

No. 17 August 6, 2026

2026 NDSU FIELD DAYS

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The North Dakota State University Research Extension Centers' annual field days show N.D. Agricultural Experiment Station research in action. The events take place at the Research Extension Center sites across the state and feature speakers, presentations and tours covering a diverse array of topics. The field days are open to the public.

2026 Field Days Locations & Dates

Location	Date	Time
<u>Nesson</u> (WREC)	Aug. 5	9 a.m. - 1 p.m. CDT
<u>Oakes</u> (CREC)	Aug. 6	9 a.m. - 1 p.m. CDT



SOYBEAN APHID AND SPIDER MITE UPDATE

Soybean growth stages ranged from R1 (beginning bloom) to R6 (full seed).

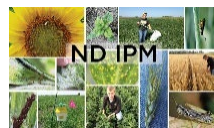
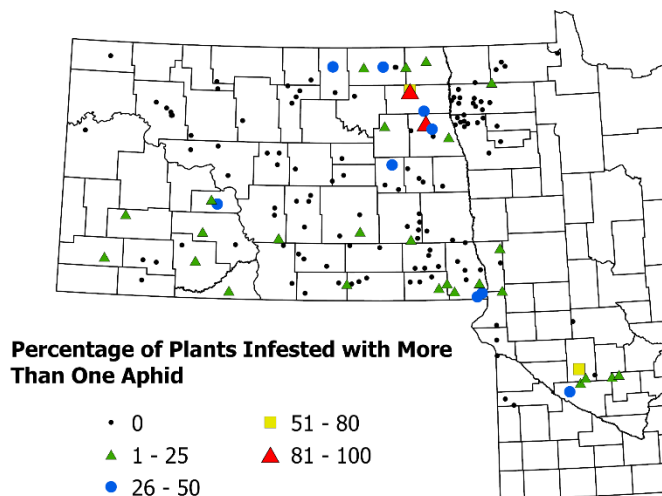
Soybean aphid populations increased slightly in North Dakota and west-central Minnesota from the previous week. About 27% of the fields scouted were positive for soybean aphids, compared to 20% last week. Plants infested with soybean aphids ranged from 5 to 100% incidence compared to 5 to 80% incidence last week. The average number of soybean aphids per plant was 1-107 compared to only 1-25 soybean aphids per plant last week.

We are **below the economic threshold for soybean aphids in all soybean fields scouted (94)**. The economic threshold is an average of 250 aphids per plant, and when populations are actively increasing in 80% of the field.

The recent temperatures in the mid-70s and 80s will favor soybean aphid reproduction. Continue regular scouting for soybean aphids and other insect pests until R6.

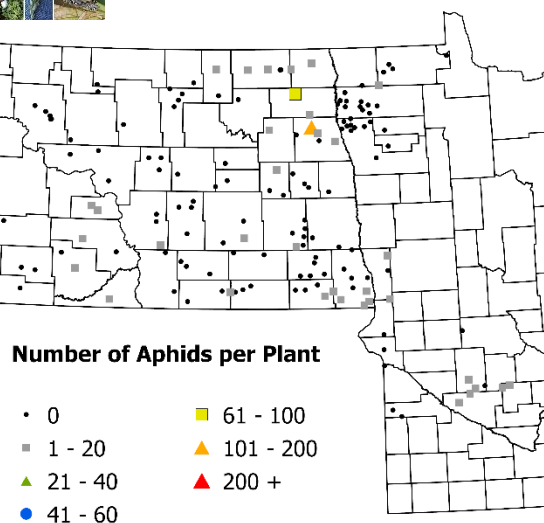
Soybean Aphids Incidence

July 20 - 31, 2026



Soybean Aphids

July 20 - 31, 2026



Avoid unnecessary insecticide sprays for soybean aphids, as they may trigger secondary pest outbreaks, such as **spider mites** (see last week's CPR article, "[Watch for Spider Mites](#)"). Last week, IPM scouts observed spider mites mainly on field edges in Barnes, Griggs, Oliver, Morton and Grant Counties of North Dakota and in Wilkin County, Minnesota. See below photographs of spider mite damage to soybeans.



Severe spider mite feeding injury with stippling into the upper canopy, yellowing-browning lower leaves and leaf drop (left) and spider mite damage on field edge of soybean field (right) (Jeff Stachler, NDSU CREC)

RED SUNFLOWER SEED WEEVIL UPDATE

Sunflower growth stages ranged from R1 (miniature terminal bud) to R5 early flowering. IPM Scouts observed red sunflower seed weevils (RSSW) in 29% of the sunflower fields scouted in North Dakota. The average number of RSSW per head ranged from 0 to 2.2, well below the economic threshold, except for one field in Grand Forks County which had 10.8 per head. Scouting and grower reports from early this week in southwestern North Dakota indicate increasing RSSW populations approaching or exceeding the economic threshold.

Continue scouting until the economic threshold is reached or plants reach 70% pollen shed (R5.7). After R5.7, plants are no longer at risk for egg laying or significant damage, and larvae are protected inside seeds from insecticides.

Optimum Treatment Timing: It's recommended to treat when 3 out of 10 plants in a field are just starting to shed pollen. This provides flexibility in the event of weather delays or scheduling issues with aerial applicators. Early sprays for high RSSW populations may require a second application. NDSU Extension Entomology has received field reports from producers who are beginning to spray early-flowering sunflowers for RSSW in southwest and south-central North Dakota this week.



*Red sunflower seed weevil
(Brandi Herauf, former IPM Scout)*

2026 RSSW Economic Threshold (average # weevils per head)

Oilseed sunflower at 28 cents per lb:

25,000 – 16,000 plants per acre

- \$6 insecticide cost per acre + \$12 aerial application costs – **>5-8 weevils per head**
- \$8 insecticide cost per acre + \$12 aerial application costs – **>6-9 weevils per head**

Confection sunflowers:

- **>1-2 weevil per head**

IPM INSECT TRAP REPORT

Here are some reports from last week's IPM insect trapping (July 27-31, 2026). More insect-trapping maps are posted on the [IPM Crop Survey map](#) website.

Sunflower crop stages ranged from R3 (bud >1 inch from leaf) to R5 (early flower) last week.

Banded sunflower moth and **Arthur's sunflower moth**

increased from last week's trap numbers. Banded sunflower moths were detected at all trap sites (8) last week, and weekly trap catches ranged from 49 to 1,851 moths per trap. The highest count, 1,851 moths per trap, was recorded in Bottineau County. The Arthur's sunflower moth, a similar moth to the banded sunflower moth, was detected at 5 trap sites (63%) last week, and weekly trap catches ranged from 6 to 68 moths per trap. See last week's Crop & Pest Report article on "[Banded Sunflower](#)



Banded sunflower moth and tiny white eggs on bud (NDSU Extension Entomology)

[Moth Scouting](#)". The current **EIL threshold is an average of 1-2 moths per 100 plants**, based on a market price of 28 cents per lb., depending on plant population and insecticide cost (insecticide + application).



