



# Michigan Crop Weather

## Warm and Dry

Seven days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending September 28, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from none in the west central, east central, southwestern, south central, and southeastern Lower Peninsula to 0.24 inches in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 5 degrees above normal in the east central and southeastern Lower Peninsula to 9 degrees above normal in the western Upper Peninsula and the west central and northwestern Lower Peninsula. Temperatures were above average and ideal for farm activities. Warm, sunny days were welcomed and helped to mature field crops and to provide good harvest and wheat planting conditions. "It was a good week for farmwork. Very mild temperatures, light winds and no rain. Wheat planting moved into high gear and apple harvest continued with many varieties almost finished," a farmer in the west central reported. "We are winding up silo filling and wheat and rye planting. We needed this week's heat and sunshine as corn and beans are maturing slowly," a reporter in the northwest stated.

## Field Crops

Conditions were ideal for harvest and planting of field crops. **Corn** continued to mature. Harvest was just beginning in a few areas, but there were reports that the crop will need some time to dry down before harvest. Silage harvest continued. The leaves of the **soybean** plants have all but turned, and the majority have dropped. Harvest was underway. **Alfalfa** harvest continued with farmers getting a third or fourth cutting. For some, the potential for a fourth cutting may not be achieved due to slow regrowth. The **dry bean** crop has turned leaves and many of the plants have shed leaves. Harvest continued at a rate much behind normal. The weather was great for **winter wheat** planting this week. **Sugarbeet** harvest continued.

Soil moisture for week ending 09/28/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	3	16	76	5
Subsoil	6	17	68	9

Crop condition for week ending 09/28/08

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	9	25	51	9
Corn	9	13	29	33	16
Dry beans	7	8	40	37	8
Pasture	14	18	33	30	5
Soybeans	10	16	34	31	9

## Fruit

**Apple** harvest continued across the State. In the southeast, growers completed harvest of Honeycrisp and McIntosh varieties. Harvest began for Redcort, Empire, Jonathan, and Jonagold varieties with spot picking. In the southwest, Golden Delicious and Red Delicious harvest began; size and quality were excellent. Harvest of the Gingergold variety continued in the northwest. Harvest of fall **raspberries** continued. Niagara and wine **grape** harvest continued in the southwest.

## Vegetables

Conditions improved for vegetables as soils dried, allowing for field operations to commence. Late vegetables looked good where growers were able to irrigate earlier in the summer. **Pumpkins** and **winter squash** were mostly harvested in all areas. **Tomato** harvest was coming to a close. Yields were down on most fields due to dry conditions in the summer. Harvesting of processing tomatoes was winding down. **Carrot** and **onion** harvest continued. **Potato** harvest was in full swing. Most of the crop was slow to mature with the cool weather.

Crop progress for week ending 09/28/08

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	81	77	88	88
All hay, fourth cutting	25	24	32	28
Apples, harvested	37	26	51	NA
Corn, dent	96	89	99	92
Corn, mature	59	34	83	61
Corn, harvested	3	NA	10	6
Corn silage, harvested	75	56	90	79
Dry beans, turning leaves	100	90	100	100
Dry beans, dropping leaves	81	77	97	99
Dry beans, harvested	31	19	71	67
Peaches, harvested	99	94	100	NA
Potatoes, harvested	44	38	50	NA
Soybeans, turning leaves	97	89	94	92
Soybeans, dropping leaves	80	58	70	70
Soybeans, harvested	9	2	8	11
Sugarbeets, harvested	6	3	12	5
Winter wheat, planted	13	3	39	28
Winter wheat, emerged	1	NA	5	3

**Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 09/28/08 <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	81	39		1,902	2,324		0.38	0.38	2.93	16.00		
Marquette	79	41		1,788	2,208		0.15	0.15	3.05	17.13		
Stephenson	82	39		2,190	2,481		0.10	0.12	2.23	17.25		
<b>Western UP</b>	82	31	9	1,915	2,304	1,897	0.22	0.23	2.55	15.50	19.76	3.58
Cornell	79	39		2,078	2,370		0.09	0.09	1.82	14.86		
Sault St Marie	74	46		1,827	2,161		0.08	0.09	2.40	15.62		
<b>Eastern UP</b>	79	35	7	1,816	2,174	1,679	0.24	0.25	2.70	16.28	18.71	3.55
Beulah	82	48		2,394	2,601		0.05	0.05	2.54	19.91		
Lake City	77	41		2,245	2,434		0.08	0.08	3.28	23.70		
Old Mission	82	47		2,285	2,497		0.00	0.00	2.49	13.26		
Pellston	80	38		2,135	2,391		0.00	0.00	1.83	16.58		
<b>Northwest</b>	82	38	9	2,204	2,433	2,169	0.03	0.03	2.45	17.26	17.76	3.66
Alpena	82	40		2,218	2,454		0.29	0.29	3.66	17.93		
Houghton Lake	78	39		2,291	2,455		0.00	0.01	2.76	20.67		
Rogers City	80	42		2,126	2,474		0.15	0.21	3.45	19.08		
<b>Northeast</b>	82	39	7	2,211	2,440	2,097	0.12	0.19	3.48	19.73	17.68	3.47
Fremont	80	47		2,492	2,710		0.00	0.01	4.57	17.68		
Hart	81	50		2,378	2,589		0.00	0.01	3.10	18.99		
Muskegon	80	52		2,536	2,811		0.00	0.00	6.50	19.33		
<b>West Central</b>	81	42	9	2,433	2,658	2,371	0.00	0.01	4.28	20.13	17.85	3.19
Alma	82	46		2,605	2,828		0.02	0.02	7.62	18.30		
Big Rapids	82	44		2,488	2,534		0.00	0.00	3.34	18.16		
<b>Central</b>	82	43	8	2,519	2,681	2,446	0.01	0.01	5.17	17.50	18.65	3.09
Bad Axe	82	44		2,499	2,672		0.00	0.00	3.96	22.25		
Pigeon	83	40		2,400	2,576		0.00	0.18	4.25	16.29		
Saginaw	83	45		2,664	2,845		0.00	0.01	4.22	18.59		
Standish	81	41		2,352	2,563		0.00	0.05	4.64	20.09		
<b>East Central</b>	83	40	5	2,454	2,667	2,456	0.00	0.10	4.56	19.26	16.63	2.70
Fennville	81	47		2,541	2,769		0.00	0.10	9.73	27.37		
Grand Rapids	81	50		2,882	3,126		0.00	0.00	9.21	25.71		
Holland	83	49		2,910	3,030		0.00	0.00	7.91	25.98		
South Bend, IN	83	47		2,980	3,252		0.00	0.00	13.71	26.59		
Watervliet	82	47		2,730	2,974		0.00	0.16	8.95	24.22		
<b>Southwest</b>	84	45	7	2,760	2,967	2,677	0.00	0.10	9.19	25.80	19.19	3.26
Belding	82	44		2,554	2,726		0.00	0.04	5.80	17.12		
Coldwater	85	42		2,739	2,817		0.00	0.00	7.82	21.03		
Lansing	82	45		2,770	2,914		0.00	0.00	7.39	19.90		
<b>South Central</b>	85	42	6	2,673	2,850	2,629	0.00	0.01	7.67	21.09	18.84	2.79
Detroit	79	53		3,072	3,169		0.00	0.00	5.86	16.51		
Flint	81	44		2,796	2,880		0.00	0.00	7.69	20.29		
Romeo	81	46		2,661	2,834		0.00	0.00	6.67	19.39		
Tipton	82	51		2,767	2,874		0.00	0.01	6.26	22.49		
Toledo, OH	83	49		3,035	3,115		0.00	0.00	3.62	19.58		
<b>Southeast</b>	88	42	5	2,778	2,930	2,628	0.00	0.02	5.83	20.36	17.90	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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