



National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Michigan Statistical Office  
Michigan Department of Agriculture

# Michigan Crop-Weather



MI-CW2004

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## Warm and Wet Weather Prevails

Two days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 16, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. Rain and warm temperatures were the rule across much of the State. The southern half of the Lower Peninsula, which so far had experienced a fairly dry spring, received abundant precipitation. Severe weather was recorded in several districts. Minor hail was reported in the southeast. The wet weather limited most fieldwork for the week. A few areas missed the showers and reported still dry conditions. A vast majority of stations recorded well over one inch of rain over the last week, with several receiving substantially more than two inches. District average precipitation amounts ranged from 0.79 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 1.67 inches in the northwest Lower Peninsula. Temperatures ranged from 1 degree above normal in the western Upper Peninsula to 9 degrees above normal in the central and southeast Lower Peninsula. A farmer in the southwest stated, "Planting has stopped in my area. We are waiting for the rain to stop so things can dry out. We need to delay some of this rainfall until later in the growing season." Growers in the south central agreed, commenting that, "Heavy rains have put a big brake on all fieldwork and planting. We did need the rain, but it can stop now."

## Field Crops

Rain continued across the State. There was little to no field activity this past week due to wet weather conditions. Soil moisture was at its highest for the growing season due to the amount of rain across the State. **Corn** was still emerging. In some areas, farmers may have to replant corn fields. Rain has delayed application of herbicides. **Hay** continued to grow and fill out. **Soybeans** had started to emerged. Dry weather is needed to get the rest of the crop in the ground. **Wheat** fields were being watched closely due to powdery mildew being spotted in some fields. Spraying for the mildew problem had started. Overall, wheat is growing at a rapid pace. **Sugarbeet** fields were being sprayed, and stands looked good.

Soil moisture for week ending 05/16/04

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	1	1	33	65
Subsoil	2	9	57	32

Crop condition for week ending 05/16/04

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Oats	0	3	32	52	13
Pasture	2	5	30	46	17
Winter Wheat	0	1	29	54	16

## Fruit

Windy and wet conditions made spraying of pesticides and application of thinners difficult in orchards across the State. At the same time, the high humidity kept disease pressures high. Fireblight prediction models indicated a high risk of infection for apples or pears with open bloom.

**Apples** were in full bloom in the Grand Rapids area and in petal fall in the southwest. **Tart cherries** were in full bloom in the west central and in white bud in the northwest. **Sweet cherries** were in petal fall in the west central and in full bloom in the northwest. **Peaches** were in shuck split in the southwest and in shuck in the southeast. Potential yields looked good in the southeast; freeze losses were not significant. **Strawberries** began to bloom in the southeast; bloom ended in the southwest. Insect infestations have been light. **Grapes** in low areas throughout the southwest suffered shoot death from the early May frosts. The true extent of the injury will not be known until secondary buds emerge. **Blueberries** were in early bloom in the west central and full bloom in the southwest, where the bloom looked light. Growers were spraying to combat Phomopsis twig blight. **Plums** were in full bloom in the west central.

## Vegetables

Heavy rains minimized the State's vegetable growers activities over much of the past week. Farmers across the State reported scattered water damage to a variety of crops. After last week's frost damage, **asparagus** harvest had resumed. Warm temperatures for most of the week had growers picking almost daily. Wet soils made harvest somewhat difficult. Standing water in some fields could lead to potential damage of crowns. In the southeast, **tomato** transplanting was well behind schedule; in the southwest, early plantings in tunnels had been staked and were at first tie. In the west central, producers reported some water damage to emerged **carrot** and **spinach** crops. Some replanting of carrots was anticipated. Harvest of overwintered spinach was expected to begin soon. In the southwest, **celery** planting continued on schedule and direct seeded **cucumbers** were at the cotyledon stage. **Onion** planting was complete in the southwest and west central. In the southeast, early planted **sweet corn** was at the sixth and seventh leaf stage. Scattered damage from the earlier cool, wet conditions was reported. **Cabbage** in the southeast was doing well in spite of the adverse conditions. **Potato** emergence and development progressed. Hilling was delayed due to wet soils. Some Colorado potato beetle activity was reported.