Sunflower moth (J. Knodel, NDSU)

The number of **sunflower moths** decreased, observed at only 38% of trap sites, down from 71% last week. Weekly trap catches ranged from 1 to 7 moths per trap for July 27-31, below the trap threshold for sunflower moth. Good news for sunflower growers.

Method	Threshold - Sunflower moths
Pheromone trap	28 sunflower moths per trap per week
Field scouting	1-2 moths per 5 plants

CORN INSECT TRAPPING NETWORK

Weekly trapping results are posted in the NDSU Extension [Crop & Pest Report](#) and on the [IPM Crop Survey map](#) website.

The corn growth stages ranged from R1 (silking) to R2 (blister) for July 27-31, 2026. No **European corn borers** were detected in the pheromone traps located at the nine trap sites in southeastern North Dakota (see table on next page). We are at the end of the univoltine corn borer flight, which peaks in mid-July in North Dakota.

European Corn Borer Trapping - 2026																			
Field_ID	County	Town	Week 1 - June 29-July 3			Week 2 - July 6-10			Week 3 - July 13-17			Week 4 - July 20-24			Week 5 - July 27-31			Cumulative Total	
			Z-race	E-race	Total	Z-race	E-race	Total	Z-race	E-race	Total	Z-race	E-race	Total	Z-race	E-race	Total	Z-race	E-race
Barnes 1	Barnes	Sibley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnes 2	Barnes	Rogers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cass 1	Cass	Argusville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	15	0	15	0	0	0	16
Ransom 1	Ransom	Lisbon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Richland 1	Richland	Galchutt	1	1	2	2	0	2	16	3	19	7	0	7	0	0	0	26	4
Richland 2	Richland	Hankinson	0	0	0	3	0	3	2	0	2	3	0	3	0	0	0	8	0
Sargent 1	Sargent	Gwinner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Sargent 2	Sargent	Rutland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steele 1	Steele	Finley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	1	0	1	0	0	6	0
	6 counties		Totals	1	1	2	5	0	5	28	3	31	27	0	27	0	0	0	61
	trapped		Race %	50.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	90.3	9.7	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0	0	0	93.8

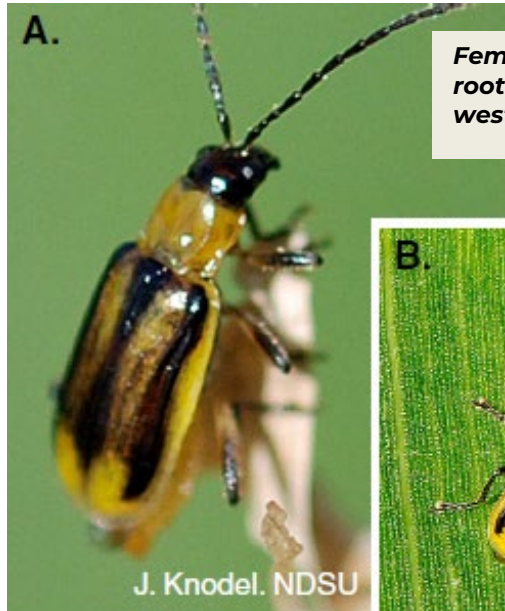
Corn rootworms were detected at 8 trap sites (42%) last week, and weekly trap catches ranged from 1 to 5 beetles per trap (see Table 1). A total of 54 corn rootworms were captured on yellow sticky traps across all trap sites. Northern corn rootworms (NCR) comprised 93.1% of the total corn rootworms captured last week; in contrast, western corn rootworms (WCR) comprised only 6.9%. No fields were above the trap economic threshold.

Trap Economic Threshold: A capture rate of **14 or more adults per trap per week** (either NCR or WCR, or any combination of the two species) indicates a **high rootworm population and high risk for corn damage in that field for the 2027 season**. A management strategy is recommended for corn rootworm control if corn is to be planted in that field the following year.

Northern and western corn rootworms are easy to identify. Northern corn rootworm adults are tan to pale green and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. Western corn rootworm adults are yellow, yellowish-green to black beetles and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. Female WCR beetles have three longitudinal stripes on their forewings, and male western corn rootworm beetles have nearly solid black forewings.



Northern corn rootworm
(Eric Quale, CS AgriSolutions)



Female western corn rootworm (A) and male western corn rootworm (B)

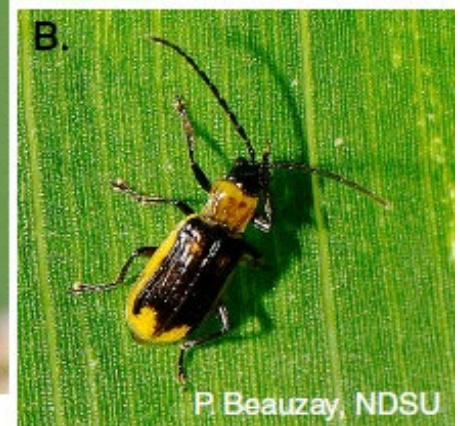


Table 1. Average number of adult corn rootworms (both northern and western) per trap per week in North Dakota field corn, 2026.

Area	County	Nearest Town	Week 1 July 27 - July 31	Week 2 August 3-7	Week 3 August 10-14	Week 4 August 17-21	Cumulative Total NCW & WCR
SE	Barnes	9 SE Sibley	0.0				0.0
SE	Barnes	1 SE Rogers	0.0				0.0
SE	Cass	4 E Argusville	0.8				0.8
SE	Cass	4 NE Page	0.5				0.5
SE	Griggs	5 S Hannaford	0.0				0.0
SE	Griggs	2 N Hannaford	0.0				0.0
SE	Ransom	8 NE Lisbon	5.0				5.0
SE	Richland	6 SW Hankinson	1.8				1.8
SE	Richland	2 SW Barney	0.0				0.0
SE	Richland	5 W Colfax	0.0				0.0
SE	Richland	6 SW Colfax	0.0				0.0
SE	Richland	7 SW Wahpeton	0.0				0.0
SE	Richland	5 SW Lidgerwood	0.0				0.0
SE	Richland	1 E Hankinson	0.3				0.3
SE	Richland	3 NW Galchutt	0.3				0.3
SE	Richland	6 E Hankinson	0.0				0.0
SE	Sargent	5 NW Gwinner	4.0				4.0
SE	Sargent	4 SE Rutland	2.0				2.0
SE	Steele	3 N Finely	0.0				0.0
NORTH DAKOTA CORN COUNCIL		Total # CRW	54				14.5
		Percent NCR	93.1				
		Percent WCR	6.9				

Economic threshold (ET) is an average of 14 or more adults per trap per week (regardless of species).

Red highlighted text indicates that the corn field is at or above the ET.

APHIDS IN CORN

Aphids are being observed in corn fields. The corn leaf aphid, bird cherry oat aphid and greenbug are the most common aphid species causing problems in corn. They migrate into North Dakota from the southern parts of the USA. Aphid species can be found from mid-June through fall. The greenbug is the most injurious because it injects a toxin into its host's tissue during feeding, causing necrotic brown leaf tissue.



