

# MISSOURI CROP IMPROVEMENT NEWS & NOTES



April 2026, Vol. 22 - No. 1

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This spring has brought variable conditions across Missouri, with stretches of warm, dry weather allowing some early planting progress, while rain and cooler temperatures have slowed others. As a result, timing has varied widely, and growers have had to stay flexible as conditions continue to change.

These conditions are already reflected in the wheat crop, which is progressing ahead of average for this time of year. While early development is encouraging, it also places added importance on weather and fertility as the crop moves through key stages. Fertilizer availability and cost have been an important factor this spring, influencing both planting decisions and early-season management.

In this issue, we include a reminder on small grain applications, a wheat progress update, a soybean quality report, prospective plantings, and information on our Wheat Merchandising Council initiative.

As always, we appreciate your commitment to producing high-quality certified seed and encourage you to stay in touch with our office as the season progresses.

— Ryan Barnes, Assistant Director / Field Manager

## 2026 SMALL GRAINS

### APPLICATIONS - DUE APRIL 15

Field inspection applications for small grains were distributed in March and due by April 15. If you have any questions about filling out an application, please contact our office.

I have attached a copy of our paper application, and an online application can be found [HERE](#).

## 2026 WHEAT PROGRESS REPORT

Missouri's wheat acres saw a slight decrease last fall from 640,000 harvested acres in 2025 to a projected 610,000 in 2026. The April 12 USDA condition report is looking strong, with 6% of the crop being rated as excellent, 55% good, and 33% fair. Only 6% of the wheat acres are showing a poor condition and 1% showing very poor. This year's wheat crop is progressing ahead of normal, reflecting some of the warmer weather we've seen this spring. As of April 12, 9% of the Missouri wheat crop is already headed out. This is a large increase from the 5 year average of 4% at this same time, however, it is only slightly ahead of where we were this time last year.

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## MISSOURI WHEAT MERCHANDISING COUNCIL

We are still collecting signatures in support of forming a Wheat Merchandising Council for Missouri. This council would focus on promoting local wheat breeding programs that develop early-maturing, high-yielding varieties ideal for cover and double cropping.

The initiative aims to directly benefit Missouri wheat growers through research and outreach on best practices in fertilization, harvesting, and storage.

To sign the petition, you must be a Missouri wheat farmer. If you are eligible and interested in supporting this effort, or would like more information, please contact the MCIA office.

## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

As of April 12, 2026, the USDA crop progress report shows Missouri farmers are getting their crops planted earlier than normal this year. Corn, soybeans, and rice plantings are all ahead of schedule, both on last year's time frame and the 5 year average.

Thanks to some heavy rainfall in the last month, Missouri topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions look to be in good shape. As of April 12, the topsoil condition is at 72% adequate, 13% surplus, 14% short, and 1% very short. The subsoil conditions are slightly drier with 67% adequate, 6% surplus, 21% short, and 6% very short.

## SOYBEAN QUALITY UPDATE

As of April 15, MCIA has processed 1018 soybean samples from the 2025 crop year. This is down from 1285 samples at the same time last year. Germination averages are trending slightly upward to 87.6% from last year's average of 87.02%. Mechanical damage caused by harvesting, threshing, loading, hauling, unloading, and cleaning has been the largest culprit of low germination in soybeans.

## 2026 SPRING SEED DIRECTORY

The 2026 Spring Seed Directory is available on MCIA's website under the Forms, Documents and Publications tab. A Digital copy is also included with this newsletter email.

To reduce mailing costs, printed copies will only be sent by request. If you'd like a physical copy or have questions about seed availability or out-of-state varieties, please reach out to our office.



# MCIA NEWS & NOTES

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## SAVE THE DATE – 2026 MCIA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - JULY 30

The MCIA Annual Membership and Board of Directors Summer Meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2026, at the MCIA office in Columbia. If you have any questions, suggestions, or items you would like the board to review, please contact the MCIA office ahead of the meeting.

## MCIA HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

- Memorial Day.....May 25
- Independence Day (observed).....July 3
- Labor Day.....September 7

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## LINKS TO ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[USDA 2026 Crop Progress Report - National Agricultural Statistics Service](#)

[Replant or roll with it? MU guide weighs costs, payoffs](#)

[Construction underway on new SCN Diagnostics Lab on MU campus](#)

[Watch for stink bugs in crops in 2026](#)

[MU Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute](#)

[Missouri Agriculture News & Updates](#)

[MU Extension Missouri Grain Crops Publications](#)

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*MCIA's News and Notes is designed to provide members and other interested individuals with information about MCIA programs and services, as well as timely access to information that impacts the seed industry and agriculture in general. Our format is structured to provide a brief introduction to topics of interest along with contact information or links to sources where you can obtain more detailed information. Many of the articles and items listed in this newsletter contain web addresses or hyperlinks by which you can obtain additional information. If you do not have internet access and would like additional information on any of the topics mentioned in this newsletter, please contact the MCIA office and we will forward you the information. Please feel free to contact the MCIA office if you have questions or suggestions for items to be included in future issues.*