

Corn and Grain Sorghum Weekly Update – July 5, 2024

Division of Agriculture, University of Arkansas System, Cooperative Extension Service

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General Information

As seen in Table 1 below, average moisture sensor readings averaged across all 4 depth sensors (measured in centibars), heat units, crop stage along with a few notes about field activities are listed for each location. Weather data is collected at the weather station placed at each individual field. We are utilizing AgSense telemetry units with soil moisture sensors placed at 6, 12, 18, and 30 inch to collect soil moisture data. We input this data to the AR Soil Calc app to initiate irrigations. The Clay County field was the only field that received enough rainfall to delay irrigation by more than a couple of days.

We found Southern rust on one leaf in the Drew County field in between Tillar and Winchester. Southern rust was also found on 3 leaves on two plants in the Phillips County field about 4-5 miles southwest of Helena. Both fields have reached R5 (dent) and past needing any fungicide treatment. All the fields except the Lonoke County field have reached R4 and are past where we would expect to lose yield from disease pressure that is just beginning to develop. More information on corn diseases and treatment recommendations can be found here <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/farm-ranch/pest-management/plant-disease/corn.aspx>.

Table 1.

County	Avg. moisture Sensor reading (in cb)	Heat Units	Crop Stage	Field Notes
Arkansas	1.0	2103	R4	Common rust, NCLB, Curvularia leaf spot. Field was irrigated 7/2. Field was only a couple of days from dent on Wednesday.
Clark				
Clay	16.3	1993	R4	Common rust, NCLB, Curvularia leaf spot. Field received 1.46" of rainfall so no irrigation was needed last week.
Drew	12.8	2234	R5	Southern rust, common rust, NCLB. Field was irrigated 7/1 for 2 nd irrigation. The field has received almost 24" of rain so far this year, which has caused some stunting in lower areas of the field.
Jefferson	6	2112	R4	Common rust, NCLB, Curvularia leaf spot, gray leaf spot. Field was irrigated starting 7/2 for 3 rd irrigation.
Lonoke	14.8	1769	R2	Light common rust, gray leaf spot, Curvularia leaf spot. 2 nd irrigation was to be started 7/3.
Mississippi	4.7	2030	R4	Light common rust, NCLB, gray leaf spot. Irrigated on 7/3.
Phillips	52.6	2276	R5	Southern rust, common rust, NCLB, Curvularia leaf spot. 3 rd pivot irrigation planned for 7/4.
White	48.2	1967	R3	Light common rust, NCLB. Irrigation is scheduled for 7/5.