*Aphids on corn leaf in Griggs County (Jeff Stachler, NDSU, CREC)
(Eric Quale, CS AgriSolutions)*

Threshold: The critical period for injury by corn aphids is during tassel emergence through silking-pollination (R1). The **threshold is reached when 50% of the corn plants have 100+ aphids per plant at tassel emergence, or when tassels are heavily coated in honeydew prior to 50% pollination.** Drought stress will increase the risk of

feeding damage and yield loss. When the corn crop reaches hard dent (R5) is not susceptible to aphids or yield loss.

Natural Controls: Lady beetles, aphid lions, syrphid flies and parasitic wasps play a major role in reducing aphid populations. Fungal diseases can also cause epizootic outbreaks that rapidly kill aphids. When natural enemies are present in large numbers, and the crop is well developed, producers are discouraged from spraying fields with insecticides for aphids.

SUMMER GENERATION OF CANOLA FLEA BEETLE

Field reports of the summer generation of canola flea beetles feeding on canola pods have been observed in canola-producing areas of North Dakota. This generation consists of new adult flea beetles that emerge from the soil from late July through August after completing their egg, larval and pupal stages. They feed on the leaves, stems, and developing pods of maturing canola and remain active through the fall until colder temperatures force them to find overwintering sites. They feed mainly on the upper or younger pods at the top of the canola plant. The later-seeded canola is most affected because flea beetles are attracted to the greener (younger) canola fields for feeding. In severe infestations, feeding damage causes poor seed fill, premature pod drying, shriveled seeds or pod shattering. It also provides an entry point for fungal growth within pods in damp weather.



Flea beetles feeding on canola pods (Jon Wert)

Although high numbers of flea beetles often alarm producers, they rarely cause economic yield loss. The canola crop is mature and can tolerate late-season feeding. The **economic threshold is also high, averaging 100-300 beetles per plant, depending on the vigor of the canola hybrid**. Research data show that producers are unlikely to recoup the cost of insecticide and application, since most canola yield comes from the lower pods, not the upper pods that flea beetles prefer for feeding. After swathing or combining, flea beetles are typically concentrated on standing plants in field areas that the swather or straight combine missed.

After feeding and colder temperatures, flea beetles will move to their overwintering sites in the leaf litter of shelterbelts or grassy areas, and rarely in canola stubble.

[Janet J. Knodel](#)

Extension Entomologist

[Patrick Beauzay](#)

Research Specialist & IPM Coordinator



SUNFLOWER RUST

We encourage growers to scout for sunflower rust as the crop enters bloom (R5). The warm temperatures and dew (and periodic fog) have been favorable for rust development. However, scouting is critical, as rust is not an economic problem every year and some hybrids may have genetic resistance. Confection sunflowers are particularly sensitive to rust, but yield losses can occur in oilseed sunflower as well. If rust is found on the upper-four fully expanded leaves, a fungicide application at R5 can prevent or limit yield loss.

Signs and Symptoms.

Sunflower rust is commonly first observed near shelter belts (or other areas of a field with longer dew periods) and in the lower canopy (favorable microclimate). As the sunflower rust pathogen overwinters, it is also common to first find sunflower rust near last year's sunflower residue or wild/volunteer sunflowers. Pustules are cinnamon-brown and dusty, with spores that can be easily rubbed off the leaf (Figure 1). If an epidemic occurs, pustules may also be found on stems, petioles and bracts.

Management.

Timing. If rust reaches approximately 1% severity on the upper four fully expanded leaves at or before bloom (R5) a fungicide should be considered (Figure 2-3). Notably, in a recent study, even 0.1% severity levels at R5.2 (upper four fully-expanded leaves) resulted in yield loss in confectionary hybrids. At R6 or later (after bloom), fungicides had little to no impact on yield in our trials.

Efficacy. DMI [FRAC 3: Triazole] and QoI fungicides [FRAC 11: Strobilurin] and fungicides containing mixtures of those modes of actions are among the most effective on rust in our trials. Current and former NSA-funded graduate students Mr. Zach Ittel and Dr. Brandt Berghuis (now a professor at University Wisconsin – River Falls), respectively, generated excellent fungicide efficacy data on numerous fungicides. For detailed information please visit their research results available on the National Sunflower Association website at:

https://www.sunflowernsa.com/uploads/167/2_z.ittel.pdf and

https://www.sunflowernsa.com/uploads/27/Berghuis.etal_3yr.summary.fungicide.trials.rust.2016-2018_paper.pdf.

More information.

With financial support from the North Dakota Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, NDSU Extension recently produced an interactive sunflower rust video, with images of signs and

symptoms, scouting diagrams, and fungicide results, available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7auRSvqwuNA&t=255s>



