



# Michigan Crop Weather

## Heavy Rains

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending September 14, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.97 inches in the northwestern Lower Peninsula to 6.13 inches in the southwestern Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 3 degrees below normal in the western Upper Peninsula to normal in the west central and southeastern Lower Peninsula. Growers in the northeast and east central experienced the first frost of the season, but it had little impact on the crops. Much of the State experienced heavy rains over this past weekend. These rains brought fieldwork to a halt and caused some localized flooding in the southern part of the State. A grower in the southeast stated, "Soil has quickly become saturated and more rain will be ponding in fields and bringing up levels of ditches and streams. This will bring the water table back up to normal or above normal conditions and may cause problems come harvest time." Many farmers who were eager to begin harvest and planting activities must now wait for fields to dry. "Sugarbeet harvest was going to start today, but that will not happen. It will take several days of clear weather to get back into the fields," a farmer in the east central reported.

## Field Crops

Strong rains and wet soils impeded fieldwork this past week. The benefit from the rain depended on a crop's stage of development. Most of the **corn** crop was in the dough and dent stages. The condition improved slightly, but because the crop was close to maturity, the improvement from rains was limited. Many **soybeans** turned this week and some were dropping leaves. Regrowth of **alfalfa** was boosted by the recent rains, but harvest was held up by the precipitation. A few farmers were getting a fourth cutting, but most were cutting for a third time. **Dry beans** continued to turn and drop leaves. Harvest of the crop continued before the rains came. **Winter wheat** planting began, with a few farmers planting before the rains. Rains held up the **sugarbeet** harvest.

Soil moisture for week ending 09/14/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	7	7	46	40
Subsoil	12	16	45	27

Crop condition for week ending 09/14/08

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	14	34	37	8
Corn	7	14	29	35	15
Dry beans	9	5	22	49	15
Pasture	13	28	31	24	4
Soybeans	9	16	30	35	10

## Fruit

**Apple** harvest continued across the State. In the southwest, picking of Gala and Golden Supreme varieties continued; light picking of McIntosh and Honeycrisp varieties began in the southeast. Harvest of Gingergold apple varieties began in the northwest. Harvest of late season **blueberries** was completed; fruit quality was a concern. Harvest of **peaches, pears, plums** and fall **raspberries** continued.

## Vegetables

The rain received last week was welcomed as it relieved stressed plants. It may have been too late to benefit most crops, while it postponed harvesting and fieldwork. Nearly 40 percent of the **celery** acreage remained to harvest, and rains have flooded some fields. **Carrot** harvest continued and **pumpkin** harvest began. Fresh market **tomato** harvest continued with below average yields. Processing tomatoes from non-irrigated fields have less than a 50 percent crop due to the lack of summer rainfall. **Onion** harvest was nearing completion. **Sweet corn** and **potato** harvest continued. **Zucchini** harvest was expected to be mostly complete by the end of last week, but with the additional moisture, farmers delayed harvesting activities. **Cucumber** and summer **squash** harvest continued. Cole crops, including **cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli**, have made it to retail markets.

Crop progress for week ending 09/14/08

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	72	69	76	78
All hay, fourth cutting	19	10	15	17
Apples, harvested	18	15	24	NA
Blueberries, harvested	99	94	100	99
Corn, dough	93	90	99	93
Corn, dent	78	68	83	71
Corn, mature	16	10	38	23
Corn silage, harvested	41	23	55	41
Dry beans, turning leaves	81	69	93	95
Dry beans, dropping leaves	51	21	68	73
Dry beans, harvested	16	6	29	23
Peaches, harvested	78	57	99	NA
Potatoes, harvested	34	30	34	NA
Soybeans, turning leaves	70	44	57	59
Soybeans, dropping leaves	28	11	21	25
Winter wheat, planted	2	0	2	4

**Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 09/14/08 <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	72	37		1,725	2,157		1.72	2.55	3.02	15.53		
Marquette	72	36		1,637	2,046		2.52	2.90	3.06	16.98		
Stephenson	74	35		2,021	2,313		1.44	2.11	2.42	17.13		
<b>Western UP</b>	74	27	-3	1,759	2,148	1,801	1.58	2.33	2.75	15.26	18.17	3.58
Cornell	75	35		1,927	2,215		1.41	1.91	2.29	14.95		
Sault St Marie	70	41		1,693	2,009		1.22	2.31	3.25	15.53		
<b>Eastern UP</b>	75	34	-1	1,689	2,026	1,590	1.27	2.35	2.87	15.97	16.99	3.55
Beulah	74	41		2,202	2,404		1.17	2.49	2.83	19.88		
Lake City	83	34		2,080	2,270		1.51	3.20	5.42	23.62		
Old Mission	74	40		2,111	2,305		1.24	2.49	3.06	13.26		
Pellston	72	32		1,983	2,204		0.67	1.83	2.98	16.58		
<b>Northwest</b>	83	32	-2	2,041	2,252	2,044	0.97	2.37	3.29	17.17	16.00	3.66
Alpena	71	35		2,062	2,263		1.00	3.37	3.64	17.64		
Houghton Lake	72	32		2,124	2,272		1.07	2.75	5.38	20.66		
Rogers City	70	34		2,002	2,306		1.29	3.24	4.41	20.30		
<b>Northeast</b>	75	30	-2	2,059	2,258	1,979	1.26	3.29	4.63	19.77	16.00	3.47
Fremont	75	40		2,312	2,510		2.04	4.56	5.03	17.67		
Hart	74	40		2,195	2,400		1.19	3.09	3.91	18.98		
Muskegon	76	43		2,334	2,599		2.97	6.50	6.74	19.33		
<b>West Central</b>	76	34	0	2,246	2,459	2,229	1.95	4.27	4.70	20.12	16.30	3.19
Alma	75	42		2,428	2,629		4.89	7.60	8.88	18.28		
Big Rapids	76	37		2,301	2,354		1.31	3.34	4.38	16.56		
<b>Central</b>	76	37	-1	2,340	2,488	2,301	2.86	5.16	6.30	17.09	17.12	3.09
Bad Axe	76	43		2,338	2,474		3.39	3.96	5.62	22.67		
Pigeon	76	41		2,240	2,373		2.51	4.07	5.21	16.11		
Saginaw	78	42		2,474	2,632		3.06	4.21	5.00	18.58		
Standish	77	36		2,191	2,370		2.22	4.59	6.14	20.04		
<b>East Central</b>	78	36	-1	2,290	2,466	2,303	3.30	4.46	5.80	19.22	15.16	2.70
Fennville	78	42		2,345	2,560		6.34	9.63	9.83	27.27		
Grand Rapids	77	46		2,675	2,890		5.13	9.21	9.68	25.71		
Holland	78	44		2,704	2,806		5.05	7.53	7.57	25.60		
South Bend, IN	83	44		2,754	3,006		11.92	13.71	14.98	26.59		
Watervliet	78	44		2,523	2,756		6.12	8.79	9.31	24.06		
<b>Southwest</b>	83	37	-1	2,553	2,747	2,504	6.13	8.78	9.26	25.45	17.53	3.26
Belding	75	41		2,368	2,524		5.56	5.76	6.56	17.08		
Coldwater	80	40		2,525	2,606		7.37	7.82	8.51	20.83		
Lansing	75	42		2,586	2,700		6.46	7.39	7.78	19.90		
<b>South Central</b>	82	40	-1	2,484	2,646	2,462	5.85	7.19	7.89	20.60	17.35	2.79
Detroit	83	48		2,862	2,940		4.58	5.86	5.99	16.51		
Flint	74	38		2,623	2,665		5.70	7.69	8.49	20.29		
Romeo	79	43		2,485	2,617		5.54	7.89	8.41	20.61		
Tipton	78	45		2,567	2,654		5.92	6.25	6.45	22.48		
Toledo, OH	87	46		2,829	2,875		3.41	3.62	3.84	19.58		
<b>Southeast</b>	87	38	0	2,589	2,713	2,459	4.99	5.98	6.40	20.47	16.63	2.43

<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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