohio. A Little Arbor Day History! A Nebraska newspaper editor and resident of Nebraska City, NE, J. Sterling Morton, had a passion for trees and advocated for them to be planted by everyone - individuals and groups. After becoming secretary of the Nebraska Territory, he used that position to continue to spread the tree message highlighting the value and importance of trees.
On January 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree planting holiday to be called “Arbor Day” at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. Go trees!
To learn more about the history and the Arbor Day Foundation, check out the website at: https://www.arborday.org/

In Ohio, celebrations often include a ceremonial tree planting. Municipalities, schools, and other groups and organizations celebrate this special day devoted to trees. If you are celebrating Arbor Day and snap a photo or few, please email those to Amy Stone at stone.91@osu.edu

Photo by Amy Stone

# April Events


## Auglaize County Events:

- **Have a safe and successful planting season.**

**Nearby Happenings:**

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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