



National Agricultural Statistics Service
Michigan Statistical Office
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Michigan Crop-Weather



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David D. Kleweno, Director

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Timely Rains

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 15, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. Cool weather, with some frost reported, prevailed across northern Michigan, while southern districts averaged above normal. Rain fell across the State at the end of the week. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.52 inches in the northeast Lower Peninsula to 1.05 inches in the west central Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 3 degrees below normal in the western Upper Peninsula to 2 degrees above normal in the southern Lower Peninsula. Dry weather helped the planting progress of all crops, while emergence has been hindered by the cool temperatures. A farmer in northeast Lower Peninsula mentioned that “we are good on moisture, what we need is heat. It’s been perfect weather for oats to get started.” Another farmer in west central commented, “Corn planting is well along, but nothing is emerging because of cold, dry soil conditions.”

Field Crops

Rain returned to the State but temperatures remained cool. Planting of most field crops continued to be ahead of normal while emergence and growth lagged behind. Windy conditions restricted applications of pesticides. In most areas, **corn** planting was wrapping up. There has been little emergence and growth due to low soil temperatures. Some fields that had emerged were damaged by early May frosts and many were being replanted. **Soybean** planting continued to progress nicely. There were limited reports of emergence. **Sugarbeet** emergence also continued. Growth varied from emerged to early four leaves. There were reports that some sugarbeets have been or will be replanted due to frost damage from earlier weeks. **Alfalfa** growth progressed nicely with some signs of winter kill. **Winter wheat** stands remained variable across the State. Cool temperatures limited insect and pest activity. The weather has been ideal for **oats** and **barley**. Both crops looked good.

Soil moisture for week ending 05/15/05

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	7	25	63	5
Subsoil	5	24	65	6

Crop condition for week ending 05/15/05

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Oats	0	1	26	62	11
Pasture	2	8	34	42	14
Winter Wheat	1	2	25	63	9

Fruit

Growers were still assessing potential damage from the freezing temperatures in early May. Most varieties of **apples** were at petal fall last week in the southwest. Frost damage was highly variable. In the west central, apples were mostly in full bloom to beginning petal fall depending on variety. Rain and cool temperatures led to some apple scab infection. In the southeast, apple flowering continued. In the southwest, **tart cherries** continued blooming and **sweet cherries** were out of the shuck. In the west central, tart cherries were in full bloom, and sweet cherries advanced to petal fall. Tart cherries were in full bloom stage and sweet cherries were past full bloom in the northwest. In the southeast, tart cherries were in full bloom to early petal fall, and sweet cherries were in the shuck. In the southwest, **peach** fruit was in the shuck. In the southeast, the peach crop was at full to late bloom or in the shuck, while in the west central it was in full bloom. **Apricot** fruit set looked good in the southwest. **Pears** in the southeast were at full bloom with a good crop coming along. In the southwest, **blueberry** bloom started, while in the southeast the crop was at late pink bud.

Vegetables

Vegetable growers continued to plant various crops throughout the State. In some areas, the much needed rain helped soil moisture, but the growers now need heat to get the crops growing. **Asparagus** production has progressed throughout the week. In the west central, asparagus harvest began. For some growers the asparagus quality is good, but some are struggling to maintain good spear quality. **Carrot** planting continued on schedule with some carrots now emerged. Early **sweet corn** that was previously damaged has now begun to regrow. Early plantings of **peas** progressed to the first flower. **Onions** have emerged and look good at this time. Transplanting of **squash** and **cucumbers** under tunnels began in some areas. Also, direct seeding of cucumbers has begun. Planting also started for both fresh market and processing **tomatoes**.

