



Michigan Crop Weather

Waiting for Fields to Dry

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending September 21, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from none in the central Lower Peninsula to 0.10 inches in the east central and southwestern Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree below normal in the east central, south central, and southeastern Lower Peninsula to 2 degrees above normal in the western Upper Peninsula. Little to no rain fell in the past seven days but harvest and other fieldwork were still held up from the rains received on September 13 and 14. Farmers in some areas were still waiting for fields to dry in order to resume fieldwork. A farmer in the south central region reported, "We collected 5.4 inches of rain last weekend and now have water standing in most areas where you would find it in a wet spring. The rain was followed by several nice days, but no fieldwork has been possible due to muddy conditions; those will apparently persist for several more days." A reporter in the southwest stated, "Heavy rains last week ended all fieldwork for several days. Fields have started to dry out and some fieldwork has commenced. Silage harvest continued to ramp up after the rains along with other various activities."

Field Crops

Fieldwork was slowed by wet soils. **Corn** continued to mature with most of the crop in the dent stage. There were reports that a few farmers began harvesting or that harvest will begin as soon as fields dry out. Silage harvest continued. Many **soybeans** dropped leaves this week and harvest was just beginning in some areas as field conditions permitted. **Alfalfa** harvest was slow due to damp conditions. Fields that were reseeded have taken hold. Some farmers report that a fourth cutting may not be possible on their fields. Most of the **dry bean** crop has turned leaves and the majority have shed leaves. Harvest was held up by the damp soils. Planting of **winter wheat** continued where conditions allowed. More wheat will be planted when the soybeans have been harvested. **Sugarbeet** harvest has begun.

Soil moisture for week ending 09/21/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	1	9	59	31
Subsoil	4	10	62	24

Crop progress for week ending 09/21/08

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	77	72	82	84
All hay, fourth cutting	24	19	22	23
Apples, harvested	26	18	37	NA
Corn, dough	97	93	100	97
Corn, dent	89	78	93	84
Corn, mature	34	16	64	43
Corn silage, harvested	56	41	78	65
Dry beans, turning leaves	90	81	99	99
Dry beans, dropping leaves	77	51	88	91
Dry beans, harvested	19	16	44	47
Peaches, harvested	94	78	100	NA
Potatoes, harvested	38	34	43	NA
Soybeans, turning leaves	89	70	81	81
Soybeans, dropping leaves	58	28	46	50
Soybeans, harvested	2	NA	1	4
Sugarbeets, harvested	3	NA	2	1
Winter wheat, planted	3	2	20	13

Fruit

Apple harvest was in full swing across the State. In the southeast, harvest of Honeycrisp and Golden Supreme varieties continued; picking of McIntosh varieties neared completion. Recent heavy rainfall increased concern about fruit bruising. Harvest of Gingergold variety was underway in the northwest. Harvest of **peaches** and **pears** was completed; quality was good. Harvest of fall **raspberries** continued, and **plum** harvest neared completion. Harvest of Niagara and wine **grapes** began in the southwest.

Vegetables

Vegetable growers experienced some crop loss due to the heavy rains received last week, and harvest was slow with the extremely wet field conditions. **Sweet corn** growers in the State experienced moderate corn earworm pressure this season. **Pumpkins** and **winter squash** were maturing rapidly and most will be harvested by the end of September. The harvesting of **carrots** and **onions** resumed late in the week. **Potato** harvest continued. The recent heavy rains took a toll on the remaining **celery** fields. Some acreage was not being harvested and the rest had reduced yields. Approximately 28 percent of planted acres were left to be harvested.

Crop condition for week ending 09/21/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Hay	6	14	33	38	9
Corn	8	15	33	32	12
Dry beans	10	13	31	33	13
Pasture	13	15	37	30	5
Soybeans	8	17	36	31	8

Percent of fall seasons (1961-1990) in which first freeze occurred on or before the date (mo/day) given in the table

Station	90%	70%	50%	30%	10%
Alma	10/24	10/15	10/08	10/20	9/25
Alpena	10/07	9/29	9/24	9/18	9/08
Bad Axe	10/28	10/19	10/13	10/06	9/27
Caro	10/06	9/27	9/23	9/17	9/07
Chatham	10/06	9/25	9/17	9/08	8/24
Coldwater	10/17	10/10	10/05	9/30	9/23
Eau Claire	11/05	10/28	10/22	10/16	10/07
Grand Rapids	10/24	10/15	10/09	10/03	9/25
Hesperia	10/12	10/03	9/26	9/20	9/11
Lansing	10/15	10/08	10/03	9/27	9/19
Lapeer	10/16	10/06	9/28	9/19	9/03
Monroe	11/02	10/26	10/20	10/15	10/06
Saginaw	10/30	10/22	10/16	10/10	10/02
Sandusky	10/25	10/16	10/09	9/30	9/16
S.S. Marie	10/12	10/02	9/25	9/18	9/08
Standish	10/12	10/01	9/24	9/16	9/05
Stephenson	9/29	9/23	9/18	9/12	9/03
Traverse City	10/20	10/10	10/02	9/25	9/13

