



National Agricultural Statistics Service
Michigan Statistical Office
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Michigan Crop-Weather



MI-CW1904

David D. Kleweno, Director

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Continued Cool with Frost

Four days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 9, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. The week brought a variety of conditions to the State. Producers in the primary vegetable and fruit growing districts were hit with a frost early in the week that dropped temperatures to below freezing for several hours. All weather reporting stations except one recorded minimum temperatures below freezing during the week. The cold temperatures adversely affected sugarbeets and limited emergence and development of many other crops. A farmer in the Thumb reported snow flurries. Growers in the northern half of the Lower Peninsula faced continued cold and wet conditions that limited planting progress. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.12 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 4.53 inches in the west central Lower Peninsula. Temperatures ranged from 4 degrees below normal in the east central Lower Peninsula to normal in the southwest Lower Peninsula. A farmer in the east central commented on the inclement conditions, noting that "Planting is on schedule--so far. However, crop progress is slow due to the continued cool weather." A producer in the northwest countered with, "Corn planting here is about 7 to 10 days behind. Cold and wet conditions are delaying progress."

Field Crops

Continuous rainfall across the State kept field conditions wet and cool temperatures delayed crop emergence. In northern districts, **corn** planting continued in less than ideal conditions. In the southern part of the State, emergence is very slow due to prolonged cool weather, but planting is on schedule. Most corn was planted and sprayed for weeds. **Alfalfa** seedings were at a standstill. **Wheat** had started to show the effects of being cold and wet for too long. Wheat fields were being scouted, some diseases were found and treatments were made. Overall, wheat looked excellent at this time; cool temperatures and lack of rain have slowed growth. Wheat was at Feekes' stage 6. In the Thumb, **sugarbeet** stands were thinned out by a hard frost and some fields were being replanted. Planting of **soybeans** continued. **Hay** was growing at a rapid pace.

Soil moisture for week ending 05/09/04

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	3	10	54	33
Subsoil	3	23	57	17

Crop condition for week ending 05/09/04

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Pasture	3	5	32	46	14
Winter Wheat	0	1	22	60	17

Fruit

Temperatures fell into the mid to upper twenties on two consecutive nights, May 2 and May 3. This caused light to moderate damage to some fruit crops in all regions except the northwest. Damage varied widely according to the fruit crop development. Temperatures rose to above normal by the weekend. Concurrent wet conditions increased the potential for bacterial and fungal disease infections. Anti-fungal and anti-bacterial materials were consequently applied. Insecticides to control plum curculio in stone fruit were used. Fruit development, in general, is at or slightly ahead of average.

Apples were in late pink stage in the Grand Rapids area and in full bloom in the southwest and southeast. **Tart cherries** were in early bloom in the west central; bloom ended in the southwest. **Sweet cherries** were in bloom in the west central region but had yet to bloom in the northwest. **Peaches** were in shuck in the southwest and in early petal fall in the southeast. **Strawberry** flower clusters emerged from crowns. **Grapes** in the southwest suffered 10 to 20 percent shoot death on average from the frosts. **Blueberries** were in early pink bud stage in the west central and early bloom in the southwest. There was some winter damage to all varieties in Ottawa and Allegan counties. Pruning was done to eliminate dieback.

Vegetables

Frost hit the **asparagus** crop early in the week in several districts. In the west central, where much of the crop is located, growers estimated that harvest will be reduced by one to three pickings with a loss of 10 to 25 percent of the total crop. Harvest was halted until new spears emerge. Farmers continued to report some wind damage, both to vegetable crops and to their respective small grain cover crops. **Carrots**, which were at first true leaf in first plantings, were adversely affected by the wind in the west central and may require replanting. **Spinach** for processing escaped relatively unscathed. **Sweet corn** planting continued. Most growers were on their second planting. In the southeast, much of the **cabbage** crop was in the ground, **tomato** planting had started and **pepper** planting will begin soon. Early **lettuce** had been seeded and transplanted in the southeast. In the southwest, many **onion** plantings were emerged and some were in the early flag stage, while **radish** planting in the district was well underway.

