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OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE NEWS

Muskingum County

July 27, 2020

Climate and Hydrology Pattern to Relax in August

https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-24/climate-and-hydrology-pattern-relax-august

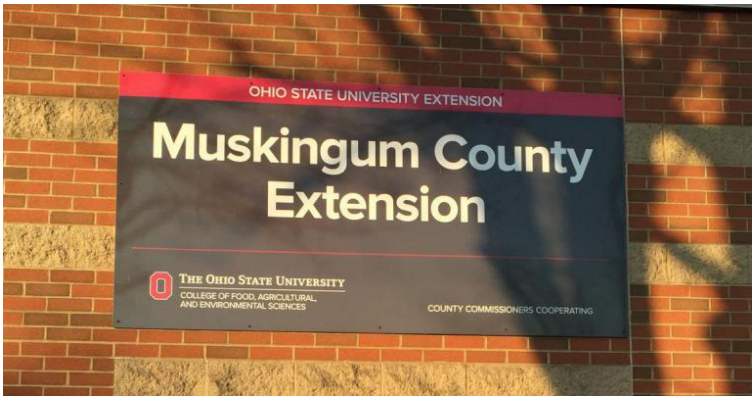
The overall drier pattern in many but not all places in Ohio this summer appears like it will relax closer to normal in August. The greatest uncertainty with the outlook will center around how the tropical moisture impacts the eastern United States.

The August outlook for temperatures indicates 1-2F above normal but a lot closer to normal than what we have seen this summer with the heat. The last time we have seen this much hot weather was 2015 and 2012. The good news is the worst of the heat for 2020 appears over. What this means is we should see a lot more maximum temperatures in the 80s with some 90s thrown in. Expected minimum temperatures mostly in the 60s to lower 70s.

The August outlook for rainfall indicates somewhat improving conditions. There is uncertainty here due to tropical moisture and where it flows. Normal rainfall is in the 3-4 inch range and rainfall is expected to average in the 2-4 inches range with a few higher totals. This will put us a lot closer to normal wetness. The 2 inch totals are more likely in northern Ohio and the 4 inches totals are more likely in southern Ohio.

It appears that the scattered drought conditions in Ohio are likely peaking and some improvement is possible over the next several months.

In this issue...



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The outlook for September to November for the end of growing season into harvest season suggests warmer than normal weather will persist and low chances for an early freeze. Rainfall is shaping up to not be too far from normal.

ODA Asks Public to Not Plant any Unsolicited Packages of Seeds
https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-24/oda-asks-public-not-plant-any-unsolicited-packages-seeds
The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has been notified that several Ohio residents have received unsolicited packages in the mail containing seeds that appear to have originated from China. The types of seeds in the packages are currently unknown and may contain invasive plant species. Similar seed packets have been received recently in several other locations across the United States.

If you receive a package of this type, please DO NOT plant these seeds. If they are in sealed packaging, do not open the sealed package. You can report the seeds to ODA online here or you may contact the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Anti-smuggling Hotline by calling 800-877-3835 or by emailing SITC.Mail@aphis.usda.gov. Also, if possible, please retain the original packaging, as that information may be useful to trade compliance officers as they work through this issue.

Unsolicited seeds could be invasive species, contain noxious weeds, could introduce diseases to local plants, or could be harmful to livestock. Invasive species and noxious weeds can displace native plants and increase costs of food production. ODA and APHIS work hard to prevent the introduction of invasive species and protect Ohio agriculture. All foreign seeds shipped to the United States should have a phytosanitary certificate which guarantees the seeds meet important requirements.

We will have the latest information regarding this investigation at https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/resources/seed-reporter.

Headlines from the Ohio Beef Cattle Letter

Headlines from the Ohio Crop Observation Network

Replacing "Junk" Forage with "Quality" Forage
Christine Gelley, Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Noble County OSU Extension (originally published in the Ohio Cattleman summer issue)
https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/07/22/replacing-junk-forage-with-quality-forage/

Do these comments sound familiar to you?

"I really need to do something with that junk pasture this year."
"The bales off that hay field are junk. I'm going to reseed it."