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 09/21/08 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	79	39		1,806	2,235		0.00	1.72	2.83	15.62		
Marquette	79	34		1,700	2,130		0.00	2.52	2.91	16.98		
Stephenson	81	38		2,100	2,386		0.02	1.46	2.14	17.15		
Western UP	81	31	2	1,829	2,221	1,855	0.01	1.58	2.54	15.28	19.02	3.58
Cornell	80	38		1,995	2,293		0.00	1.23	1.75	14.77		
Sault St Marie	73	39		1,752	2,093		0.01	1.23	2.63	15.54		
Eastern UP	80	38	1	1,749	2,103	1,642	0.01	1.38	2.54	16.03	17.96	3.55
Beulah	76	43		2,284	2,507		0.00	1.17	2.49	19.86		
Lake City	78	35		2,151	2,353		0.00	1.51	3.23	23.62		
Old Mission	77	42		2,185	2,409		0.00	1.24	2.51	13.26		
Pellston	75	34		2,048	2,303		0.00	0.67	1.85	16.58		
Northwest	78	34	1	2,110	2,347	2,115	0.01	1.02	2.45	17.24	16.85	3.66
Alpena	76	38		2,131	2,356		0.00	1.00	3.37	17.64		
Houghton Lake	77	34		2,199	2,362		0.01	1.08	2.82	20.67		
Rogers City	76	37		2,069	2,387		0.06	1.35	3.33	20.36		
Northeast	79	33	0	2,128	2,347	2,046	0.07	1.33	3.42	19.84	16.88	3.47
Fremont	80	39		2,390	2,608		0.01	2.05	4.69	17.68		
Hart	78	42		2,274	2,496		0.01	1.20	3.83	18.99		
Muskegon	76	43		2,425	2,705		0.00	2.97	6.51	19.33		
West Central	80	35	1	2,329	2,559	2,309	0.01	1.95	4.49	20.13	17.06	3.19
Alma	80	44		2,505	2,732		0.00	4.89	7.61	18.28		
Big Rapids	81	37		2,385	2,439		0.00	1.31	3.56	18.16		
Central	81	37	0	2,418	2,584	2,382	0.00	2.86	5.37	17.49	17.91	3.09
Bad Axe	80	45		2,406	2,571		0.00	3.39	3.96	22.25		
Pigeon	79	43		2,309	2,472		0.18	2.69	4.40	16.29		
Saginaw	83	44		2,563	2,734		0.01	3.07	4.23	18.59		
Standish	79	39		2,265	2,463		0.05	2.27	5.11	20.09		
East Central	83	39	-1	2,364	2,563	2,387	0.10	3.40	4.68	19.26	16.01	2.70
Fennville	78	44		2,430	2,662		0.10	6.44	9.91	27.37		
Grand Rapids	80	44		2,768	3,006		0.00	5.13	9.25	25.71		
Holland	79	45		2,793	2,910		0.00	5.43	7.91	25.98		
South Bend, IN	81	49		2,855	3,131		0.00	11.92	14.38	26.59		
Watervliet	80	45		2,614	2,866		0.16	6.28	9.06	24.22		
Southwest	82	40	0	2,646	2,855	2,600	0.10	6.54	9.34	25.80	18.35	3.26
Belding	80	38		2,450	2,621		0.04	5.60	5.80	17.12		
Coldwater	85	42		2,623	2,708		0.00	7.37	8.04	21.03		
Lansing	80	44		2,670	2,802		0.00	6.46	7.42	19.90		
South Central	85	38	-1	2,568	2,745	2,554	0.01	6.33	7.82	21.09	18.15	2.79
Detroit	82	50		2,963	3,043		0.00	4.58	5.98	16.51		
Flint	80	44		2,701	2,762		0.00	5.70	7.71	20.29		
Romeo	81	44		2,562	2,717		0.00	4.32	6.79	19.39		
Tipton	81	46		2,656	2,755		0.01	5.93	6.34	22.49		
Toledo, OH	81	46		2,924	2,989		0.00	3.41	3.63	19.58		
Southeast	88	40	-1	2,675	2,813	2,553	0.02	4.84	5.92	20.36	17.36	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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