

Sunflower

Highlights

August 17, 2015



Markets

USDA released its latest supply and demand estimates last week and stunned the market by delivering a huge bearish surprise. USDA forecast 13.67 billion bushels of corn and 3.92 billion of soybeans from this year's harvest. Analysts on average expected much smaller amounts for both. USDA arrived at those numbers based on its surveys instead of its previous trend-based projections. After these figures hit the market the CBoT went into meltdown mode as buyers disappeared from the landscape. If this was not enough to shake things up, China devaluated its Yuan currency twice within the week further rattling the market. The devaluation is raising trader concerns about Chinese demand for oilseeds this fall and into 2016. With the USDA report factored into prices, weather and crop conditions will continue to be the main traded features in the near term. Oilseeds are in the most important reproductive time frame between now and the first week of September. A recent hot and dry spell in the Northern Plains bears watching as soybeans are starting to show signs of moisture stress and this could impact yields.

CROP PROGRESS

State	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 yr Av
N. Dakota				
Blooming	94	80	72	78
Petals Dry	11	1	---	---
S. Dakota				
Blooming	76	55	65	73
Texas				
Harvested	NA	19	37	6
Kansas				
Blooming	52	32	55	66
Petals Dry	3	---	---	---

Source: USDA NASS

SUNFLOWER CROP CONDITIONS

State	VP	Poor	Fair	Good	Ex
N. Dakota	0	8	19	65	8
S. Dakota	0	2	28	67	3
Minnesota	0	2	34	55	9
Colorado	0	5	30	50	15
Kansas	1	2	30	60	7

Source: USDA NASS (not all states reporting)

GROWER REPORT

It's been a hot and dry summer for Mohall, ND producer Jeff Oberholtzer, and that's helped his sunflower crop thrive. Oberholtzer says the last significant rain came before July 4th, but his sunflowers are looking great. He says some of the earliest planted fields are already dropping petals and the rest are in full bloom. He expects to be harvesting by the end of September, which is earlier than recent years.

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MONITOR FOR SUNFLOWER RUST

Conditions for sunflower rust development have been very favorable in much of North Dakota. It is particularly important to keep an eye on confection sunflowers; they tend to be more susceptible to rust than oilseeds. However, there are distinct resistant differences among hybrids; some are resistant and some are susceptible. If rust is found on the top of the canopy (the top four fully-expanded sunflower leaves) at 1% severity or higher in R5 (bloom) a fungicide application may be warranted. By R6 (flowering is complete) research trials have shown no benefit to a fungicide application. For more on sunflower rust, visit www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/diseases/rust-damage-and-control/.

KEEP SCOUTING FOR INSECTS

Banded sunflower moth traps continue to have high trap counts, more than 100 moth per trap per week, in most sunflower producing areas. Sunflower moth trap counts are still below the economic threshold and declining at some trap sites in southwest North Dakota. It is important to continue to scout for these pests through R5.7 sunflower growth stage. Learn more at www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/moth-maps/