Figure 1. Dusty cinnamon-brown rust pustules on a sunflower leaf



Figure 2. Approximately 1% rust severity on a fully-expanded sunflower leaf

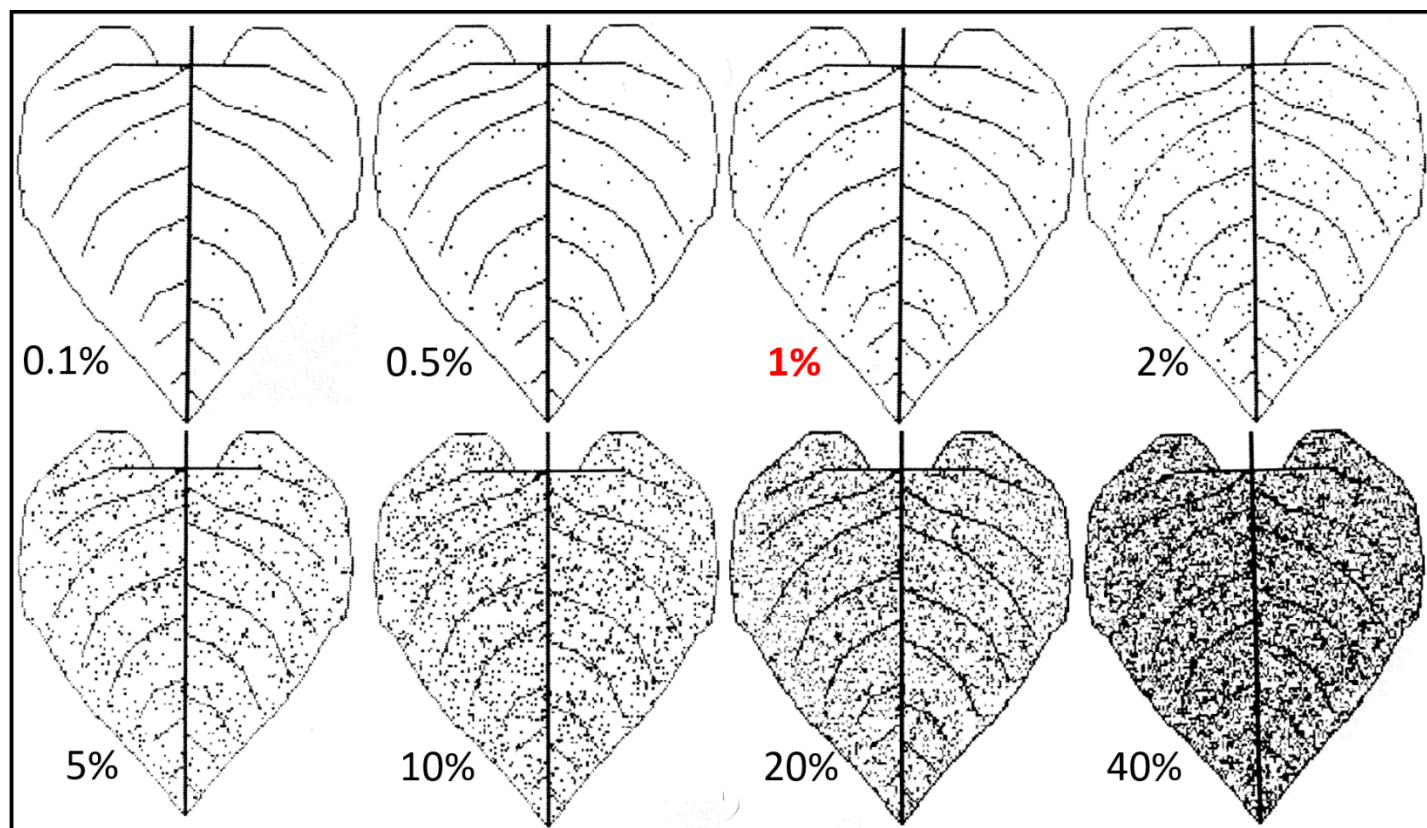


Figure 3. Sunflower rust severity assessment diagram; 1% severity in red

Zachary Ittel
Graduate Research Assistant

[Sam Markell](#)
Extension Plant Pathologist, Broad-leaf Crops

DRY EDIBLE BEAN RUST

Frequent dews and moderate-warm temperatures over the last few weeks have provided a favorable environment for dry edible bean rust. Rust will not occur every year, nor in every field, but can cause significant yield loss when it occurs mid-way (or earlier) in the growing season. Scouting is important, and very good fungicides are available.

Signs and Symptoms.

Dry bean rust is usually first found on the lower leaves of bean plants in 'hot spots', which are clusters of plants with relatively severe damage (Figure 1). Hot spots are often small (a few feet to several yards in diameter) and can occur anywhere in a field, but are more common near shelter belts or other areas prone to long dew periods. Rust is usually first observed on the upper sides of the leaves and appear as dusty cinnamon-brown pustules that may be surrounded by a small yellow halo (Figure 2). Pustules on the undersides of the leaves may appear more robust and lack the yellow halo (Figure 3).



Figure 1. Close up of a rust hot spot in dry edible beans



Figure 3. Pustules on underside of dry edible bean leaf



Figure 2. Dusty cinnamon-brown rust pustules the upper side of a dry edible bean leaf

Management.

If rust bean rust occurs early enough in the growing season and conditions remain conducive for infection and spread, a fungicide application may prevent yield loss. A hot-spot can turn into a full-blown epidemic in just a couple weeks. The best timing for a fungicide application to manage rust is shortly after it is first found, up until the later growth stages when fungicides no longer have a benefit (such as when pintos begin to stripe). QoI fungicides [strobilurins: FRAC 11], DMI fungicides [Triazole: FRAC 3], and mixtures containing these groups have been the most efficacious in our trials. Fungicides with other modes of action, some of which are more commonly applied for white mold may still reduce disease severity, but are often less effective in our trials. Exceptions have occurred.

More information.

For dry bean rust images and fungicide efficacy information, I recommend visiting a 2025 webinar presentation (Getting it Right – Dry Bean Production) discussion on dry bean rust, from times 1:15 to 7:00 at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzBl_4jpOyk&list=PLSOmVfcVwGi3DWH8bvWamtpFYftiunPMr&index=1.

[Sam Markell](#)

Extension Plant Pathologist, Broad-leaf Crops

**THE NORTH DAKOTA SOIL AND FERTILIZER RESOURCE**

At the 2026 Soil and Soil Water Workshop in January, I confidently predicted that The North Dakota Soil and Fertilizer Resource would be up and available in a couple weeks. Alas, that was not the case.

With my retirement officially 2 years old, and with wheat harvest beginning in the region and with the soil management decisions that are bound to soon follow, I am making the 99.99% edition available through the following link:

<https://info.ext.nodak.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/publications/north-dakota-soil-and-fertilizer-resource>

The science in the resource is 100% accurate as I see it. There may be a couple small edits still to be made, but they are minor. I envisioned this resource as a web-only document that could be edited as time went on.

When I first decided to retire, numerous Extension agents, farmers and ag-production people mourned that everything I learned during my 30+ career at NDSU and 50+ years overall would be lost. So, I spent the better part of 2023-2024 putting this work together and obtaining permissions for the images that were not mine/NDSU's.

So here it is.

I hope that you find it useful and instructive.

[Dave Franzen](#)

retired NDSU Extension Soil Specialist
Professor Emeritus



around the state

AROUND THE STATE NORTHEAST ND

According to NDAWN, the Northeast Region received rainfall over the past seven days, with southern counties generally receiving more precipitation than northern counties. Areas that received the heavier rainfall have already seen some relief to crops. Before yesterday's rainfall, several farmers in Walsh County had begun desiccating wheat in preparation for harvest. Yesterday's rain will likely cause a slight delay before producers can return to the fields.

Crop conditions remain variable across the region. Overall, small grains range from soft dough to fields nearing harvest, depending on planting date and field conditions. Many wheat fields are predominantly golden, although green patches remain, resulting in somewhat uneven maturity.

Corn, edible beans, and soybeans look stressed in some areas while other fields appear to be in much better condition, likely reflecting the uneven distribution of rainfall. Hopefully, the recent rain will provide the moisture needed to improve crop development. Corn is generally at the R1 (silking) growth stage. Soybeans continue to develop, with most fields ranging from beginning pod (R3) to full pod (R4), while some earlier-planted fields have reached beginning seed (R5). Beans that are beginning to fill pods could benefit greatly from additional rainfall. Soybean aphid populations are at or approaching economic thresholds in many counties. Producers are encouraged to continue scouting fields and take appropriate management actions where thresholds have been exceeded.

Canola is nearly finished blooming and is now filling seed. However, prolonged heat and dry conditions over the past month have resulted in yellowing plants and drought stress in some fields.



Wheat ready for harvest in Pierce County. Photo: Natalie Wibe, ANR Extension Agent, Pierce County



Lady beetle larva in durum wheat. Photo: Anitha Chirumamilla, LREC

Yesterday, 13 youth from Ramsey, Benson, Towner, Pembina, and Cavalier counties participated in a crop scouting program in Hampden and Munich area where they learned about crop growth staging, careers in agriculture, and toured Dick's Seed Farm near Munich. We thank the North Dakota Soybean Council, the North Dakota Corn Council, and CHS for providing sponsorship and a seed digger for the event. Each participant went home with a backpack equipped for field scouting.



