



Michigan Crop Weather

Wet and Mild

Three days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending April 29, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.04 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 1.85 inches in the southwest Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 3 degrees above normal in the west central and southwest Lower Peninsula to 5 degrees above normal in the Upper Peninsula and in the northeast and southeast Lower Peninsula. The additional rain provided less than ideal conditions for fieldwork. A farmer in the northwest mentioned that, "Some warm weather allowed for some fieldwork on lighter soils, but the rain at mid-week brought that to a halt." A farmer in the southwest said that, "We should be in high gear next week with corn planting. We are still waiting for a window of dry weather to get serious about putting in corn."

Field Crops

Planting progressed for most crops despite the wet conditions. Some areas were too wet to start fieldwork. **Corn** planting continued in drier fields. Few acres of **soybeans** were planted due to cool soil temperatures. **Winter wheat** looks good so far this spring and was not affected by the recent cold snap. There were reports that poor quality stands were being replanted to corn. **Oat** and **barley** planting progressed as normal. **Alfalfa** stands were in good condition with little damage from winterkill. **Sugarbeets** were mostly planted and stands look good.

Fruit

April temperatures were variable throughout the month. Areas across the State experienced snow and cold until last week, when temperatures warmed to more seasonable values. Damage from the early April freezes is still being assessed. Damage was variable across the State. In the southwest, apple leaves were injured, and there was loss of about 75 percent of the tart cherry buds. In the southeast, the most severely damaged crops were sweet and tart cherries. Growers in the central areas lost up to 50 percent of their peach crop. Experts say that it is too early to estimate damage in the northwest.

Last week **apples** in the southwest were at pink and open cluster. Early varieties were blooming. In the northwest, apples were in early tight cluster. **Blueberries** ranged from swollen bud to half-inch green. **Peaches** were in full pink in the west central and blooming in the southern areas. **Pears** were blooming in the southwest, at open cluster to popcorn in the southeast, at beginning of flower separation in the west central and were at late bud burst in the northwest. **Plums** were blooming in the south, showing white bud in the west central, and at bud burst in the northwest. **Sweet and tart cherries** were blooming in the southwest, at white bud in the southeast, showing first white in the west central, and at green tip to bud burst in the northwest. Concord **grapes** were at late swell, and vinifera were at early swell in the southwest. Southeastern grapes were at bud swell, while Chardonnay grapes in the northwest were at scale crack.

Vegetables

Precipitation during the week hindered field activities as vegetable growers began planting a variety of crops throughout the State. In the west central area, **carrot** planting was underway and some **asparagus** spears started to emerge. Early planted **cabbage** and **potatoes** were just beginning to show new growth and early **sweet corn** began to germinate in the southeast. Growers across the State continued to work the soil and prepare equipment for the planting season.

Soil moisture for week ending 04/29/07

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	3	54	43
Subsoil	0	5	65	30

Crop condition for week ending 04/29/07

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Pasture	0	8	26	57	9
Winter Wheat	3	9	31	45	12

Crop progress for week ending 04/29/07

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley, planted	18	6	49	36
Corn, planted	9	3	28	21
Oats, planted	57	28	76	64
Oats, emerged	13	NA	35	25
Potatoes, planted	21	18	29	17
Soybeans, planted	2	1	7	5
Sugarbeets, planted	75	40	86	82

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 04/29/07 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2007	2006	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	75	28		98	152		0.04	0.32	2.02	2.21		
Marquette	80	27		80	114		0.08	0.41	4.99	5.02		
Stephenson	74	30		107	164		0.08	0.08	1.11	1.51		
Western UP	84	27	5	96	126	71	0.04	0.26	1.84	2.03	2.19	2.28
Cornell	84	29		99	146		0.43	0.47	1.12	1.12		
Sault St Marie	69	29		90	91		0.28	0.30	1.35	1.61		
Eastern UP	84	23	5	81	118	35	0.36	0.55	2.65	2.83	2.35	2.43
Beulah	75	36		100	175		1.02	1.44	2.52	2.66		
Lake City	74	33		94	154		1.04	1.46	3.03	3.09		
Old Mission	75	33		89	142		0.59	0.76	1.12	1.31		
Pellston	76	23		108	141		0.52	0.61	1.11	1.38		
Northwest	76	23	4	93	144	90	0.79	1.02	1.88	2.03	2.55	2.69
Alpena	78	34		104	117		1.47	1.82	3.36	3.56		
Houghton Lake	73	33		104	161		1.50	1.77	2.96	3.04		
Rogers City	76	32		102	121		1.15	1.37	2.64	2.79		
Northeast	78	25	5	105	143	82	1.22	1.47	2.93	3.08	2.43	2.52
Fremont	72	35		115	173		1.06	1.09	4.11	4.48		
Hart	72	35		106	163		0.99	1.12	3.11	3.45		
Muskegon	70	33		108	158		0.89	0.90	3.58	3.63		
West Central	73	33	3	109	175	111	0.90	1.01	5.02	5.22	2.98	3.16
Alma	77	40		128	198		0.86	0.89	2.47	2.61		
Big Rapids	71	36		108	190		0.30	0.32	1.49	1.88		
Central	77	35	4	117	190	125	0.57	0.59	2.16	2.46	2.89	3.07
Bad Axe	74	38		96	145		0.89	1.07	2.65	2.86		
Pigeon	74	36		92	140		0.93	1.22	2.55	2.76		
Saginaw	76	39		122	164		0.81	1.39	2.90	3.02		
Standish	76	34		115	172		1.11	1.67	3.43	3.58		
East Central	76	34	4	103	160	119	0.88	1.17	2.75	2.96	2.44	2.55
Fennville	75	34		118	177		1.81	1.82	3.55	3.94		
Grand Rapids	76	40		134	192		1.01	1.03	3.08	3.37		
Holland	77	38		147	190		2.12	2.12	4.18	4.41		
South Bend, IN	79	37		166	221		3.04	3.04	4.45	4.45		
Watervliet	77	38		137	200		1.80	1.80	3.41	3.62		
Southwest	80	34	3	137	198	141	1.85	1.86	3.61	3.87	3.25	3.41
Belding	75	34		118	183		0.60	0.60	2.54	3.01		
Coldwater	76	38		134	187		1.28	1.28	2.54	2.84		
Lansing	75	41		134	189		1.40	1.40	2.57	2.67		
South Central	78	6	4	131	203	142	1.28	1.28	2.81	3.03	3.10	3.19
Detroit	79	45		158	201		1.20	1.20	1.94	1.97		
Flint	75	38		133	170		0.89	0.91	2.00	2.10		
Romeo	76	37		128	172		1.27	1.27	2.17	2.23		
Tipton	76	40		144	209		1.83	1.83	2.82	2.83		
Toledo, OH	76	45		165	237		2.39	2.39	3.28	3.28		
Southeast	79	37	5	140	203	132	1.33	1.35	2.20	2.25	3.13	3.21

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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