



MIDWEST CROP REPORT | MAY 8, 2026

NORTHERN ILLINOIS



This cereal rye was planted at ~30 lbs/ac. Soybeans will be planted directly into this rye, illustrating a “planting green” approach with termination planned to follow at a time of the producer’s choosing.

WEATHER & FIELD CONDITIONS

Field activity across LaSalle County has picked up over the past week as conditions have improved. Soil moisture is now generally adequate following a wetter stretch, and recent partly cloudy conditions with temperatures near 70°F have allowed producers to make meaningful progress on planting.

FIELD ACTIVITY

Tillage, pre-emergent herbicide applications, and cover crop termination are all ongoing, with planting continuing across the region. Corn and soybean planting are occurring simultaneously, with an estimated 40–50% of acres planted for both crops. Despite this progress, very few fields have emerged, as cool temperatures have slowed the accumulation of growing degree units (GDUs).

WEED & PEST PRESSURE

Weed pressure remains very low overall, though early-season species such as lambsquarters, giant ragweed, woolly cupgrass, and marehail are beginning to emerge. Insect pressure has been minimal, with no significant issues observed at this time.

CORN & SOYBEANS

Both corn and soybeans are currently in the planted-to-germinating stages, with overall crop conditions rated as good. Emergence has been limited so far, and cool overnight soil temperatures remain the primary factor delaying crop development. Some early-planted soybean fields from April that have emerged experienced minor frost damage, though impacts appear to be limited at this time.

Management strategies around cover crops continue to vary. Some producers have terminated cover crops ahead of planting, while others are planting green and planning to terminate following planting. With soils now in better condition, planting conditions have been favorable where field access is possible.

OUTLOOK

Cool overnight temperatures continue to slow GDUs and delay emergence, making heat accumulation the primary need moving forward. The next 10 days are forecast to bring more sunshine and slightly warmer temperatures, which should help drive emergence and support continued planting progress.



Terminated cereal rye ahead of planting, providing surface residue and helping conserve soil moisture while maintaining good planting conditions.