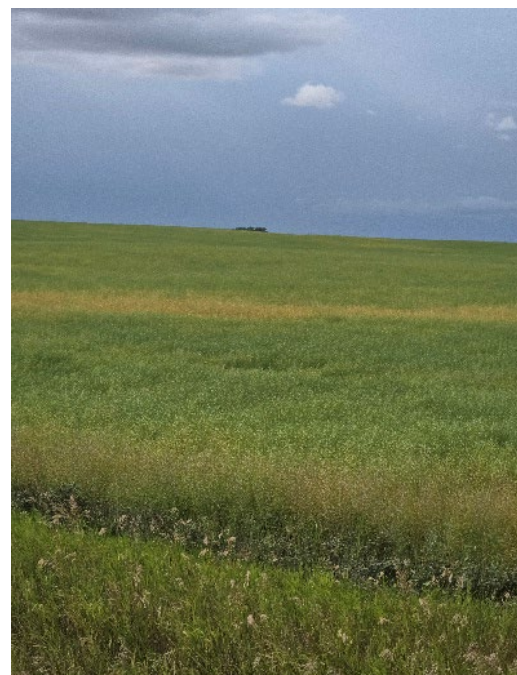
Corn with brown silk in Cavalier County. Photo: Anitha Chirumamilla, LREC



Parasitized mummified aphids on a wheat head. Photo: Anitha Chirumamilla, LREC



Soybeans covered with aphids. Photo: McKenna Schneider, IPM Scout, LREC



Canola in Pierce County. Photo: Natalie Wibe, ANR Extension Agent, Pierce County

[Anitha Chirumamilla](#)

Extension Cropping Systems Specialist
Langdon Research Extension Center

SOUTH-CENTRAL/SOUTHEAST ND

The drought continues to strengthen in the east, southeast and west parts of the region as shown in Figures 1 and 2. High temperatures continued across the region again this past week and crop maturity is ahead of schedule, but cooler weather have arrived. Soybean aphid slowed drastically, but grasshoppers and spider mites picked up in areas of the region with at least one soybean field being sprayed for spider mites in Griggs County as seen in Figure 3. I even found high pressures of spider mites in corn in Griggs County (Figure 4). The red seed sunflower weevil is in the southwest part of the region with insecticide applications being made. Hail damage occurred in some areas of the region again last week. Field margin weeds are a disaster in most fields and need to be mowed immediately to reduce weed seed spread, especially of air-borne seeds of species such as Canada thistle and Perennial thistle. Kochia and waterhemp are coming more prevalent over the top of wheat and soybean canopies.



Figure 1: Severely wilted soybean in Sheridan County last Wednesday, July 29th.



Figure 2: Severe drought-stressed corn in Griggs County on August 4th.



Figure 3: Severe infestation of spider mites in soybean in Griggs County July 31st needing a miticide application.



Figure 4: Severe infestation of spider mites in corn in Griggs County on July 30th.

After conducting a wheat weed survey in Eddy, Griggs, and Kidder Counties last week, weed density seemed to be reduced in most small grain fields compared to last year, except for the organic fields of Kidder County. Nearly every organic small grain field in Kidder County had high densities of field bindweed across the fields. I believe I found only 2 weed-free HRSW fields in Griggs County during the survey which may be an all-time low.

The most rain for several weeks fell across most of the region this past week. Rainfall ranged from 0 inches at Steele to 2.58 inches near Oakes. Water deficits caused by the difference in evapotranspiration compared to rainfall ranged from -1.05 inches (surplus) at Oakes to 1.72 inches at Livona with an average across the region at the 47 NDAWN stations of 0.98 inch.

Corn growing degree days (GDD's) increased substantially again over the past week as shown in Table 1. The McHenry NDAWN station followed closely by the Mooreton NDAWN station saw the greatest GDD increases from last week of the 7 NDAWN Stations. Denhoff continues to be behind

the normal GDD's for this time of year while all other locations were at least 55 GDD above the normal with Mayville 210 GDD above normal. Based upon the accumulated GDD's at Denhoff since May 13th, an 80-day corn hybrid should reach black layer by August 30th, 5 days earlier than last week. Based upon the accumulated GDD's at Mooreton since May 13th, a 95-day corn hybrid should reach black layer by September 15th, 2 days earlier than last week.

Table 1. Accumulated and departure from normal GDD's for seven NDAWN stations across the region.

	Denhoff	Linton	McHenry	Jamestown	Edgeley	Mayville	Mooreton
Accumulation from 5-13 to 8-3, 2026	1333	1374	1420	1394	1464	1523	1576
Departure from last week	+ 161	+ 106	+ 164	+ 155	+ 153	+ 149	+ 163
Departure from normal	- 11	+ 55	+ 157	+ 95	+ 135	+ 210	+ 158
Departure from 2025	+ 233	+ 176	+ 243	+ 195	+ 221	+ 299	+ 290
Departure from the 5-year average	+ 56	+ 416	+ 105	+ 60	+ 55	+ 132	+ 109
Departure between last week and Aug. 3 for the 5-year average	+ 23	+15	+ 27	+ 20	+ 15	+ 27	+ 27

Hard red spring wheat (HRSW) and barley harvest ranges from 1 to 3% in Barnes, Griggs, and Eddy Counties while Cass County has about 20% HRSW harvested and likely 50% in Richland and Sargent Counties. Kidder County has about 15% of the HRSW harvested already. HRSW stage in the region ranges from soft dough to harvested with most near the hard-dough stage. Barley, Durum, and HRSW crops declined in quality again this past week due to heat and lack of rainfall. The only yield report in the region so far was for barley in Emmons County at 90 bushels per acre and malting quality was achieved. HRSW in Sheridan County is down to 12 to 14% moisture, but some wheat in the northwest corner of the county had to be baled instead of harvested for grain due to the dry weather.

Corn condition declined again this past week in most of the region and drastically in some areas of the region. As I set corn rootworm traps in six different corn fields, I was greatly surprised how good 5 of the 6 fields were looking. Corn growth stage in the region ranges from about VT (tasseling) to early R5 (soft dough stage) with most corn between R2 (blister) to R3 (milk) stage. Figure 5 shows the variation in corn yield between a good and bad part of the field in Griggs County on Tuesday of this week.

The soybean crop declined in condition again this past week in most of the region due to the drought and heat. Soybean growth stages ranges from R3 (at least 3/16-inch pods in one of the upper 4 nodes) to R5 (pods starting to fill in at least one pod within one of the top four nodes having fully expanded leaflets) as seen in Figure 6 with most at the R4 (full pod) stage.

Most canola in the region is in the pod filling stage and most canola out west is turning quickly. Based upon a quick glance from the road, most canola in the region looks really good, but I have seen pod abortion in the end of the seed branches, so we will see about the yield come harvest time.

Dry bean condition declined in most of the region this past week, but don't look too bad from the road, however not many dry bean fields have row closure. Dry bean growth stage ranges from R3 (pods 1 inch long) to the R5 (pods 3 inches long and seeds starting to fill) with most at the R3 (1-inch pods) stage. Weed control is getting ugly in some fields, but overall better than last year,

Sunflowers look really good from the road and have good plant health across the region, however as plants being flowering, sunflower head diameter is less than the last two years. Sunflower growth stage ranges from R1 (flower bud visible) to early R6 (petals starting to drop) with most at the R5.5 (50% of a head flowering) stage.

