



# Michigan Crop Weather

## Frosty Mornings

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 4, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.30 inches in the south central Lower Peninsula to 1.33 inches in the western Upper Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 7 degrees below normal in the western Upper Peninsula to 2 degrees below normal in the southeastern Lower Peninsula. Several cold nights this week resulted in frosty mornings. There have been some reports of damage, particularly to the fruit crops. Cooler temperatures have also slowed the emergence of field crops. Farmers in the northern regions were still anticipating warm weather in order to begin planting operations. A farmer stated, "freezing temperatures have delayed planting." Farmers in some regions of the State are hoping for rain. "The surface ground is very dry. Emergence is very sporadic and we need a good rain," another farmer reported.

## Field Crops

Temperatures this week were cooler but excellent for planting. Crops were mostly in fair to good condition with some reports of frost damage. Damage to many crops have yet to be determined. **Corn** planting was progressing at a rapid pace now that fields have begun to dry, while farmers in the north were still waiting for warmer soils. Many farmers concentrated on corn before planting other crops. **Sugarbeet** planting was nearing completion in most areas, with early plantings just beginning to emerge. Frost damage has occurred in selected areas and replanting of destroyed sugarbeets took place. A small amount of **soybeans** were planted, and many farmers expected to plant in the coming week. **Winter wheat** generally looked good, although there were reports of frost damage, especially in the Thumb region. **Barley** planting was behind average for this time of year. Planting of **oats** progressed as expected. **Alfalfa** developed rapidly this past week with stands of six to ten inches, though some frost damage were observed.

Soil moisture for week ending 05/04/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	4	19	72	5
Subsoil	0	10	81	9

Crop condition for week ending 05/04/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Oats	1	1	26	54	18
Pasture	1	10	27	50	12
Winter Wheat	1	4	17	64	14

## Fruit

Temperatures in the mid to upper twenties during the week caused light to moderate damage to some fruit crops in all regions. Damage varied widely according to fruit crop development. Growers continue to assess frost damage and crop potential. **Apples** were at late pink stage in the southwest and southeast and at tight cluster in the northwest and west central. In early apple varieties, king blooms were lost due to the freezing temperatures in some areas. **Apricots** were in shuck in the southwest and first bloom in the northwest. **Pears** were in bloom in the southwest and early white bud in the west central. **Peaches** were in bloom. **Sweet and tart cherries** were in full bloom across the State. **Plums** were in bloom in the west central. **Strawberry** flower clusters emerged. **Blueberries** were at pink bud, and early varieties began to bloom. **Grape** buds were open. Juice grapes were at bud burst and wine grapes followed behind at late bud swell.

## Vegetables

Light precipitation last week was welcomed by growers but hindered fieldwork and planting. Freezing temperatures have delayed **potato** plantings in the northwest. **Rhubarb** has started growing. **Asparagus** harvest began early last week with some loss to the freeze but most growers picked all the spears that were up in the southwest. Limited amounts of **tomatoes**, **cucumbers** and **squash** have been planted on plastic and under tunnels. **Celery** growers were busy raising transplant seedlings in the greenhouses and placing them in fields. Rains in the west central have been ideal for germinating **carrots** which were progressing well. In the west central, **onion** planting was nearing completion and early planted fields were emerging. Early **cabbage** was well established. There were no reports of insect problems in any vegetable crops.

Crop progress for week ending 05/04/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley, planted	16	10	33	53
Barley, emerged	3	1	7	20
Corn, planted	41	12	25	38
Corn, emerged	1	0	1	2
Oats, planted	74	50	67	79
Oats, emerged	35	5	25	39
Potatoes, planted	31	22	24	24
Potatoes, emerged	10	0	1	NA
Soybeans, planted	8	1	6	11
Sugarbeets, planted	95	85	84	94



**Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 05/04/08 <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	63	25		78	134		1.26	1.88	5.14	5.42		
Marquette	59	22		64	107		1.02	1.18	5.58	6.19		
Stephenson	56	19		105	150		1.47	2.02	5.51	5.80		
<b>Western UP</b>	65	17	-7	82	123	96	1.33	1.82	5.09	5.39	2.68	3.37
Cornell	59	26		85	138		0.71	0.94	3.92	3.92		
Sault St Marie	63	27		96	114		0.54	1.74	4.09	4.16		
<b>Eastern UP</b>	63	18	-4	80	113	50	0.69	1.09	3.66	3.91	2.83	3.01
Beulah	71	29		189	146		1.42	3.55	5.27	5.27		
Lake City	63	21		175	121		0.71	2.17	3.98	3.98		
Old Mission	64	30		168	126		1.29	2.35	4.17	4.67		
Pellston	63	22		160	141		0.82	1.92	3.48	3.49		
<b>Northwest</b>	71	21	-4	170	127	120	1.09	2.63	4.27	4.46	3.05	2.61
Alpena	70	24		170	126		0.82	1.09	2.83	2.86		
Houghton Lake	65	24		184	136		0.74	1.39	3.01	3.01		
Rogers City	66	24		171	110		0.81	1.38	3.10	3.16		
<b>Northeast</b>	70	23	-3	177	132	108	0.80	1.35	3.10	3.14	2.99	2.76
Fremont	69	22		201	165		0.51	1.67	3.71	3.91		
Hart	69	22		198	150		0.58	2.67	4.66	5.38		
Muskegon	71	25		191	154		0.61	1.41	2.96	3.16		
<b>West Central</b>	71	22	-5	199	156	146	0.53	1.92	3.85	4.26	3.47	2.67
Alma	71	26		225	170		0.49	0.76	2.86	3.00		
Big Rapids	71	24		206	139		0.85	2.61	3.19	3.20		
<b>Central</b>	71	22	-3	207	155	162	0.62	1.42	2.74	2.84	3.48	2.79
Bad Axe	72	26		221	126		0.73	0.80	2.25	2.26		
Pigeon	71	26		212	120		0.54	0.64	1.77	1.80		
Saginaw	73	27		224	157		0.27	0.40	1.68	1.82		
Standish	68	22		195	145		0.42	0.87	2.40	2.40		
<b>East Central</b>	76	20	-3	204	139	155	0.49	0.64	2.10	2.21	2.90	2.63
Fennville	72	24		215	169		0.58	0.88	2.94	3.13		
Grand Rapids	72	26		246	178		0.49	0.93	3.81	3.98		
Holland	73	26		265	200		0.80	1.61	2.30	2.53		
South Bend, IN	75	27		264	233		0.61	1.00	2.55	2.75		
Watervliet	73	26		234	189		0.79	1.24	3.34	3.56		
<b>Southwest</b>	76	22	-4	245	190	184	0.80	1.33	3.43	3.67	3.69	3.01
Belding	71	21		218	160		0.59	0.95	3.26	3.52		
Coldwater	71	23		231	179		0.28	0.47	2.12	2.32		
Lansing	73	26		247	171		0.20	0.33	2.15	2.33		
<b>South Central</b>	77	21	-4	234	178	185	0.30	0.52	2.24	2.45	3.43	2.92
Detroit	72	31		268	202		0.41	0.47	1.12	1.23		
Flint	74	24		274	170		0.57	0.59	1.87	2.11		
Romeo	66	27		217	170		0.60	0.73	1.54	1.79		
Tipton	73	26		236	196		0.47	0.60	1.31	1.47		
Toledo, OH	77	31		253	212		0.62	0.62	1.68	2.25		
<b>Southeast</b>	77	23	-2	245	190	171	0.55	0.65	1.66	1.89	3.43	2.85

<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.

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