If stand decline is limiting production, perhaps it's time to reseed.

Issues with "junk forage" can include low yields, weed encroachment, and low-quality feed value. Forage growers tend to lament over junk forage two of the four seasons of the year. One is the summer, when their hay equipment is running, their animals are grazing, and the forage is right in front of their eyes. The other is winter, when forage is in short supply, quality issues are leading to low animal productivity, and when pastures look more like mud spas. The time to make progress on correcting the factors that lead to junk forage is primarily in spring and fall.

Summer is the season for evaluation and making plans for improvement. Before implementing solutions for that junk forage, understanding what factors contributed to stand decline is crucial.

One of the first solutions often considered is reseeding the field. Reseeding could be one of the solutions for turning pastures around, but if you give it more thought, there could be other factors to address.

Before committing to reseeding, make sure you have completed a recent soil test and made corrections for pH and nutrients. In many cases, applying lime and/or fertilizer can yield quicker and more economical results than reseeding. If adjustments are necessary and you still think reseeding is a good idea, choose a forage that will survive in the soil you have now. In general, it takes ag lime six months to effectively raise soil pH.

Sites that have overly acidic or overly alkaline soils often have issues with weeds as well as reduced yields. Correcting soil fertility and pH in combination with leaving adequate forage stubble after haying or grazing will improve the ability of established forages to compete with weeds. Overgrazing and/or mowing too short will stress forage regrowth. Identifying the weeds in your forage stands and using an

Headlines at the Ohio Ag Law Blog

It's in the science: court allows Enlist Duo registration but requires closer look at monarch butterflies

Agricultural Nutrients and Water Quality: Recent Litigation in the United States

The Ag Law Harvest

Find more at https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog

integrated approach for control that includes addressing soil health, forage regrowth, and appropriate herbicides has the potential to be more effective than reseeding.

Forage quality is an attribute that is tied to forage stand composition, soil fertility, and forage variety, but the most important factor is maturity of the plant. Whether the forage is harvested through grazing or mechanized means, it should be harvested before it develops seed to yield the best nutritional quality. As plants mature, quality is reduced, but yield increases. Managers should make every effort possible to balance good quality forage with good yields. Poor harvest timing is a common cause of “junk forage”.

After considering current site management, decide whether you should reseed, what to use, and how to get it accomplished.

For perennial forages, fall seeding is often preferred to spring because weed competition is reduced. Most perennial forages should be planted in mid-august in Ohio for best success.

Annual forages will only last for a short time but can increase the flexibility of your operation or serve as a cover crop while you decide on the next crop. Summer annuals like sorghum-sudangrass or teffgrass can be seeded as late as mid-July. Winter annuals like rye, wheat, and triticale can be planted in mid-august for fall and/or spring grazing or wet wrapped as baleage or chopped for silage. Brassica crops like turnips and radishes can be seeded at the same time, intercropped with other annuals or perennials or on their own and provide good grazing into late fall and early winter. Spring oats can also be incorporated for the same time frame.

Shop for improved seed varieties for best performance. New varieties are released each year. Reliable and proven seed will come with a detailed seed tag and source information. Avoid seed labeled “VNS”, which stands for “variety not stated.”

When it comes to site preparation and seeding, consider the size of your seed and the uniformity of the soil surface. If you intend to broadcast the seed, terminate existing forages, till and drag the soil, and make sure the seedbed is firm. This will allow good seed to soil contact that is critical for uniform germination. Drilling into existing cover is another option, which is preferred for seed that will be sown on highly erodible soils or needs to be placed deeper into the soil profile. Ground cover should be suppressed by close grazing and/or herbicide application before drilling the seed.

Whatever means you use to sow the forage, always take the time to

inspect the machinery, calibrate it for the seed you are using, and test a small area before pouring all the seed into the hopper. One of the most common causes of stand failure is seeding too deep or at the improper rate, which can usually be corrected during calibration.

For additional help with forage management and establishment, consult the Ohio Agronomy Guide, Chapters 7 & 9 or your local extension educator.

Season Temperature Chart for Zanesville, OH