Dry pea condition declined due to diseases and heat. Most peas are about to or have been desiccated. One dry pea variety at the Carrington Research Extension Center's seed stocks farm was harvested and produced a record yield per acre.

Enjoy the cooler weather, but please pray for more rain for most of the region! Please think twice as you begin small grain harvest in order to stay safe.

[Jeff Stachler](#)
Extension Cropping Systems Specialist

**WEATHER FORECAST****The August 6 to August 12, 2026 Weather Summary and Outlook**

Most of North Dakota recorded another week with very little rain, but there were some exceptions (Figure 1). There was a narrow band of 1 inch plus rains running from Wells County to Grand Forks County. Another pocket of rain in central Cass County and also in eastern Dickey and western Sargent County. Yet even in those areas the higher totals were often localized. These next 7 days will likely also not produced a lot of rain for most areas, but like last week, there may be some localized pockets. It appears northern North Dakota is a bit more favored for rain than southern areas.

Total Rainfall Past 7 Days (in)

Aug 05 2026 09:01 AM

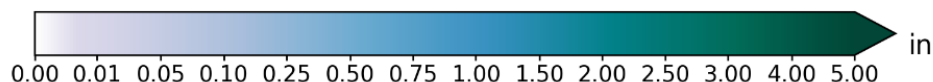
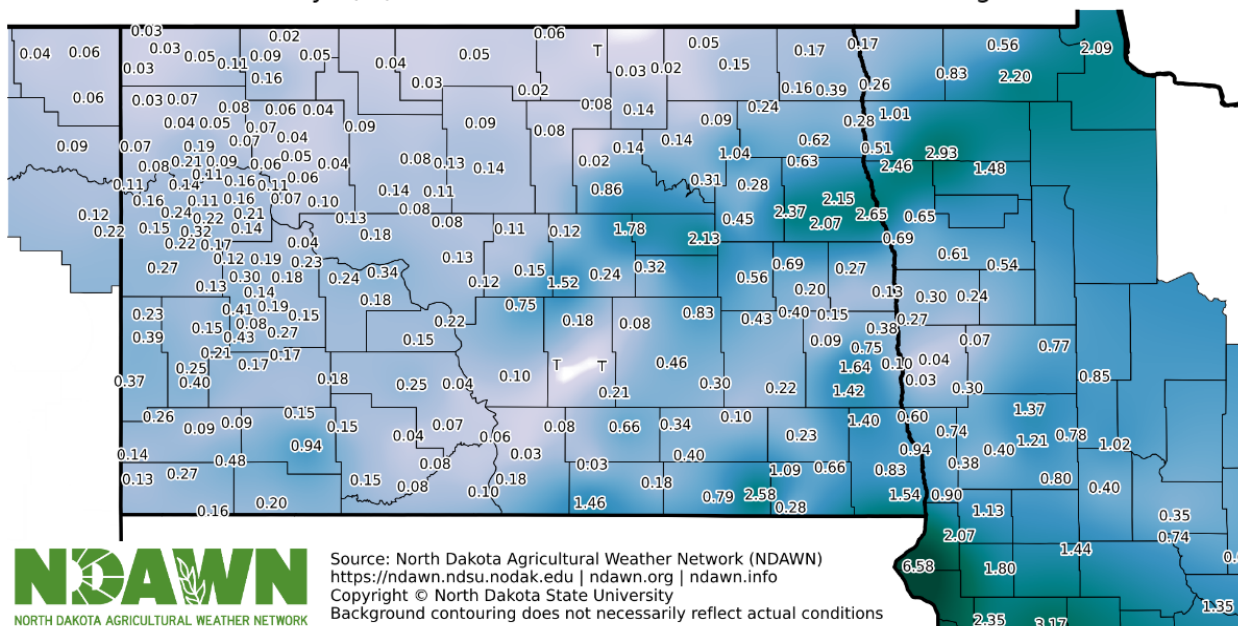


Figure 1. Total Rain at NDAWN stations from July 30 through 9:00 AM on August 5, 2026

Even with some rains last week, a high percentage of the region is still well below average rain this summer (Figure 2). Drought conditions continue to expand and no significant pattern change is foreseen in the near term.

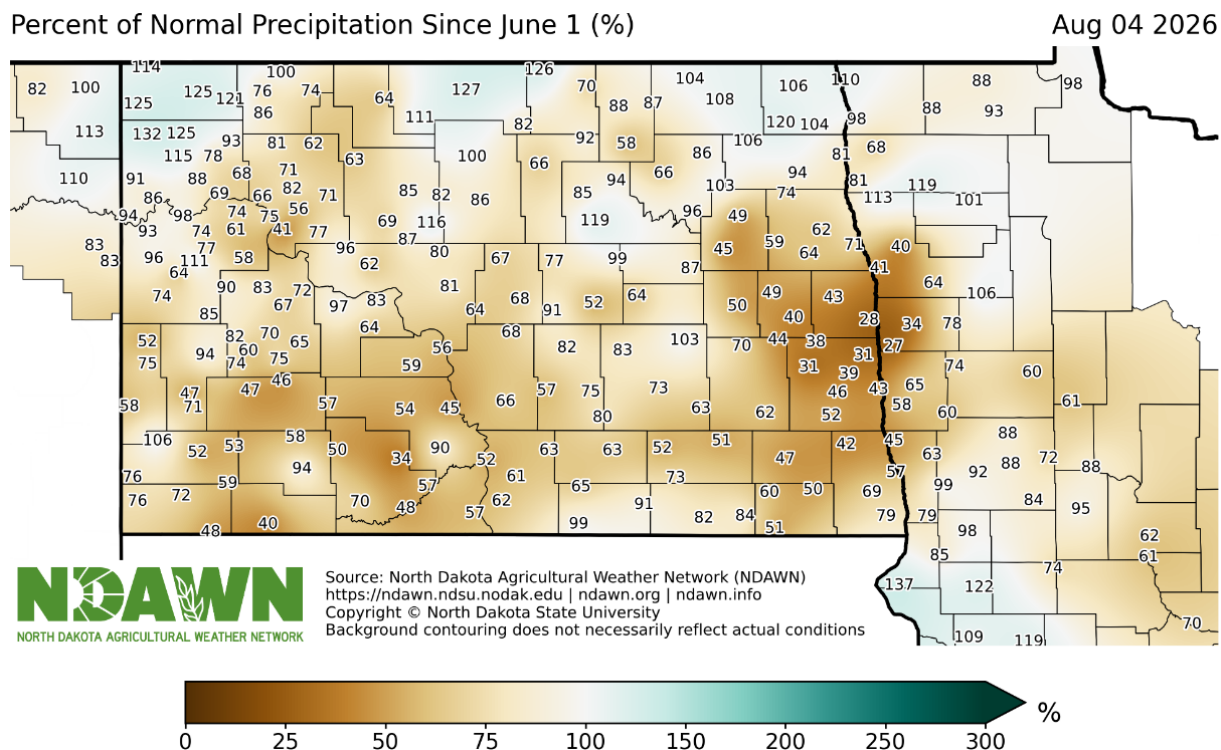


Figure 2. Departure from Average Rainfall from June 1 through August 4, 2026

July 2026 was one of the warmest Julys on record across much of North Dakota with temperatures averaging between 4 and 7 degrees above normal (Figure 3). The well above temperatures greatly enhanced the evaporation potential during the month.

