



Michigan Crop Weather

Rain Brings Relief

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending September 7, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.76 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 2.69 inches in the southwestern Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree below normal in the western Upper Peninsula and the northeastern, west central, central and southwestern Lower Peninsula to 2 degrees above normal in the southwestern Lower Peninsula. Remnants of Hurricane Gustav brought much needed moisture to the State this week. The rains improved the outlook for some crops, but many growers reported that the rains were too late. A grower in the southwest reported, "Rains in the area, up to 4 inches, have helped the short supply. Some crops are past help, but others will benefit from this timely rain. Crop activities are proceeding in a normal manner." A grower in the southeast reported, "It is too late for rain to help any of this year's crops. It will help for loosening soil for fall tillage and for potato harvest."

Field Crops

The benefit received from rains was limited where crops were close to maturity. **Corn** in some areas was beginning to mature while other areas remained in the dough and dent stage. Silage harvest was underway. **Soybeans** were turning and some were dropping leaves. The crop in some areas benefited from the recent moisture. **Alfalfa** harvest continued. Regrowth has been slow in most areas, but improved by the recent rains. A short third cutting has been reported. Harvest of **dry beans** was beginning. **Winter wheat** fields were being prepared for planting, but fieldwork was slowed due to rains. **Sugarbeet** growers are expecting to begin harvest next week.

Fruit

The harvest of early season **apples** continued in the northwest and west central. Harvest of Gala and Golden Supreme apple varieties was underway in the southwest. Harvest of early and mid-season **blueberry** varieties was completed in the Grand Rapids area; harvest of late season varieties neared completion across the State. Fruit maturity varied in **grape** vineyards damaged by frost in the southwest; insect pests were a problem in the northwest. **Peach** harvest continued in the southwest and west central, and neared completion in the southeast. Harvest of Bartlett **pears** began in the southeast and continued in the southwest. **Plums** continued to size and color well in the southeast; harvest continued in the southwest and west central. Fall **raspberry** harvest was underway in the southwest and southeast; potato leafhoppers were found in newly planted red raspberries.

Vegetables

The week started warm and dry until rains came later in the week. In **asparagus**, the rain may flush a considerable amount of parasitic new growth. The first crop of table **beets** was hurt by earlier flooding, but the new crop appeared to be doing well. **Cabbage** harvest continued, but dry soils kept plants from sizing out as desired. **Carrot** harvest continued on schedule with growers reporting good quality. Many growers reported fields with high aster yellows. **Celery** harvest continued with yields being average to somewhat below average. **Onion** harvest was well underway. In some fields, the crop suffered from earlier flooding but additional bulb sizing is expected. **Potato** harvest was progressing. Fields of **pumpkins** were showing effects of early maturity and smaller size due to the lack of rainfall. **Snap bean** harvest has been affected by the extensive dry conditions with reduction in yields in nonirrigated fields. **Sweet corn** harvest continued with limited soil moisture in many fields hastening maturity. Processing and fresh market **tomato** harvest was in full swing. Some areas were completed with stakes and plastic being removed. Mites were present in some **watermelon** fields. **Zucchini** harvest neared completion with viruses less of a problem than anticipated.

Soil moisture for week ending 09/07/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	22	20	53	5
Subsoil	22	34	42	2

Crop condition for week ending 09/07/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Hay	7	17	32	37	7
Corn	10	13	32	31	14
Dry beans	7	8	23	50	12
Pasture	22	28	28	19	3
Soybeans	7	19	31	30	13

Crop progress for week ending 09/07/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All hay, third cutting	69	56	65	66
All hay, fourth cutting	10	4	8	9
Apples, harvested	15	6	12	NA
Blueberries, harvested	94	92	100	97
Corn, dough	90	85	93	87
Corn, dent	68	47	69	58
Corn, mature	10	4	17	11
Corn silage, harvested	23	12	33	25
Dry beans, turning leaves	69	31	81	79
Dry beans, dropping leaves	21	18	38	51
Dry beans, harvested	6	NA	17	10
Peaches, harvested	57	51	89	NA
Potatoes, harvested	30	21	21	NA
Soybeans, turning leaves	44	21	31	34
Soybeans, dropping leaves	11	2	5	8

