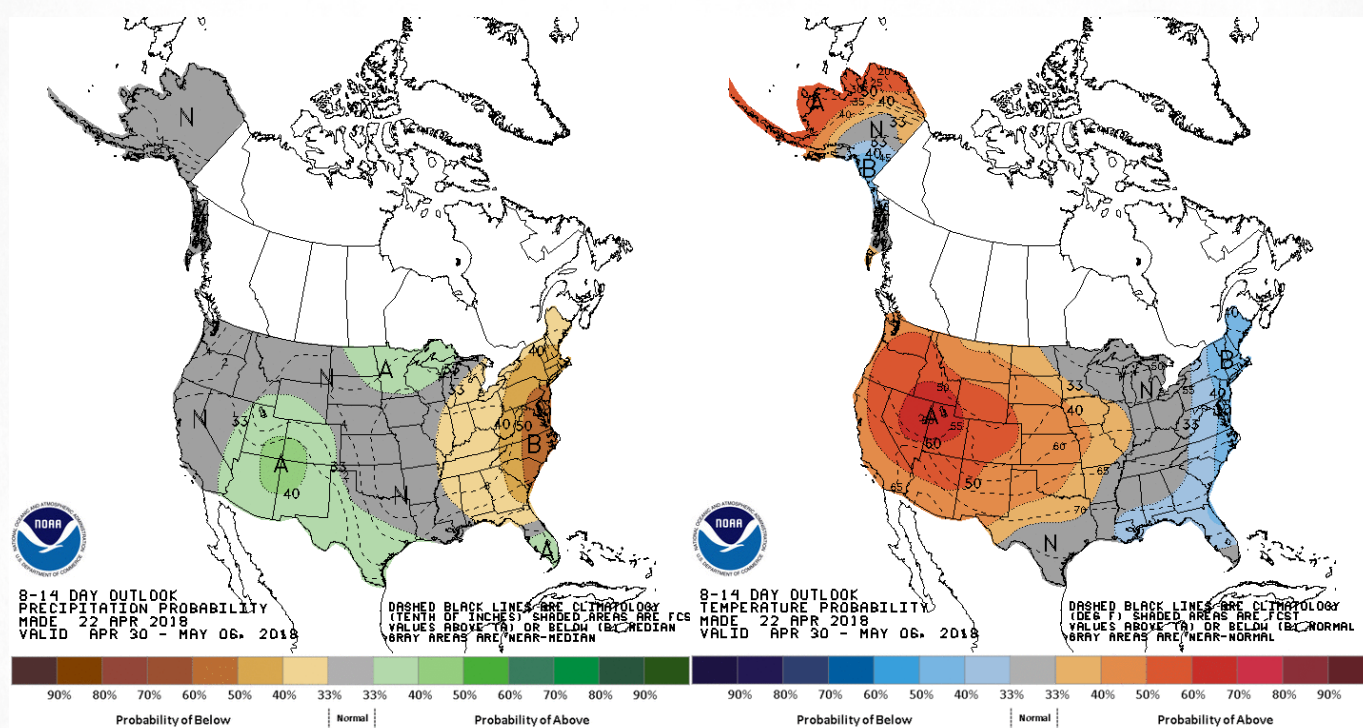


April showers bring May flowers, but when can we plant?

Brooke Beam, Ph.D.



Future forecast for April 30 to May 6 for precipitation and temperatures from the National Weather Service at <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

One question has been a common discussion among Highland County farmers: when is the weather going to cooperate so spring planting can begin?

According to John Franks of the National Weather Service, Highland County can expect to see trends of slightly below normal temperatures and slightly above normal precipitation for the next three months. However, over the next week, the area can expect below average precipitation.

The next three to four weeks has a prediction of cooler than normal temperatures, but no large-scale patterns to influence precipitation. Looking further into the summer, the area is expected to have normal precipitation and a warm summer. Similar weather patterns suggest this year may be similar to 1997, 2002, and 2015.

You can view updated weather forecasts and future forecasts from the National Weather Service at cpc.ncep.noaa.gov. The National

Service in Wilmington, Ohio, produces a location-based five-day forecast that updates daily on weather.gov/ILN.

Since the future forecast predicts cooler than normal temperatures, some individuals may want to look at the Growing Degree Days (GDD), also referred to as Heat Units, for their corn hybrids. GDDs are used to rate the maturity of corn to achieve the maximum yield, high grain quality, and a low moisture content at the time of

harvest.

Corn hybrids require a specific number of GDDs to reach maturity. The most common method used to calculate GDD is the 86,50 system. This system takes the daily high temperature and the daily low temperature, minus 50 degrees. However, temperatures exceeding 86 degrees Fahrenheit, or below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, default to a high of 86 or a low of 50.

Formula: $GDD = (\text{Temperature High} + \text{Temperature Low}) \div 2, \text{ minus } 50$

GDDs are calculated by including each day following planting. In the State of Ohio, GDDs can vary from 2500 to over 3000, depending upon the location of the field.

Growing degree days accumulated from a test site near Hillsboro from several days in May through the 10 percent frost date in the fall include May 1: 2931; May 8: 2835; May 15: 2738; May 22: 2643; and May 29: 2546.

While it is unclear whether the predictions for this spring will hold true with increased precipitation, GDD is something to keep in mind when selecting seed varieties. If you would like a fact sheet on calculating GDDs, please contact the Extension office.

Leadership Highland

The Highland County Extension Office is in the process of re-establishing Leadership Highland. If you are a previous facilitator or graduate, and are interested in assisting with the new Leadership Highland program, please contact Brooke Beam at 937-393-1018 or beam.49@osu.edu. If you are interested in participating in the new class, look forward to more information coming soon.

Follow Us on Social Media

The Ohio State University Extension Office in Highland County has joined social media! Please follow our accounts for updates on Extension programming.

 fb.me/OSUExtHighland

 [@OSUExtHighland](https://twitter.com/OSUExtHighland)

 [OSUExtHighland](https://www.instagram.com/OSUExtHighland)

Upcoming Events

Trees on Tap will be held at The Ohio State University Mansfield campus on May 23, 2018. Trees on Tap is a program designed to encourage better tree education and care. Topics of the day will highlight the marvels and challenges of tree growth today. The event will be held at The Ohio State University Mansfield campus. Registration is \$40.00, and participants can register at <https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/events/trees-tap>

Fayette County Master Gardener Volunteers will be hosting a **Daylily Show** on Saturday, June 30, 2018. The event is open to the public and exhibitors. There will be cash awards and multiple prize categories. The event will be held at the Agricultural Service Center at 1415 U.S. Rt. 22 SW, Washington C.H., Ohio 43160. The event will begin at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at noon. More details can be found at fayette.osu.edu. Additional questions can be directed to Sara Creamer at creamers.70@osu.edu or by phone at 740-335-1150.



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