Crop progress for week ending 05/15/05

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Asparagus, harvested	24	12	29	32
Barley, planted	82	72	78	75
Barley, emerged	54	38	50	56
Corn, planted	83	62	64	57
Corn, emerged	13	3	32	24
Oats, planted	95	94	90	89
Oats, emerged	78	69	74	72
Potatoes, planted	65	56	51	56
Potatoes, emerged	9	1	9	NA
Soybeans, planted	58	25	31	28
Soybeans, emerged	5	0	14	8
Winter wheat, headed	0	0	3	2

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 05/15/05 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2005	2004	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	73	27		217	166		0.78	1.11	1.23	1.90		
Marquette	75	28		178	127		0.65	0.80	2.07	3.17		
Stephenson	75	28		196	229		0.94	1.17	1.59	2.44		
Western UP	75	27	-3	187	151	162	0.85	1.21	1.69	2.44	3.84	3.37
Cornell	73	26		161	144		0.54	0.71	1.84	2.04		
Sault St Marie	70	27		143	74		1.02	1.51	2.16	2.75		
Eastern UP	77	23	-2	154	102	97	0.82	1.12	2.04	2.57	4.01	3.01
Beulah	77	32		276	210		0.75	0.77	2.08	2.08		
Lake City	80	28		234	224		0.66	0.81	1.85	1.86		
Old Mission	80	30		227	177		0.56	0.62	1.81	1.81		
Pellston	83	28		207	189		0.71	0.81	2.03	2.13		
Northwest	83	28	-1	224	188	197	0.61	0.70	1.85	1.87	4.01	2.61
Alpena	83	29		170	199		0.41	0.71	2.35	2.43		
Houghton Lake	81	29		244	247		0.55	0.64	1.26	1.32		
Rogers City	82	28		212	177		0.44	0.65	1.91	1.97		
Northeast	84	25	-1	219	220	183	0.52	0.71	1.94	2.00	3.98	2.76
Fremont	80	38		301	319		1.00	1.07	1.47	1.47		
Hart	74	36		270	267		0.94	0.94	1.61	1.65		
Muskegon	79	40		281	301		1.67	1.72	2.14	2.15		
West Central	80	35	-1	276	283	234	1.05	1.09	1.52	1.53	4.42	2.67
Alma	84	35		291	342		1.09	1.12	1.77	1.77		
Big Rapids	84	35		286	308		0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92		
Central	84	35	0	288	326	259	1.04	1.06	1.56	1.56	4.51	2.79
Bad Axe	81	34		229	268		0.93	1.18	2.88	2.92		
Pigeon	84	34		213	254		0.68	0.84	1.68	1.70		
Saginaw	82	37		235	312		1.13	1.41	2.76	2.78		
Standish	81	32		230	286		1.00	1.13	2.49	2.50		
East Central	84	32	0	220	287	245	0.92	1.12	2.45	2.46	3.88	2.63
Fennville	83	42		326	318		0.56	0.64	1.22	1.26		
Grand Rapids	83	40		321	399		1.33	1.52	2.32	2.33		
Holland	83	42		322	339		0.45	0.53	1.35	1.35		
South Bend, IN	84	42		385	441		0.36	0.36	1.33	1.39		
Watervliet	83	43		348	370		0.75	0.85	1.62	1.64		
Southwest	85	37	2	343	383	286	0.69	0.78	1.58	1.61	4.86	3.01
Belding	81	37		294	349		1.47	1.54	2.77	2.77		
Coldwater	82	39		309	362		0.79	0.86	1.59	1.60		
Lansing	81	37		322	373		0.73	0.85	1.90	1.91		
South Central	83	36	2	319	386	285	0.83	0.90	1.64	1.65	4.68	2.92
Detroit	83	40		317	391		0.75	0.79	2.33	2.56		
Flint	81	36		297	388		0.72	0.79	2.09	2.09		
Romeo	82	35		278	347		0.98	0.98	2.96	3.23		
Tipton	82	39		331	368		1.40	1.41	2.76	2.83		
Toledo, OH	84	43		324	426		0.62	0.63	2.88	3.05		
Southeast	85	35	2	308	382	268	0.84	0.90	2.81	2.97	4.61	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.

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