



Michigan Crop Weather

Scattered Rainfall

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 10, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.10 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 1.15 inches in the east central Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree below normal in the western Upper Peninsula and the west central, east central, south central and southeastern Lower Peninsula to 1 degree above normal in the eastern Upper Peninsula and the northwestern and southwestern Lower Peninsula. Temperatures this past week started off warm but became cool later in the week. Farmers in many areas were still hoping for significant rainfall as some crops were showing signs of stress. A farmer in the south central noted, "Because of lack of any measurable rainfall recently, some of our corn and soybeans are getting to the point where the heat is beginning to hurt yield potential." Rains were scattered and light but did fall in some areas of the State. "The light, brief rainfall this week bought some relief and along with cooler weather has helped the corn crop, but it still needs additional rain," a farmer in the west central reported.

Field Crops

Soil moisture was becoming a concern for field crops. **Corn** condition was variable due to soil moisture levels. In some lighter soils, there was evidence of moisture stress. **Soybeans** were blooming and setting pods. Many fields were in need of a measurable rainfall. The crop may need monitoring for aphids. **Winter wheat** harvest was completed. **Alfalfa** harvest was progressing with farmers getting a second or third cut. Dry conditions in some areas have allowed for cutting but have slowed regrowth. Rains in other areas have slowed harvest. The condition of **dry beans** varied. In the central and west central, the crop is reported to be in need of rain. In the east central, dampness has caused yellowing in low areas, but other areas were progressing. **Sugarbeets** were looking very good. Cercospora leaf spot infestation remained very light. **Oat** harvest was in full swing. **Barley** was generally in fair to good condition.

Soil moisture for week en

Fruit

Apples were 3 inches in the southwest; fire blight infections continued to spread. Summer pruning was underway in the Grand Rapids area and other areas of the southeast. Harvest of summer apple varieties continued across the State. **Blueberry** harvest was underway in the Grand Rapids area, where high yields and good quality were reported. In the southeast, blueberry harvest continued; bird feeding was a major issue for many growers. **Peaches** grew to 3 inches in diameter with a fair amount of split pits in some varieties; harvest continued across the State. **Pears** were 2.5 and 2 inches in the southwest and southeast, respectively. **Plums** neared harvest in the west central, where cherry leaf spot symptoms from June storms were visible; harvest of the Shiro variety began in the southeast. **Strawberry** regrowth was underway in the southwest. **Sweet cherry** harvest was completed in the northwest; quality was less than optimal. **Tart cherry** harvest wrapped up in the west central and continued in the northwest. Yellow leaves and leaf drop due to cherry leaf and bacterial spot infections in sweet and tart cherries were found in the southwest and southeast. **Raspberry** harvest was completed in the southeast and northwest. **Grapes** began to soften and change color in the southwest.

Vegetables

The weekend provided much needed moisture in most areas, but growers said temperatures reminded them of fall. Heavy dews, rain, and fog have kept purple spot pressure high in **asparagus** in the west central. Dry conditions and Phytophthora caused some early die-back. **Cabbage** planting for late season harvest has been a challenge with high temperatures and dry conditions over the last two weeks. **Garlic** harvest was underway for retail sales. **Eggplant** harvest peaked. Disease pressure remained high in the **carrot** crop. Harvest will begin next week for fresh market in the west central. **Celery** harvest was on schedule; size, yield, and quality were good. **Leeks** and **parsnips** were developing well. **Cantaloup**, **muskmelons**, and **watermelons** were being harvested. Size has been good and there have been very few problems reported. **Pepper** harvest continued with good size and yields. **Pumpkins** have fruit in most fields with no downy mildew seen in the crop thus far. **Onions** for shipping and retail sales have had very good growing conditions this season. The **radish** crop looked good. Downey mildew became a factor for **cucumbers** for pickles. Processing **tomato** harvest will begin later this week in the southeast. **Potato** yield and quality seemed to be very good as early tablestock harvest got underway. Irrigation continued on the **snap bean** crop. **Sweet corn** harvest progressed, and reports were positive for yield. Rust was present in some fields.

