SOYBEAN GROWTH MONITORING

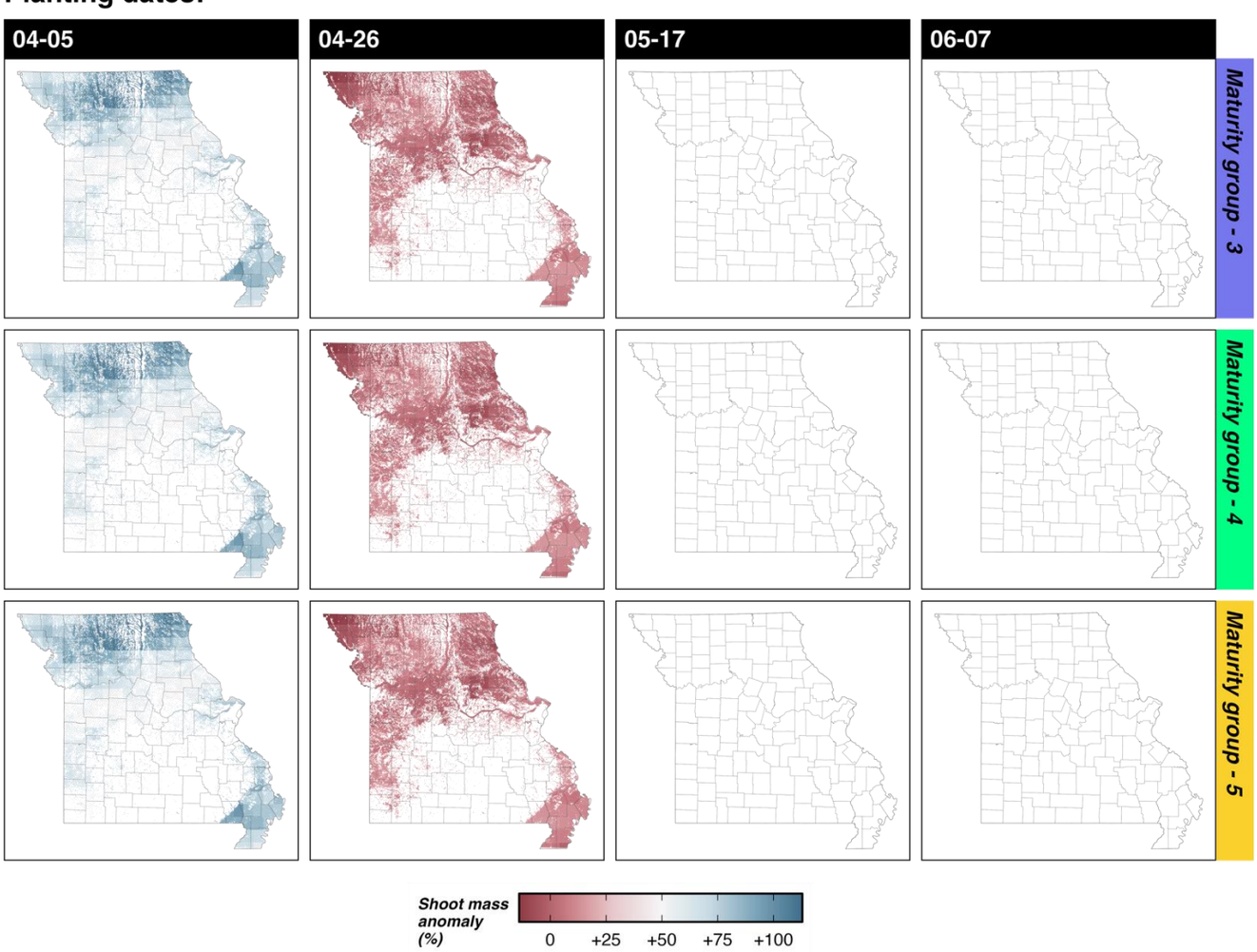
SOYBEAN FARMING SYSTEMS
RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

May 1st to May 15th

- The 2026 soybean growing season began with wet conditions across much of Missouri, slowing planting progress and early crop development.
- Frequent rainfall and saturated soils created challenges for emergence and stand establishment, especially in poorly drained or heavier-textured fields in the Central and North regions.
- Temperatures alternated between warm and cool from early April to early May.
- Cool soil temperatures in early May slowed germination and growth and increased the risk of seedling stress and uneven stands.
- Reduced or uneven stands may delay canopy closure and increase early-season weed competition.

