



MIDWEST CROP REPORT | JUNE 18, 2026

NORTHERN LASALLE COUNTY



Tillers in corn are often called “suckers.” Realistically their impact on over yield and performance is minimal if at all. To learn more visit: [Tillers or “Suckers” in Corn: Good or Bad?](#) (Purdue Univ.) & [Corn Tillers | Crop Science US](#)

WEATHER & FIELD CONDITIONS

Field conditions across the area are currently wet, with partly cloudy skies and temperatures in the mid-70s. Over the past 10–14 days, the region has received approximately 3–5 inches of rainfall. While this moisture was needed, many fields are now approaching saturation, and producers are ready for a drier stretch. Locally, this area was fortunate to miss the majority of the severe weather that moved through central and east-central Illinois on June 17. That system produced multiple tornadoes and significant hail, with reports of severe crop damage and even total field loss in some areas. It’s a reminder of how variable conditions can be across short distances and the challenges that come with crop production.

FIELD ACTIVITY

Post-emergent herbicide applications and fertilizer applications continue across the region, with sidedress nitrogen applications nearing completion in corn.

SOYBEANS

Soybeans are ranging from V4 to V7, with some fields beginning to show first flowers. Overall condition is fair, with growth progressing but showing some variability. Recent heavy rain events have caused some leaf tattering, though new growth is emerging cleanly. Weed pressure is becoming more noticeable, particularly in fields that did not receive an effective burndown. A second flush of weeds is emerging in several areas, including waterhemp in the 1–3-inch range, even in fields that have already received a post-emergent herbicide application. These fields will likely require an additional pass.

CORN

Corn is primarily in the V7 to V8 growth stages and remains in good overall condition. Recent periods of high temperatures in the 90s led to instances of rapid growth syndrome (RGS), resulting in a noticeable yellow flash in the whorl. Cooler overnight temperatures have since slowed GDU accumulation, though growth is beginning to pick back up.

Significant tillering has been observed in several fields. While often referred to as “suckers” and assumed to compete with the main plant, research has shown these tillers typically have minimal impact on yield and should generally be considered a neutral factor.

Some minor concerns include isolated ponding and weather-related stress. Root evaluations revealed very minimal feeding from corn rootworm, with no economic concern at this time.



Cereal rye cover crop in soybeans continues to show significant weed control advantage over fields that did not receive a cover crop.



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2nd flush waterhemp is emerging in this soybean field. This field is panted on 15" rows which will canopy sooner to help provide shade for weed suppression. However, sometimes that isn't enough. The addition of a cereal rye cover crop may provide additional suppression of multiple flushes of waterhemp.

WEED & PEST PRESSURE

Weed pressure is increasing, with key species including waterhemp, giant ragweed, giant foxtail, and black nightshade. Fields with delayed or incomplete burndown programs are showing the most pressure. Insect pressure remains low. A few bean leaf beetles have been observed in soybeans, along with very minor corn rootworm feeding on corn roots, though neither is currently of concern.

Observations continue to support that soybean fields with cereal rye cover crops exhibit reduced weed pressure compared to non-cover cropped acres, highlighting an opportunity to further enhance weed suppression through integrated management practices.

OUTLOOK

Moving forward, improved weed control—particularly in soybeans—will be a key area to watch as a second flush emerges. While recent rainfall has supported crop growth, a period of drier weather will help stabilize field conditions. Overall, crops remain in solid condition, but management decisions in the coming weeks will play an important role in maintaining that trajectory.

For more, visit farmland.org/midwest-crop-reports