



# Michigan Crop Weather

## Soils Remained Cool

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 18, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.23 inches in the central Lower Peninsula to 0.61 inches in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 5 degrees below normal in the east central and southwest Lower Peninsula to 2 degrees below normal in the western and eastern Upper Peninsula and the northwestern Lower Peninsula. A cool, dry week allowed for planting and other farm operations to proceed, but emergence of planted crops was hampered as a result of cool soils. A farmer stated, "Planting has continued at a good pace, although crops have been very slow to emerge due to the cool conditions." The colder regions of the State received frost a few days last week. "Still very cold nights with frost almost every morning, warming late in the day," a farmer in the northern Lower Peninsula reported.

## Field Crops

Across the State, cool soils hindered germination and emergence of planted crops. **Corn** planting was wrapping up while early planted fields emerged. **Soybeans** were being planted and some were just beginning to emerge. **Sugarbeets** were for the most part emerged. **Winter wheat** generally looked good and was in Feeke's growth stage 6 to 9. There were some reports of powdery mildew due to damp conditions. **Alfalfa** benefited from the weather with stands of 12 to 18 inches. Light frost damage was reported. **Barley** planting was behind average for this time of year. **Oats** were planted for the most part, with about three-fourths emerged.

Soil moisture for week ending 05/18/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	1	14	76	9
Subsoil	1	7	83	9

Crop condition for week ending 05/18/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Hay	1	4	33	45	17
Oats	1	1	26	62	10
Pasture	1	5	31	48	15
Winter Wheat	1	4	23	59	13

## Fruit

Below normal temperatures kept insect activity low. Despite the cool weather, growing degree day totals were still 5 to 6 days ahead of average. Wet conditions were less than ideal for pesticide applications. In southern regions, **apples** were at petal fall to 8 mm in fruit diameter; in northern regions, they were in bloom to petal fall. The apple scab infection period was unusually long. **Pears** were in green cluster in the northwest. **Peaches** were at shuck split; growers were thinning fruit. **Sweet cherries** were at early petal fall in the northwest and at pit hardening in the southwest and east. **Tart cherries** were in early bloom in the northwest and at shuck split in the southwest. **Plums** were in early bloom to shuck split. **Strawberries** were in bloom in the southwest and east. **Blueberries** were in early to full bloom. **Grapes** were at bud burst in the northwest. Freeze damage to juice and early season wine grapes in the southwest was quite varied. Late season wine grapes escaped damage.

## Vegetables

Temperatures have stayed cool with a light frost towards the end of the week, but there was no damage to vegetation. **Asparagus** harvest continued at a slow pace due to weather, and spears were sandy because of the recent rains. Purple spot was evident in some fields. **Celery** planting continued on schedule. Growers who used row covers were beginning to remove them. **Squash** and **cucumbers** were being directly seeded, and plants under tunnels were growing slowly. **Carrot** planting was mostly finished with a few processors stretching out their planting dates longer than usual. Predicted frost early last week did not materialize, and **tomato** growers who had one-third of the crop planted were relieved. Established **potatoes**, **peas**, and **green beans** were reportedly doing well. Also, many **onion** fields have emerged.

Crop progress for week ending 05/18/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Asparagus, harvested	38	13	38	34
Barley, planted	58	32	86	81
Barley, emerged	21	8	58	57
Corn, planted	84	70	74	70
Corn, emerged	34	12	33	31
Oats, planted	96	82	94	95
Oats, emerged	74	48	69	79
Potatoes, planted	51	47	53	NA
Potatoes, emerged	27	25	19	NA
Soybeans, planted	51	32	31	39
Soybeans, emerged	7	2	7	10



**Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 05/18/08 <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	70	25		142	263		0.31	0.56	2.44	5.98		
Marquette	68	33		123	220		0.23	0.72	1.90	6.91		
Stephenson	72	33		208	298		0.49	0.85	2.87	6.65		
<b>Western UP</b>	72	25	-2	155	249	187	0.30	0.58	2.23	5.80	4.12	3.37
Cornell	64	34		136	252		0.62	1.04	1.98	4.96		
Sault St Marie	63	32		147	217		0.78	1.22	2.96	5.38		
<b>Eastern UP</b>	68	13	-2	130	220	116	0.61	1.08	2.16	4.98	4.27	3.01
Beulah	74	35		285	280		0.77	1.10	4.65	6.37		
Lake City	68	29		266	259		0.32	0.45	2.62	4.43		
Old Mission	74	33		247	256		0.47	0.53	2.88	5.20		
Pellston	75	28		248	273		0.52	0.82	2.74	4.31		
<b>Northwest</b>	75	28	-2	254	257	224	0.54	0.71	3.33	5.16	4.25	2.61
Alpena	66	30		246	256		0.41	0.64	1.73	3.50		
Houghton Lake	69	29		277	284		0.24	0.29	1.68	3.30		
Rogers City	69	30		258	238		0.38	0.55	1.93	3.71		
<b>Northeast</b>	71	29	-3	265	269	209	0.34	0.50	1.85	3.64	4.25	2.76
Fremont	70	33		313	331		0.20	0.37	2.04	4.28		
Hart	73	32		303	298		0.24	0.27	2.94	5.65		
Muskegon	73	36		289	311		0.12	0.49	1.90	3.65		
<b>West Central</b>	75	30	-3	307	313	263	0.29	0.57	2.48	4.83	4.71	2.67
Alma	71	35		316	341		0.22	0.40	0.93	3.17		
Big Rapids	71	32		322	303		0.32	0.54	3.15	3.74		
<b>Central</b>	71	32	-3	313	322	290	0.23	0.47	1.83	3.25	4.80	2.79
Bad Axe	70	35		309	256		0.28	0.74	1.54	3.00		
Pigeon	71	34		303	243		0.48	0.74	1.38	2.54		
Saginaw	71	37		337	318		0.23	0.71	1.11	2.53		
Standish	70	30		285	300		0.36	0.83	1.70	3.23		
<b>East Central</b>	72	30	-5	295	282	275	0.31	0.79	1.43	3.00	4.16	2.63
Fennville	73	34		310	325		0.44	1.56	2.44	4.69		
Grand Rapids	71	38		366	369		0.30	0.97	1.90	4.95		
Holland	75	38		456	379		0.30	1.30	4.49	5.41		
South Bend, IN	72	36		384	431		0.82	2.17	3.17	4.92		
Watervliet	72	37		343	369		0.38	1.48	2.72	5.04		
<b>Southwest</b>	75	32	-5	364	371	317	0.42	1.41	2.81	5.15	5.22	3.01
Belding	70	33		323	332		0.30	0.71	1.66	4.23		
Coldwater	71	35		340	351		0.27	1.11	1.58	3.43		
Lansing	68	35		361	342		0.17	0.96	1.29	3.29		
<b>South Central</b>	86	33	-4	344	353	318	0.30	1.00	1.52	3.45	4.98	2.92
Detroit	73	40		389	374		0.33	1.18	1.65	2.41		
Flint	69	37		390	336		0.13	0.71	1.30	2.82		
Romeo	70	38		311	318		0.23	1.04	1.77	2.83		
Tipton	70	39		353	361		0.49	1.38	1.98	2.85		
Toledo, OH	69	37		372	394		0.49	1.65	2.27	3.90		
<b>Southeast</b>	73	37	-3	354	353	301	0.42	1.23	1.88	3.13	4.90	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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