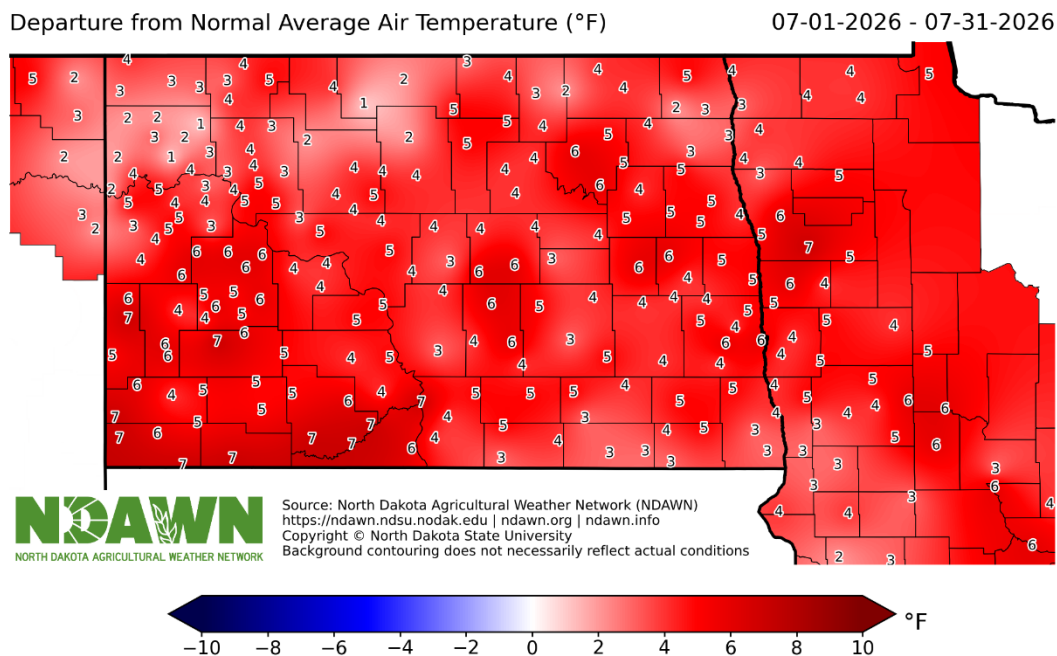


Figure 3. Departure from Average Temperatures for July 2026.

Figures 4 and 5 show the forecasted growing degree days (GDDs) for base 32° (wheat and small grains) and base 50°F (corn and soybeans) during this forecast period.

Growing Degree Days (Base 32) Forecast

Aug 06 - Aug 12 2026

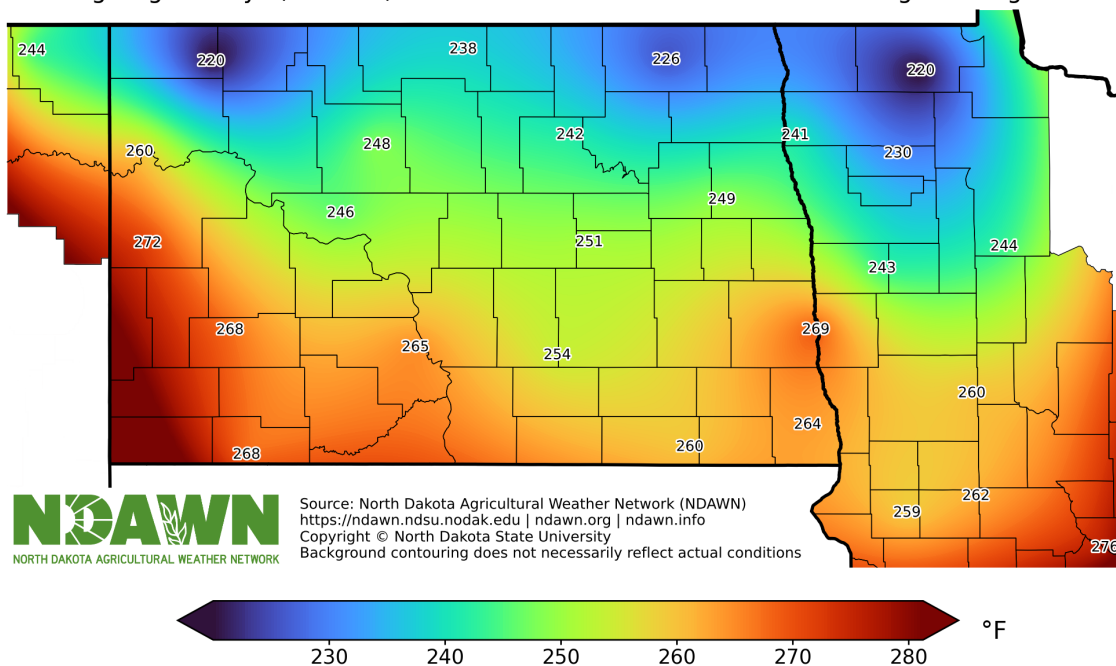


Figure 4. Estimated Growing Degree Days Base 32° for the Period of August 6 to August 12, 2026

