

Added on: August 4, 2023 at 5:07 am

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IL Extension

Name

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Date

August 3, 2023

County

Champaign

Region/State

Region 5

Field Photo Upload 1



Field Photo Upload Caption 1

Soybean pods at R5 (beginning seed) on right and approaching R6 (full seed) on the left - Champaign County, August 3, 2023

Which of the following best describes current conditions in this county?

Moderately Dry (soil is dry, plants may be browning or stressed, water bodies are low)

If conditions are on the dry end, which of the following US Drought Monitor categories best fit current conditions. To better judge the fit, see explanation of USDM categories here:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About/AbouttheData/DroughtClassification.aspx>

Moderate Drought (D1)

Quick synopsis of conditions that will appear in the main feed

With little rain over the past week, perhaps a few tenths over the weekend, soil conditions in most of Champaign County are on the dry side. However, most fields of both corn and soy look relatively healthy with minimal external signs of drought stress. Measurements from the local Illinois Soil and Water Survey monitoring station show plant-available soil moisture at depths of 8+ inches, and it seems that most crops in the area have been able to reach some of that deeper soil moisture. That said, signs of drought stress including stunted plants and dying lower canopy leaves can be found in compacted areas of fields as well as the few hilltops we have in the county. Tip dieback and ear size was variable in the corn fields I surveyed, and most were in the late R3 (milk) growth stage moving into early R4 (dough). Soybeans were generally around R5 (beginning seed).