



Michigan Crop Weather

Continued Dry

Seven days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 31, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Through Monday, September 1, precipitation varied from 0.02 inches in the northwestern Lower Peninsula to 0.26 inches in the central Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 3 degrees below normal in the east central Lower Peninsula to 1 degree above normal in the western and eastern Upper Peninsula and the northwestern Lower Peninsula. Abnormally dry conditions remained in most areas as very little rain fell in the past seven days. A farmer in the west central noted, "In the last week we have had only a trace of rain and for the month of August we have had 0.95 inches of rain. Corn, soybeans, and hay are being hurt due to the dry weather." Crops were suffering from lack of moisture, but some normal ripening was taking place. "In many cases, when viewing the fields, it is difficult to determine if much of the change in the fields is due to 'true maturing' or 'premature maturing' being caused by the extremely extended dry period throughout the area," a grower in the south central reported.

Field Crops

The majority of the **corn** crop was in the dough stage and a good deal was in the dent stage. The crop continued to dry, causing some growers to chop their corn for silage. **Soybeans** have set pods and leaves were turning. **Alfalfa** harvest continued with a second cutting nearing completion and some growers getting a third cutting. There were reports of a short third cutting, as regrowth has been slow. **Dry bean** leaves were turning and some were shedding leaves. Harvest of early varieties was just beginning in some fields. **Winter wheat** growers continued to prepare their fields for planting. **Sugarbeet** growers were anticipating a very good crop and were looking forward to harvest. Harvest of **oats** was essentially finished.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/31/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	47	35	18	0
Subsoil	38	33	29	0

Crop condition for week ending 08/31/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Hay	8	22	39	26	5
Corn	14	13	31	27	15
Dry beans	2	1	17	63	17
Pasture	27	40	18	12	3
Soybeans	10	19	31	33	7

Fruit

The harvest of early season **apples** wound down, and picking of Galas will begin this week. Elliot and other late season **blueberry** varieties harvests continued. Anthracnose rot has been a problem. Concord **grape** vineyards that were damaged by frost still had a lot of green berries, but veraison was otherwise finished in the southwest. Spraying occurred for protection from downy mildew. **Peach** harvest continued; fruit size of late season varieties was reduced by the dryness. Bartlett **pear** harvest began, and **plum** picking continued. Fall **raspberry** harvest was underway.

Vegetables

High temperatures and lack of rainfall have kept vegetable producers worried about crop conditions and decreased production, especially in the southern and western parts of the State. **Celery** harvest continued on schedule in the southwest part of the State. Crop experts reported that celery quality was good but most growers were irrigating due to the very dry soil conditions. **Tomato** harvest continued, with some producers reporting a disappointing crop. Harvest continued this week for **potatoes, onions, leeks, carrots, peppers, sweet corn** and **snap beans**. **Pumpkins** and **winter squash** continued to develop in the fields, while harvest for fall **cabbage** and other cole crops began in some areas.

Crop progress for week ending 08/31/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All hay, second cutting	96	92	100	95
All hay, third cutting	56	41	60	55
All hay, fourth cutting	4	NA	5	4
Apples, harvested	6	5	7	6
Blueberries, harvested	92	80	97	92
Corn, dough	85	75	86	79
Corn, dent	47	18	48	39
Corn, mature	4	NA	6	4
Dry beans, turning leaves	31	25	60	61
Dry beans, dropping leaves	18	NA	NA	NA
Oats, harvested	97	94	100	96
Peaches, harvested	51	42	70	75
Potatoes, harvested	21	19	10	NA
Soybeans, turning leaves	21	3	12	14
Soybeans, dropping leaves	2	NA	1	1