Soybean Shoot Mass Accumulation

Planting dates:



2026 Soybean Shoot Mass for Missouri

Soybean shoot mass anomaly across Missouri by maturity group and planting date, expressed as a percent difference from the baseline. Rows represent maturity groups 3, 4, and 5, and columns represent planting dates. Blue shading indicates greater simulated shoot mass, while red shading indicates lower simulated shoot mass. Values are relative to the expected biomass for each specific scenario and should not be directly compared across maturity groups or planting dates.

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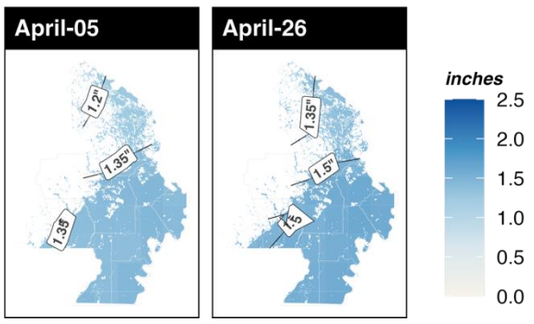
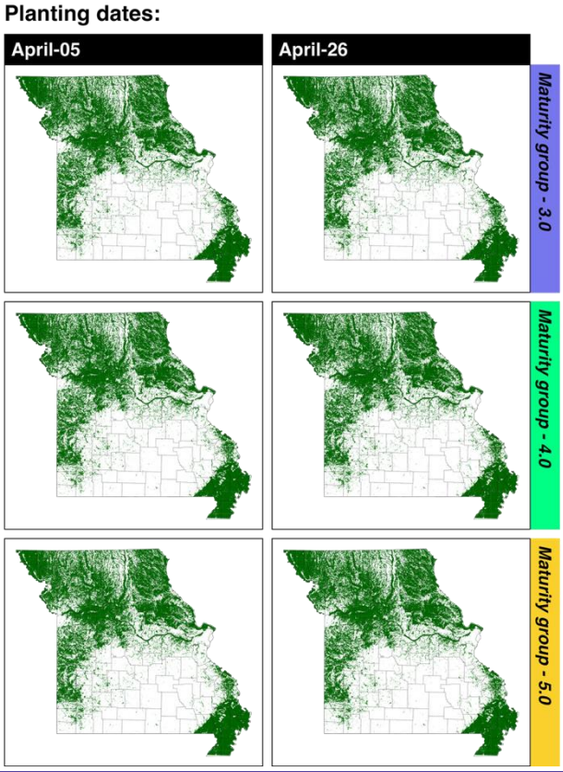
Forecast of the required irrigation from May-14 to May-29

Planting dates

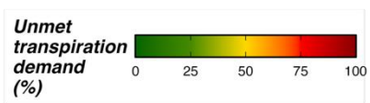


Irrigation requirement (in inches) for the Southeast region during the upcoming forecast period (7 to 14 days).

Planting dates:



Water Deficit



Unmet transpiration demand is shown as the difference between actual and potential transpiration. Green areas show where soybean water demand is met, while yellow to red areas indicate water stress due to drought.

Phenology and Development

		April-05			April-26			May-17			June-07		
		Stage	Node	Harvest	Stage	Node	Harvest	Stage	Node	Harvest	Stage	Node	Harvest
MG 3.0	CE	V	3	Aug-31	V	0	Sep-09						
	NE	V	3	Sep-06	V	0	Sep-14						
	NW	V	3	Sep-06	V	0	Sep-13						
	SE	V	4	Aug-20	V	1	Sep-01						
	SW	V	3	Aug-26	V	1	Sep-04						
MG 4.0	CE	V	3	Sep-17	V	0	Sep-23						
	NE	V	3	Sep-22	V	0	Sep-27						
	NW	V	3	Sep-22	V	0	Sep-28						
	SE	V	4	Sep-07	V	1	Sep-16						
	SW	V	3	Sep-10	V	1	Sep-17						
MG 5.0	CE	V	3	Sep-30	V	0	Oct-06						
	NE	V	3	Oct-06	V	0	Oct-12						
	NW	V	3	Oct-07	V	0	Oct-12						
	SE	V	4	Sep-21	V	1	Sep-29						
	SW	V	3	Sep-23	V	1	Sep-30						

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