Crop progress for week ending 05/09/04

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Asparagus, harvested	17	11	NA	NA
Barley, planted	67	61	46	70
Barley, emerged	48	31	7	49
Corn, planted	60	42	32	41
Corn, emerged	10	2	2	7
Oats, planted	87	84	75	82
Oats, emerged	64	45	30	55
Potatoes, planted	32	20	NA	NA
Potatoes, emerged	4	NA	NA	NA
Soybeans, planted	22	12	7	15
Soybeans, emerged	0	0	1	1

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 05/09/04 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2004	2003	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	72	21		120	127		0.11	0.29	2.21	2.63		
Marquette	63	25		82	120		0.01	0.38	2.31	2.92		
Stephenson	70	21		175	182		0.34	0.65	2.55	2.97		
Western UP	72	18	-2	110	129	123	0.12	0.31	1.96	2.39	3.23	3.37
Cornell	56	28		79	117		0.12	0.52	1.77	2.10		
Sault St Marie	56	28		32	104		0.51	1.10	2.43	2.43		
Eastern UP	61	25	-3	54	94	68	0.20	0.62	1.56	1.76	3.42	3.01
Beulah	65	28		146	173		1.20	1.60	4.13	4.88		
Lake City	68	24		150	166		1.70	2.38	5.44	6.00		
Old Mission	68	33		123	140		0.34	0.56	2.36	2.82		
Pellston	69	21		122	150		0.21	0.27	1.97	1.99		
Northwest	69	21	-3	129	150	153	0.76	1.13	3.12	3.53	3.52	2.61
Alpena	71	26		118	141		0.58	1.72	2.95	3.02		
Houghton Lake	65	25		162	180		1.67	2.35	4.86	5.07		
Rogers City	68	25		138	117		1.11	1.92	3.94	4.04		
Northeast	72	21	-3	147	159	140	1.28	2.15	4.26	4.38	3.47	2.76
Fremont	76	30		226	210		4.70	4.91	6.53	6.57		
Muskegon	81	31		217	201		1.43	1.59	3.14	3.27		
West Central	81	30	NA	221	196	184	4.53	4.80	6.41	6.61	3.89	2.67
Alma	73	28		248	215		1.75	4.00	5.26	5.51		
Big Rapids	73	26		220	197		2.63	3.38	4.28	4.74		
Central	73	26	-2	238	203	204	2.14	3.94	5.21	5.48	3.97	2.79
Bad Axe	74	27		194	127		1.93	3.56	6.48	6.60		
Pigeon	73	29		172	139		2.24	3.73	6.01	6.07		
Saginaw	74	29		212	175		2.46	3.68	4.84	4.98		
Standish	71	27		199	168		2.43	3.58	5.64	6.10		
East Central	74	27	-4	190	160	194	2.36	3.72	5.57	5.80	3.35	2.63
Fennville	82	28		234	230		0.80	1.56	2.60	2.68		
Grand Rapids	81	30		289	233		1.43	2.21	4.35	4.36		
Holland	81	30		238	223		0.95	1.60	2.77	2.78		
South Bend, IN	88	29		324	282		0.30	1.10	1.57	1.58		
Watervliet	86	30		275	259		0.28	1.01	1.90	1.92		
Southwest	89	25	0	272	259	229	0.94	1.66	2.75	2.79	4.10	3.01
Belding	81	27		251	242		1.37	1.85	3.56	3.71		
Coldwater	81	28		268	241		0.98	2.26	2.49	2.56		
Lansing	80	26		268	240		1.55	2.68	3.18	3.32		
South Central	88	26	-1	271	258	230	1.73	2.74	3.39	3.52	3.92	2.92
Detroit	83	32		281	260		1.16	2.35	2.85	2.94		
Flint	80	29		276	242		0.83	2.24	2.59	2.78		
Romeo	82	21		255	214		1.98	3.08	4.41	4.48		
Tipton	84	27		272	262		1.15	2.32	2.53	2.61		
Toledo, OH	87	28		311	270		0.54	1.32	2.21	2.28		
Southeast	87	21	-1	270	251	215	1.63	2.87	3.50	3.63	3.96	2.85

¹ Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 26248
Lansing, Michigan 48909-6248
(517) 324-5300 FAX (517) 324-5299
E-mail: nass-mi@nass.usda.gov