

Michigan Crop-Weather

Fall Harvest Begins

Seven days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending September 11 according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation amounts ranged from none in the central and southwest Lower Peninsula to 0.64 inches in the northwest Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 3 degrees above normal in the southeast Lower Peninsula to 8 degrees above normal in the western Upper Peninsula and west central Lower Peninsula. Above normal temperatures returned this week and hastened maturity of several crops. A farmer in the southwest said, "Corn dry down has been accelerated and kernel size will be smaller; making less bushels per acre." A farmer from the south central mentioned, "Corn is just starting to form the black layer and most corn should reach physiological maturity by the end of the week."

Field Crops

Temperatures were above normal across the State. **Corn** was maturing quickly across the State because of the accumulation of Growing Degree Days and dry conditions. **Soybean** fields were advancing rapidly in dry conditions. The third and fourth cuttings of **alfalfa** continued. Some alfalfa cuttings may be limited due to concerns of overwintering. Germination of alfalfa seedlings was limited due to dry conditions. For **sugarbeets**, Cercospora leafspot was still a concern. Most early **dry beans** have been harvested while later planted beans were still green. **Wheat** fields continued to be prepared for planting, but due to the dry conditions, planting has not been widespread.

Soil moisture for week ending 09/11/05

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	47	41	12	0
Subsoil	36	44	20	0

Crop condition for week ending 09/11/05

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Hay	6	21	31	31	11
Corn	3	9	26	44	18
Dry beans	1	10	35	40	14
Pasture	13	31	37	16	3
Soybeans	3	10	31	41	15

Fruit

In the southwest, Gala and Jonathon **apples** were being harvested for the fresh market, and Golden Delicious were being harvested for processing. Apples continued to size very well in the southeast despite the dry conditions. In the west central, early varieties like Paula Red, Ginger Gold and even some McIntosh were being harvested. Harvest was underway in the northwest on EarliGold; Gingergold and Paula Red varieties were in the selective harvest phase. Apple quality looked very good. In the southwest, **peach** harvest continued on Autumn Star and Harcrest varieties. Harvest for processing varieties was well underway in the west central. Peach harvest started in the northwest. Fall **raspberry** harvest continued in the southwest and southeast. Niagara **grapes** were being harvested in the southwest. In the southeast, grape harvest was underway for some of the seedless and early maturing varieties.

Vegetables

Vegetable crop harvest continued with various diseases present across the State. **Carrot** harvest was well underway. **Celery** and **onion** harvests continued. **Peppers** continued to show more virus symptoms. **Potato** harvest continued. Early **pumpkin** harvest began and plants continued to show some viruses due to the dry weather. **Snap bean** harvest continued, and some fields showed severe virus symptoms. **Sweet corn** harvest continued. **Squash** and **zucchini** harvest continued, with plants showing more signs of downy mildew. **Cucumber** harvest was completed in many areas, due to the increase of downy mildew. Harvest of **tomatoes** for processing and fresh market continued at a steady pace.

Crop progress for week ending 09/11/05

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All hay, third cutting	76	70	69	65
All hay, fourth cutting	20	NA	14	6
Apples, harvested	20	13	NA	NA
Corn, dent	85	76	36	46
Corn, mature	28	19	3	6
Corn silage, harvested	52	NA	11	18
Dry beans, turning leaves	99	89	85	74
Dry beans, dropping leaves	80	35	25	45
Dry beans, harvested	17	4	0	NA
Peaches, harvested	90	75	91	NA
Potatoes, harvested	28	27	25	NA
Soybeans, turning leaves	81	45	28	44
Soybeans, dropping leaves	42	8	5	12
Soybeans, harvested	1	NA	0	0
Winter wheat, planted	5	NA	2	2

