



MIDWEST CROP REPORT | JULY 24, 2026

LASALLE/DEKALB COUNTIES



PHOTO CAPTION:

WEATHER & FIELD CONDITIONS

Conditions across the area remain adequate, with partly cloudy skies and temperatures around 80°F. Soil moisture is holding for now, but we will need to see some measurable rainfall over the next 2–4 weeks to keep crops progressing and support grain fill—particularly in corn as we move through reproductive stages.

FIELD ACTIVITY

Field activity has ramped up significantly over the last 10 days. Much of the corn crop is entering or actively moving through pollination, and retailers, along with aerial applicators, are running at a breakneck pace, applying fungicides across the area.

SOYBEANS

Soybeans are primarily in the R2 (full bloom) to early R3 (pod set) stages and are in good overall condition. Fungicide and insecticide applications are also active across soybean acres. Disease pressure locally remains low, although red crown rot was observed earlier this week in south-central Illinois. Insect presence is widespread, with Japanese beetles accounting for most of the visible feeding. At this point, feeding levels remain below economic concern in the fields observed.

CORN

Corn is largely at VT to R1 and progressing well, with overall crop condition rated as good. Despite the volume of fungicide applications taking place, disease pressure in most fields remains minimal.

Many fungicide decisions appear to be driven by hybrid response characteristics, a desire to improve standability through harvest, or as a preventative measure against potential late-season disease. My approach continues to be more targeted. I'm not a proponent of blanket applications across every acre. Instead, I recommend a scout-and-spray strategy—focusing attention on hybrids that may be more susceptible to major yield-limiting diseases such as gray leaf spot (GLS), northern corn leaf blight (NCLB), and southern rust.

Weather patterns, environmental conditions, and current disease pressure should all factor into the decision-making process. Don't be afraid to pull back from a planned application or delay timing if conditions don't justify it. In some cases, the most profitable application is the one that isn't made.

WEED & PEST PRESSURE

Weed pressure continues to include waterhemp, giant ragweed, fall panicum, giant foxtail, and marehail. Insect activity is present but currently low in severity, including Japanese beetles, grasshoppers, corn aphids, western corn rootworm adults, and stinkbugs.

One notable observation this week was the difference in volunteer corn pressure between soybean fields with and without a cereal rye cover crop. Fields that had been cover-cropped showed significantly reduced volunteer corn pressure compared to those without cover. In many cases, this resulted in more effective control during the post-emergent herbicide pass and, in some instances, eliminated the need for an additional volunteer corn product altogether.

OUTLOOK

As crops move through pollination and into early reproductive stages, weather will be a key driver moving forward. Adequate moisture will be critical to maintain crop condition and support grain fill. Insect and disease pressures remain worth monitoring, but at this point are generally low. Continued scouting and disciplined management decisions will be important as the season progresses.

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