



MI-CW1708

# Michigan Crop Weather

April 28, 2008

## Planting is Underway

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending April 27, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.09 inches in the southeastern Lower Peninsula to 1.54 inches in the northwestern Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 4 degrees above normal in the western Upper Peninsula to 10 degrees above normal in the northeastern Lower Peninsula. Sunny days and warmer than average temperatures have allowed farmers to get into the fields and initiate planting operations. Many who have planted are already wishing for rain for their recently planted crops. A farmer stated, "Planted crops need a shower to help speed emergence and help the ground to cure out a bit more even." On the other hand, some fields are still too wet or cold to commence planting. "Corn planting will begin as soon as the ground temperature rises above 50 degrees," another farmer stated.

## Field Crops

Warm temperatures were ideal for spring planting in a number of vicinities, while some farmers were looking forward to the drying of their fields. **Corn** planting was underway in a number of areas, but some were waiting for warmer, drier ground. **Sugarbeet** planting was progressing rapidly and was nearing completion in many areas. A small amount of **soybeans** were planted, and many farmers expected to plant in the coming week. **Winter wheat** was generally in good condition and has been top dressed for the most part. Planting of **oats** progressed as normal, while **barley** planting was slightly behind normal. **Alfalfa** fields looked good with some planting underway. **Hay** was growing well although standing water was reported in a few areas.

### Soil moisture for week ending 04/27/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	0	17	71	12
Subsoil	0	5	79	16

### Crop condition for week ending 04/27/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Pasture	1	13	25	52	9
Winter Wheat	1	4	19	63	13

## Fruit

Warm temperatures continued to push crop development ahead of normal. Tree planting and fertilization were major activities getting underway in many Michigan orchards. **Apples** were ahead of normal in the southeast, with most in tight cluster to pre-pink, and even a few at pink stage. In northwest Michigan, apples were at half-inch green. **Apricots** began to bloom. **Pears** were in tight cluster and bud burst. **Peaches** were at calyx red stage as trimming continued. **Sweet and Tart cherries** were at early green tip. **Plums** were at bud burst to green tip. **Strawberries** experienced good growth development, and the strawberries were uncovered on most farms. **Blueberries** were at bud swell or early green tissue. **Grapes** were at scale crack to first swelling of buds.

## Vegetables

The warm, drier weather experienced the past two weeks and generally good field conditions allowed Michigan growers to get the season off to a good start. In the west central, **carrot** planting progressed well and some **asparagus** spears started to emerge since the warm temperatures pushed crop development ahead of schedule. **Onion** plantings got underway in the east central while **celery** growers were able to catch up given the current conditions. Transplanting of **tomatoes** should begin by the end of this week and early planted **cabbage** that had already been transplanted was advancing nicely. There were no real pest problems. Farmers across the State continued to work the soil and prepare equipment for the planting season.

### Crop progress for week ending 04/27/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Barley, planted	10	0	15	31
Barley, emerged	1	0	0	7
Corn, planted	12	1	7	17
Corn, emerged	0	0	0	0
Oats, planted	50	21	49	58
Oats, emerged	5	NA	11	18
Potatoes, planted	22	11	20	16
Potatoes, emerged	0	0	0	NA
Soybeans, planted	1	0	2	4
Sugarbeets, planted	85	37	65	75



**Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 04/27/08**<sup>1</sup>

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days <sup>2</sup>			Precipitation				
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2008	2007	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal
									Since April 1	For month	
Ironwood	73	25	4	63	76	62	0.62	1.22	5.42	4.16	
Marquette	70	24		57	58		0.16	0.90	7.49	5.17	
Stephenson	72	31		98	89		0.55	1.14	4.94	4.33	
<b>Western UP</b>	73	24		71	73		0.48	1.10	5.32	4.06	2.07 2.28
Cornell	68	29	6	72	81	29	0.23	0.45	4.03	3.21	
Sault St Marie	69	33		82	70		1.20	1.27	4.81	3.62	
<b>Eastern UP</b>	72	29		66	64		0.46	0.81	4.31	3.28	2.23 2.43
Beulah	79	38		155	81		2.13	2.13	5.37	3.85	
Lake City	73	32	9	148	73	80	1.46	1.46	4.74	3.27	
Old Mission	76	35		141	76		1.06	1.06	3.88	3.38	
Pellston	78	32		137	87		1.10	1.10	3.88	2.67	
<b>Northwest</b>	79	32		143	75		1.54	1.54	4.39	3.37	2.40 2.69
Alpena	73	35	10	146	81	72	0.27	0.27	2.75	2.04	
Houghton Lake	74	37		154	83		0.65	0.65	3.31	2.27	
Rogers City	73	35		144	65		0.57	0.57	3.13	2.35	
<b>Northeast</b>	77	31		148	80		0.55	0.55	3.19	2.34	2.28 2.52
Fremont	80	34	8	167	100	99	1.16	1.16	4.74	3.40	
Hart	76	38		160	87		2.09	2.39	5.60	4.80	
Muskegon	78	40		158	92		0.80	0.80	4.12	2.55	
<b>West Central</b>	80	27		163	91		1.39	1.45	4.85	3.74	2.73 3.16
Alma	80	40	9	166	105	112	0.27	0.27	4.81	2.51	
Big Rapids	80	36		166	91		1.76	1.76	3.57	2.35	
<b>Central</b>	80	36		163	96		0.79	0.79	3.66	2.22	2.63 3.07
Bad Axe	79	42		186	77		0.07	0.07	2.68	1.53	
Pigeon	79	39	9	174	72	107	0.10	0.10	2.47	1.26	
Saginaw	80	41		179	99		0.13	0.13	3.10	1.55	
Standish	77	35		161	91		0.45	0.45	3.11	1.98	
<b>East Central</b>	81	35		168	86		0.15	0.15	2.88	1.72	2.21 2.55
Fennville	82	37	9	171	98	128	0.30	0.30	3.18	2.55	
Grand Rapids	82	39		200	112		0.44	0.44	4.48	3.49	
Holland	82	41		221	129		0.74	0.74	2.44	1.66	
South Bend, IN	83	37		212	141		0.39	0.44	2.80	2.14	
Watervliet	82	39	8	189	114	128	0.45	0.50	3.49	2.77	
<b>Southwest</b>	85	37		197	116		0.50	0.52	3.58	2.83	2.89 3.41
Belding	80	36		181	97		0.36	0.36	4.88	2.93	
Coldwater	80	39		188	112		0.19	0.23	2.86	2.04	
Lansing	79	41	8	199	112	128	0.13	0.13	3.14	2.13	
<b>South Central</b>	83	31		190	110		0.22	0.23	3.01	2.15	2.78 3.19
Detroit	82	41		219	135	118	0.06	0.07	1.33	0.82	
Flint	81	39		224	111		0.02	0.02	2.89	1.54	
Romeo	79	39		188	111		0.12	0.12	1.78	1.18	
Tipton	79	42		184	121		0.13	0.13	1.44	1.00	
Toledo, OH	81	38	9	198	139	118	0.00	0.05	2.37	1.63	
<b>Southeast</b>	82	36		199	122		0.09	0.11	1.95	1.34	2.84 3.21

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.