Growing Degree Days (Base 50) Forecast

Aug 06 - Aug 12 2026

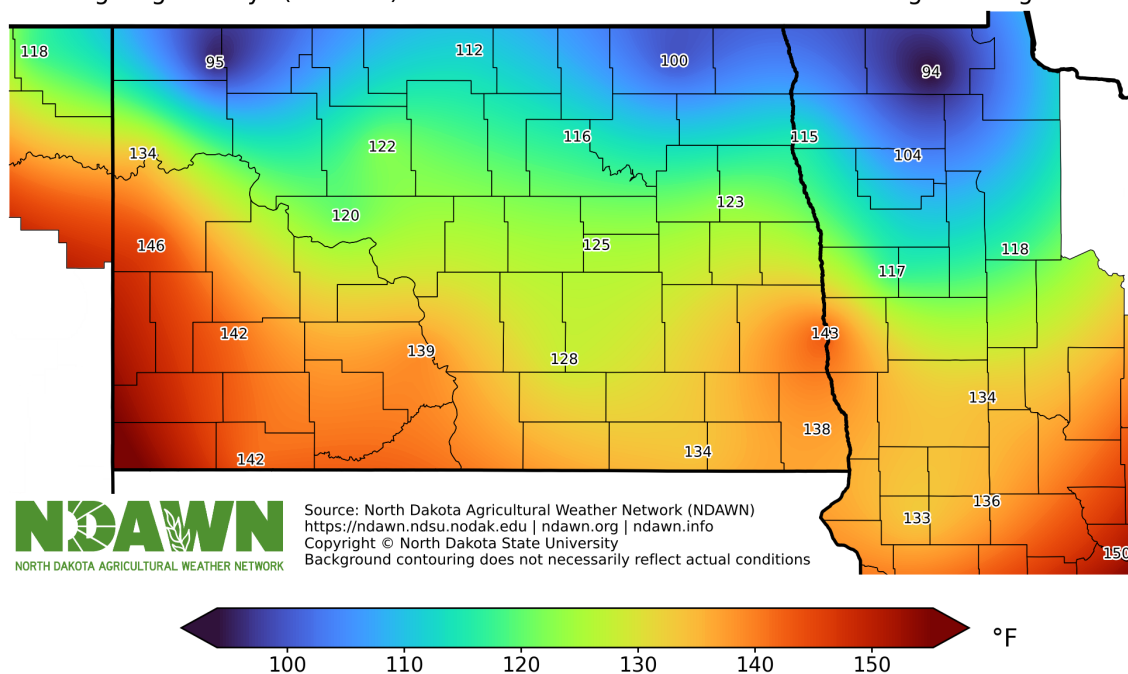


Figure 5. Estimated Growing Degree Days Base 50° for the Period of August 6 to August 12, 2026

Using May 1 as a planting date, the accumulated growing degree days for wheat (base temperature 32°) is given in Figure 6. You can calculate wheat growing degree days based on your exact planting date(s) here: <https://ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu/wheat-growing-degree-days.html>

Wheat Growing Degree Days Since May 1

Aug 04 2026

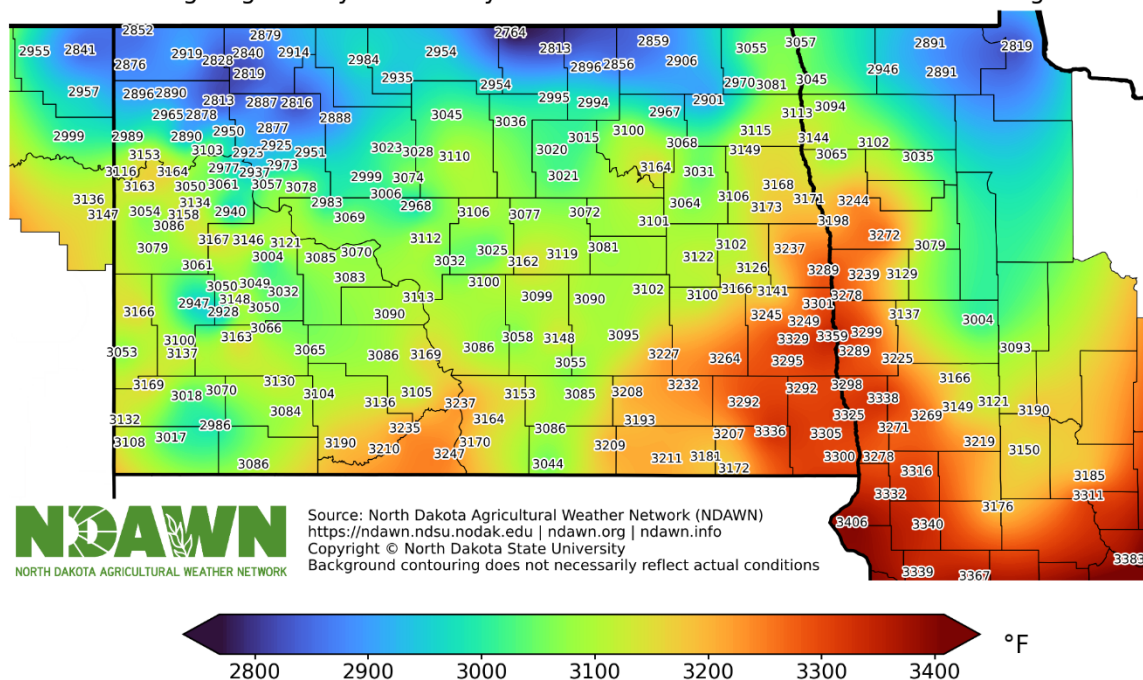


Figure 6. Wheat Growing Degree Days (Base 32°) for the Period of May 1 through August 4, 2026

Using May 10 as a planting date, the accumulated growing degree days for corn (base temperature 50°) is given in Figure 7. You can calculate corn growing degree days based on your exact planting date(s) here: <https://ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu/corn-growing-degree-days.html>.

Corn | Soybean Growing Degree Days Since May 10

Aug 04 2026

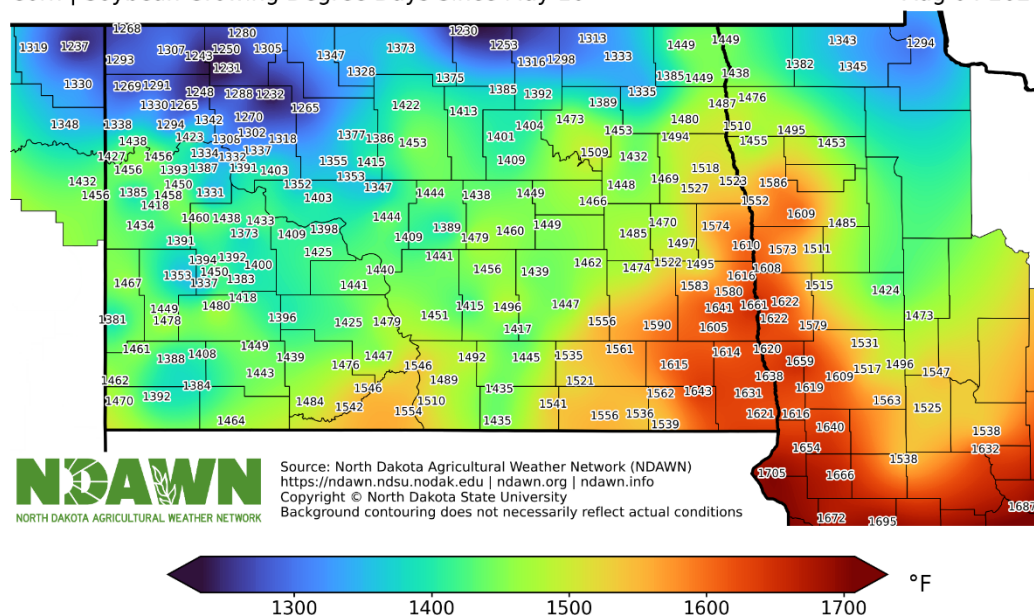


Figure 7. Corn Growing Degree Days (Base 50°) for the Period of May 10 through August 4, 2026

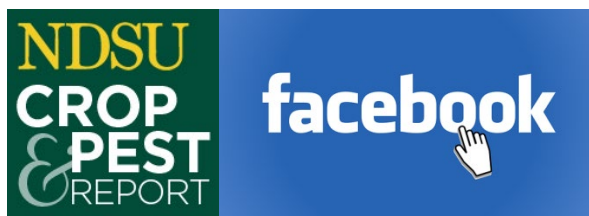
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