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 09/07/08 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	39		1,676	2,122		0.83	1.11	1.46	13.81		
Marquette	90	45		1,581	2,019		0.38	0.39	0.54	14.46		
Stephenson	91	46		1,959	2,241		0.67	0.68	1.44	15.69		
Western UP	91	38	-1	1,705	2,106	1,732	0.76	0.96	1.33	13.69	17.19	3.58
Cornell	88	44		1,858	2,168		0.62	0.64	1.03	13.66		
Sault St Marie	87	48		1,630	1,965		1.09	1.40	2.06	14.31		
Eastern UP	90	42	1	1,629	1,984	1,525	1.09	1.17	1.63	14.71	16.12	3.55
Beulah	91	53		2,126	2,341		1.32	1.32	1.75	18.71		
Lake City	88	44		1,998	2,214		1.69	1.72	3.99	22.11		
Old Mission	94	51		2,039	2,239		1.25	1.27	1.82	12.02		
Pellston	90	44		1,916	2,145		1.16	1.18	2.31	15.91		
Northwest	94	44	1	1,968	2,192	1,959	1.42	1.44	2.39	16.21	15.11	3.66
Alpena	87	45		1,987	2,201		2.37	2.37	2.64	16.64		
Houghton Lake	86	43		2,039	2,210		1.68	1.74	4.50	19.59		
Rogers City	87	45		1,931	2,240		1.95	1.98	3.38	19.01		
Northeast	87	43	-1	1,985	2,196	1,898	2.03	2.08	3.71	18.51	15.18	3.47
Fremont	91	46		2,216	2,441		2.52	2.64	2.99	15.63		
Hart	90	50		2,106	2,332		1.90	2.63	2.72	17.79		
Muskegon	89	48		2,231	2,513		3.53	3.54	3.84	16.36		
West Central	91	46	-1	2,151	2,385	2,135	2.32	2.54	2.78	18.17	15.48	3.19
Alma	90	50		2,319	2,552		2.71	2.72	3.99	13.39		
Big Rapids	92	46		2,210	2,287		2.03	2.25	3.19	15.25		
Central	94	46	-1	2,243	2,416	2,205	2.31	2.51	3.60	14.24	16.40	3.09
Bad Axe	86	53		2,250	2,392		0.57	0.57	2.23	19.28		
Pigeon	87	48		2,149	2,297		1.56	1.71	2.70	13.60		
Saginaw	89	49		2,371	2,554		1.15	1.16	2.04	15.52		
Standish	85	46		2,105	2,296		2.37	2.84	4.42	17.82		
East Central	89	46	0	2,198	2,388	2,204	1.16	1.28	2.69	15.91	14.58	2.70
Fennville	90	47		2,244	2,478		3.29	3.47	3.49	20.93		
Grand Rapids	92	51		2,562	2,797		4.08	4.12	4.55	20.58		
Holland	91	48		2,600	2,711		2.59	2.59	2.63	20.66		
South Bend, IN	92	49		2,637	2,897		1.79	2.46	3.06	14.67		
Watervliet	93	48		2,419	2,664		2.67	2.78	3.22	17.94		
Southwest	95	46	-1	2,445	2,657	2,396	2.69	2.84	3.20	19.37	16.74	3.26
Belding	91	47		2,271	2,455		0.20	0.20	1.25	11.52		
Coldwater	97	49		2,417	2,523		0.45	0.67	1.14	13.46		
Lansing	91	51		2,478	2,613		0.93	0.96	1.88	13.44		
South Central	97	47	0	2,385	2,561	2,358	1.29	1.44	2.12	14.70	16.75	2.79
Detroit	93	58		2,742	2,830		1.28	1.40	1.41	11.93		
Flint	90	52		2,517	2,572		1.99	2.01	2.79	14.59		
Romeo	93	54		2,382	2,517		1.56	1.68	2.28	14.28		
Tipton	91	52		2,469	2,554		0.33	0.41	0.53	16.56		
Toledo, OH	95	56		2,698	2,764		0.23	0.24	1.52	16.19		
Southeast	99	50	2	2,480	2,611	2,354	0.93	1.02	1.52	15.42	16.04	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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