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 09/11/05 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	91	39		2,172	1,559		0.05	0.09	0.91	11.10		
Marquette	91	41		2,071	1,487		0.05	0.09	1.26	12.42		
Stephenson	84	41		2,252	1,829		0.06	0.07	1.81	9.33		
Western UP	92	39	8	2,153	1,576	1,775	0.05	0.09	1.07	10.99	17.73	3.58
Cornell	88	44		2,144	1,631		0.00	0.02	1.94	8.97		
Sault St Marie	84	45		2,028	1,362		0.19	0.28	2.68	10.66		
Eastern UP	92	34	7	2,036	1,407	1,565	0.47	0.51	2.47	10.81	16.60	3.55
Beulah	87	51		2,468	1,876		1.82	1.82	6.49	15.02		
Lake City	86	45		2,231	1,843		0.68	0.68	3.09	14.79		
Old Mission	88	48		2,327	1,803		0.31	0.31	4.32	11.66		
Pellston	88	39		2,254	1,713		0.09	0.10	3.87	11.95		
Northwest	88	39	6	2,291	1,756	2,010	0.64	0.65	4.38	13.33	15.48	3.66
Alpena	90	43		2,164	1,788		0.02	0.06	2.86	13.03		
Houghton Lake	86	42		2,298	1,940		0.22	0.22	1.22	10.44		
Rogers City	88	42		2,183	1,806		0.16	0.17	3.44	15.16		
Northeast	90	37	4	2,241	1,822	1,947	0.18	0.19	3.17	13.87	15.54	3.47
Fremont	89	54		2,600	2,151		0.09	0.09	0.38	6.98		
Hart	87	56		2,480	1,997		0.27	0.27	0.75	11.18		
Muskegon	87	53		2,671	2,173		0.05	0.05	0.88	7.81		
West Central	89	50	8	2,553	2,068	2,191	0.17	0.17	0.82	9.31	15.83	3.19
Alma	90	49		2,598	2,273		0.00	0.00	0.14	9.96		
Big Rapids	90	49		2,516	2,110		0.00	0.00	0.01	8.62		
Central	90	48	6	2,545	2,187	2,262	0.00	0.00	0.14	9.05	16.70	3.09
Bad Axe	89	49		2,549	2,084		0.50	0.50	1.25	12.71		
Pigeon	87	46		2,372	2,059		0.15	0.16	0.50	9.76		
Saginaw	91	49		2,543	2,280		0.40	0.41	0.78	13.26		
Standish	89	48		2,448	2,034		0.34	0.48	1.36	15.57		
East Central	91	46	4	2,462	2,123	2,263	0.30	0.36	1.10	12.26	14.86	2.70
Fennville	89	55		2,661	2,226		0.00	0.00	0.63	5.44		
Grand Rapids	90	54		2,801	2,506		0.03	0.03	1.06	16.32		
Holland	90	54		2,758	2,308		0.00	0.00	0.31	3.52		
South Bend, IN	89	59		2,959	2,651		0.02	0.02	0.84	9.85		
Watervliet	89	55		2,827	2,393		0.00	0.01	0.86	9.01		
Southwest	92	45	7	2,784	2,399	2,461	0.00	0.01	0.69	8.60	17.02	3.26
Belding	89	51		2,554	2,263		0.01	0.01	0.37	12.40		
Coldwater	89	51		2,647	2,365		0.08	0.12	0.68	11.63		
Lansing	89	54		2,807	2,376		0.08	0.08	0.33	14.94		
South Central	90	50	5	2,708	2,397	2,420	0.06	0.07	0.46	11.49	16.99	2.79
Detroit	87	57		2,973	2,668		0.00	0.10	0.96	12.29		
Flint	87	50		2,671	2,428		0.30	0.38	0.89	11.55		
Romeo	88	48		2,685	2,393		0.04	0.11	0.99	13.37		
Tipton	88	52		2,743	2,375		0.00	0.03	0.73	12.94		
Toledo, OH	90	52		2,923	2,721		0.00	0.42	1.07	11.22		
Southeast	90	48	3	2,745	2,504	2,417	0.06	0.14	1.04	13.14	16.29	2.43

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office 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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