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/10/08 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			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	77	37		1,247	1,657		0.15	0.77	2.26	12.35		
Marquette	78	50		1,171	1,588		0.12	0.73	2.33	13.92		
Stephenson	88	46		1,528	1,729		0.07	1.22	2.80	14.25		
Western UP	88	35	-1	1,290	1,644	1,334	0.10	0.79	2.23	12.36	13.95	3.69
Cornell	81	52		1,367	1,707		0.13	0.77	1.75	12.66		
Sault St Marie	82	56		1,209	1,526		0.13	0.32	1.92	12.25		
Eastern UP	82	46	1	1,206	1,545	1,150	0.12	0.70	1.86	13.08	13.06	3.53
Beulah	85	54		1,631	1,811		0.10	1.36	2.14	16.96		
Lake City	88	52		1,571	1,733		0.47	1.09	1.96	18.12		
Old Mission	89	56		1,561	1,717		0.06	0.06	0.83	10.20		
Pellston	84	50		1,485	1,662		0.54	0.80	2.82	13.60		
Northwest	89	50	1	1,516	1,694	1,512	0.24	0.63	1.74	13.78	12.34	3.11
Alpena	85	52		1,552	1,702		0.93	0.96	4.53	14.00		
Houghton Lake	86	51		1,604	1,733		0.38	0.41	1.99	15.09		
Rogers City	84	53		1,506	1,753		0.68	0.77	3.18	15.63		
Northeast	86	51	0	1,560	1,714	1,464	0.69	0.78	3.39	14.80	12.48	3.12
Fremont	87	49		1,734	1,918		0.70	0.72	0.87	12.64		
Hart	83	49		1,662	1,819		1.04	1.04	1.23	15.07		
Muskegon	83	56		1,716	1,947		0.78	0.83	1.11	12.52		
West Central	87	49	-1	1,677	1,860	1,655	0.72	0.80	1.82	15.40	12.45	3.60
Alma	90	51		1,840	2,011		0.54	1.39	1.93	9.79		
Big Rapids	88	50		1,761	1,813		0.36	1.01	1.72	12.06		
Central	90	48	0	1,778	1,907	1,724	0.57	1.38	2.17	10.74	13.42	3.64
Bad Axe	84	55		1,765	1,851		1.28	3.34	5.45	17.05		
Pigeon	83	54		1,708	1,782		1.11	1.35	2.69	10.90		
Saginaw	86	51		1,876	2,007		1.14	1.92	3.52	13.48		
Standish	87	50		1,661	1,780		0.85	1.35	4.13	13.40		
East Central	88	50	-1	1,730	1,859	1,710	1.15	1.93	3.91	13.23	12.23	2.93
Fennville	85	50		1,743	1,928		0.86	0.86	1.72	17.44		
Grand Rapids	87	53		2,003	2,180		0.59	0.59	0.84	16.03		
Holland	86	54		1,997	2,121		0.77	0.77	1.47	18.03		
South Bend, IN	83	49		2,064	2,277		0.69	0.69	1.56	11.61		
Watervliet	83	49		1,891	2,091		0.73	0.80	2.16	14.72		
Southwest	89	46	1	1,911	2,079	1,859	0.63	0.69	1.84	16.17	14.16	3.18
Belding	87	47		1,777	1,930		0.47	0.66	0.73	10.27		
Coldwater	86	46		1,893	1,980		0.30	0.30	0.91	12.32		
Lansing	86	49		1,943	2,043		0.14	0.18	1.13	11.56		
South Central	87	46	-1	1,879	2,015	1,840	0.45	0.62	1.62	12.58	14.02	3.36
Detroit	88	51		2,130	2,209		0.14	0.21	1.01	10.52		
Flint	86	49		1,985	2,008		0.88	1.22	3.08	11.80		
Romeo	89	50		1,863	1,941		0.58	1.44	3.53	12.05		
Tipton	87	49		1,927	2,002		0.16	0.16	0.52	16.03		
Toledo, OH	87	52		2,102	2,180		0.01	0.04	0.97	14.67		
Southeast	89	46	-1	1,941	2,047	1,823	0.47	0.85	2.00	13.92	13.56	3.12

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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