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 09/01/08 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	88	43		1,616	1,993		0.28	0.47	0.78	12.98		
Marquette	90	45		1,516	1,908		0.01	0.16	0.28	14.08		
Stephenson	89	41		1,888	2,105		0.01	0.31	0.83	15.02		
Western UP	91	31	1	1,642	1,986	1,656	0.21	0.42	0.68	12.93	16.48	3.58
Cornell	86	41		1,784	2,046		0.02	0.38	0.52	13.04		
Sault St Marie	86	46		1,561	1,860		0.31	0.94	1.10	13.22		
Eastern UP	89	38	1	1,562	1,875	1,455	0.08	0.52	0.65	13.62	15.46	3.55
Beulah	88	50		2,040	2,198		0.00	0.34	0.53	17.39		
Lake City	85	40		1,929	2,100		0.03	1.63	2.77	20.42		
Old Mission	91	48		1,954	2,102		0.02	0.50	0.61	10.77		
Pellston	88	38		1,844	2,028		0.02	1.15	1.68	14.75		
Northwest	91	38	1	1,890	2,065	1,871	0.02	0.72	1.25	14.80	14.53	3.66
Alpena	87	41		1,910	2,075		0.00	0.25	1.20	14.27		
Houghton Lake	84	37		1,964	2,094		0.06	2.56	3.18	17.91		
Rogers City	86	40		1,861	2,116		0.03	1.12	2.09	17.06		
Northeast	87	37	-2	1,913	2,077	1,814	0.06	1.30	2.36	16.48	14.63	3.47
Fremont	89	47		2,134	2,311		0.12	0.47	0.81	13.11		
Hart	87	47		2,028	2,197		0.73	0.82	1.24	15.89		
Muskegon	87	48		2,139	2,368		0.01	0.24	0.72	12.83		
West Central	89	NA	-1	2,068	2,252	2,039	0.22	0.43	0.81	15.85	14.99	3.19
Alma	87	48		2,230	2,420		0.23	1.50	2.00	11.29		
Big Rapids	85	44		2,133	2,169		0.22	1.04	1.44	13.22		
Central	87	44	-2	2,161	2,289	2,110	0.26	1.20	1.82	12.08	15.94	3.09
Bad Axe	85	49		2,150	2,264		0.00	1.32	2.90	18.71		
Pigeon	86	44		2,058	2,168		0.15	0.79	2.22	12.04		
Saginaw	86	46		2,271	2,419		0.01	0.77	2.03	14.37		
Standish	85	42		2,024	2,174		0.47	1.18	2.90	15.45		
East Central	86	42	-3	2,105	2,260	2,106	0.12	1.00	2.67	14.76	14.18	2.70
Fennville	89	43		2,155	2,344		0.18	0.20	0.77	17.64		
Grand Rapids	89	49		2,459	2,647		0.04	0.47	0.81	16.50		
Holland	91	50		2,469	2,567		0.00	0.04	0.24	18.07		
South Bend, IN	89	53		2,524	2,745		0.67	1.27	1.33	12.88		
Watervliet	89	48		2,318	2,527		0.12	0.53	0.95	15.28		
Southwest	92	41	-2	2,343	2,517	2,287	0.15	0.49	0.83	16.68	16.36	3.26
Belding	87	48		2,183	2,322		0.00	0.80	1.46	11.32		
Coldwater	90	48		2,313	2,392		0.22	0.69	0.84	13.01		
Lansing	89	46		2,371	2,473		0.03	0.39	1.06	12.51		
South Central	91	45	-2	2,289	2,428	2,254	0.15	0.71	1.15	13.42	16.36	2.79
Detroit	87	53		2,614	2,684		0.12	0.13	0.25	10.65		
Flint	88	44		2,408	2,436		0.02	0.78	1.66	12.60		
Romeo	88	48		2,281	2,378		0.12	0.52	1.25	12.72		
Tipton	88	52		2,360	2,422		0.08	0.20	0.26	16.23		
Toledo, OH	89	53		2,572	2,628		0.01	0.22	1.29	15.96		
Southeast	93	43	-2	2,369	2,478	2,249	0.10	0.42	1.00	14.49	15.73	2.43

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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