



# Michigan Crop Weather

## Ideal Harvest Conditions

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending October 19, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.10 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 0.42 inches in the southwest Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from normal in the western Upper Peninsula and the west central, south central and southeastern Lower Peninsula to 3 degrees above normal in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Temperatures this past week were cool but seasonal, and many locations experienced frost. Some light showers fell across parts of the State. A grower in the northwest Lower Peninsula reported, "Very little rain this week. It still is dry. Only a couple light showers that lasted about 5 minutes." Conditions were good for harvest and other farm activities. "It was another good week for fieldwork with the exception of rain showers Wednesday afternoon. Mornings have been frosty, but it warms up to the mid 50's by early afternoon," a reporter in the west central stated.

## Field Crops

Harvest activities were in full swing during the week. **Corn** harvest continued while some growers were waiting for the crop to dry down. Plants were mature for the most part. Harvest of **soybeans** continued rapidly. Third cutting **alfalfa** was mostly complete while some growers were cutting for a fourth time. Hay continued to be moved to cattle operations. The haying season has come to an end for some farmers. **Dry bean** harvest was nearing completion. Much **winter wheat** was planted this week. The crop continued to emerge. **Sugarbeet** harvest continued. Piling will begin this week.

Soil moisture for week ending 10/19/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	6	12	78	4
Subsoil	6	13	78	3

Crop condition for week ending 10/19/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Hay	4	10	29	46	11
Corn	7	14	30	39	10
Pasture	10	19	37	30	4
Soybeans	12	17	34	30	7

## Fruit

**Apple** growers continued to pick Red Delicious and Ida Red varieties; harvest of late apple varieties began. Harvest of Concord **grapes** continued in the southwest.

## Vegetables

It was a good week for vegetable fieldwork with the exception of light rains in the middle of the week. Most crops have been harvested by this juncture of the growing season. Harvesting of processing **carrots** was in full swing. **Celery** harvest was completed this week, excluding the harvest of acreage set aside for juice, which is expected to continue through October. **Potato** harvest concluded in the southeast. Harvest of **pumpkins** for jack o' lanterns was finishing up. However, the crop did suffer some frost damage late in the week. Harvest of processing **squash** was progressing well.

Crop progress for week ending 10/19/08

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	94	92	99	98
All hay, fourth cutting	53	44	65	61
Apples, harvested	79	59	93	NA
Corn, mature	96	87	99	96
Corn, harvested	24	15	33	28
Dry beans, harvested	93	77	99	96
Potatoes, harvested	83	68	80	NA
Soybeans, harvested	74	42	59	62
Sugarbeets, harvested	19	15	24	22
Winter wheat, planted	85	54	83	80
Winter wheat, emerged	41	15	50	42

**Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 10/19/08 <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	25		1,996	2,477		0.12	0.60	1.50	17.47		
Marquette	77	24		1,867	2,360		0.09	0.80	1.98	18.73		
Stephenson	80	26		2,321	2,666		0.10	0.66	0.94	18.09		
<b>Western UP</b>	80	18	0	2,004	2,457	2,004	0.10	0.58	1.22	16.53	21.41	2.57
Cornell	75	29		2,174	2,549		0.31	0.68	1.57	16.14		
Sault St Marie	78	30		1,908	2,310		0.54	0.86	1.92	17.60		
<b>Eastern UP</b>	78	27	3	1,893	2,335	1,762	0.35	0.73	1.94	18.34	20.50	2.57
Beulah	73	34		2,529	2,846		0.19	0.58	1.64	21.51		
Lake City	77	28		2,359	2,640		0.28	0.74	1.80	25.42		
Old Mission	80	32		2,419	2,738		0.20	0.48	0.91	14.16		
Pellston	79	22		2,238	2,617		0.20	0.67	1.17	17.76		
<b>Northwest</b>	80	22	2	2,321	2,658	2,296	0.20	0.49	1.20	18.43	19.83	2.75
Alpena	83	29		2,343	2,669		0.23	0.55	1.16	19.30		
Houghton Lake	77	26		2,407	2,665		0.20	0.41	0.65	21.71		
Rogers City	80	28		2,259	2,673		0.26	0.53	1.04	20.35		
<b>Northeast</b>	83	23	1	2,330	2,650	2,217	0.24	0.56	0.97	20.79	19.49	2.40
Fremont	73	31		2,628	2,950		0.32	1.51	1.77	19.45		
Hart	72	29		2,515	2,831		0.31	0.83	1.29	20.28		
Muskegon	74	35		2,682	3,080		0.38	1.53	2.01	21.34		
<b>West Central</b>	74	25	0	2,572	2,907	2,513	0.32	1.27	1.94	22.06	19.95	2.94
Alma	79	35		2,750	3,076		0.39	0.93	1.17	19.45		
Big Rapids	79	29		2,614	2,750		0.22	0.80	1.17	19.78		
<b>Central</b>	79	29	1	2,658	2,914	2,596	0.26	0.92	1.18	18.78	20.54	2.59
Bad Axe	82	33		2,639	2,939		0.59	1.04	1.13	23.38		
Pigeon	80	32		2,544	2,834		0.27	0.77	1.07	17.36		
Saginaw	81	35		2,827	3,116		0.35	0.96	1.27	20.19		
Standish	80	30		2,490	2,805		0.13	0.99	1.06	21.15		
<b>East Central</b>	82	29	1	2,599	2,925	2,612	0.30	0.87	1.34	20.64	18.30	2.41
Fennville	80	35		2,709	3,033		0.43	1.38	2.78	30.15		
Grand Rapids	79	37		3,042	3,410		0.28	1.13	1.75	27.46		
Holland	80	38		3,078	3,310		0.30	1.74	2.67	28.65		
South Bend, IN	83	39		3,169	3,562		0.68	1.06	1.52	28.11		
Watervliet	81	37		2,904	3,258		0.43	1.01	2.04	26.26		
<b>Southwest</b>	84	30	1	2,933	3,246	2,855	0.42	1.08	2.01	27.80	21.38	2.99
Belding	77	32		2,699	2,975		0.25	1.26	1.44	18.56		
Coldwater	83	29		2,928	3,083		0.46	0.75	0.97	22.00		
Lansing	78	35		2,922	3,182		0.39	0.96	2.07	21.97		
<b>South Central</b>	83	29	0	2,830	3,105	2,803	0.36	0.87	1.57	22.90	20.62	2.41
Detroit	77	33		3,246	3,476		0.42	0.69	0.95	17.46		
Flint	80	31		2,959	3,160		0.41	0.69	1.80	22.02		
Romeo	68	31		2,810	3,120		0.36	0.73	0.96	20.35		
Tipton	81	32		2,938	3,142		0.30	0.43	0.61	22.98		
Toledo, OH	71	30		3,223	3,418		0.71	0.90	1.48	21.06		
<b>Southeast</b>	83	27	0	2,944	3,214	2,801	0.39	0.66	1.19	21.62	19.52	2.33

<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.

USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office  
 P.O. Box 26248  
 Lansing, Michigan 48909-6248  
 (517) 324-5300 FAX (517) 324-5299  
 E-mail: [nass-mi@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-mi@nass.usda.gov)