Crop progress for week ending 05/16/04

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Asparagus, harvested	31	17	27	35
Barley, planted	80	67	61	79
Barley, emerged	50	48	30	65
Corn, planted	65	60	38	59
Corn, emerged	36	10	9	23
Oats, planted	91	87	89	92
Oats, emerged	76	64	60	76
Potatoes, planted	54	32	NA	NA
Potatoes, emerged	10	4	NA	NA
Soybeans, planted	33	22	10	29
Soybeans, emerged	16	0	2	7
Winter wheat, headed	3	0	0	2

**Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 05/16/04 <sup>1</sup>**

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days <sup>2</sup>			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2004	2003	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	81	27		174	176		0.84	0.95	1.77	3.47		
Marquette	84	33		137	162		0.91	0.92	2.00	3.83		
Stephenson	83	31		226	240		1.17	1.51	3.03	4.14		
<b>Western UP</b>	86	27	1	161	176	170	0.79	0.91	1.71	3.18	3.97	3.37
Cornell	78	35		124	170		0.67	0.69	1.88	2.67		
Sault St Marie	75	35		81	152		1.04	1.55	2.98	3.47		
<b>Eastern UP</b>	82	29	3	103	134	103	0.85	1.03	2.08	2.58	4.14	3.01
Beulah	84	37		215	222		2.02	3.22	5.11	6.90		
Lake City	80	34		246	216		1.72	3.42	5.56	7.72		
Old Mission	84	33		198	189		1.78	2.12	3.67	4.60		
Pellston	87	30		200	196		0.99	1.20	2.45	2.98		
<b>Northwest</b>	87	30	5	204	196	206	1.67	2.43	4.08	5.20	4.10	2.61
Alpena	87	30		207	177		0.86	1.44	3.36	3.88		
Houghton Lake	82	36		257	237		1.85	3.52	4.97	6.92		
Rogers City	85	35		228	155		1.26	2.37	4.28	5.30		
<b>Northeast</b>	87	30	8	238	206	192	1.28	2.57	4.47	5.67	4.08	2.76
Fremont	81	36		321	266		0.38	5.08	6.20	6.95		
Hart	80	37		272	229		1.67	5.37	6.89	7.66		
Muskegon	82	39		308	257		1.19	2.62	3.57	4.46		
<b>West Central</b>	82	34	6	288	249	244	1.19	4.23	5.40	6.30	4.50	2.67
Alma	84	40		359	265		1.25	3.00	6.03	6.76		
Big Rapids	84	40		318	250		1.06	3.20	4.21	5.31		
<b>Central</b>	84	40	9	343	256	269	1.20	3.22	5.73	6.56	4.59	2.79
Bad Axe	86	36		291	179		0.42	2.35	5.36	7.02		
Pigeon	85	38		262	187		0.96	3.20	5.56	7.03		
Saginaw	84	38		315	233		2.03	4.49	6.56	7.01		
Standish	84	37		292	218		2.56	4.99	6.88	8.66		
<b>East Central</b>	86	36	7	285	211	255	1.30	3.66	5.95	7.10	3.97	2.63
Fennville	84	36		335	280		1.29	2.09	3.76	3.97		
Grand Rapids	85	41		409	289		2.29	3.72	6.35	6.65		
Holland	83	38		343	275		1.09	2.04	3.64	3.87		
South Bend, IN	85	42		451	340		1.66	1.96	3.20	3.24		
Watervliet	80	39		380	302		1.21	1.49	3.11	3.13		
<b>Southwest</b>	86	36	7	383	311	296	1.47	2.44	4.03	4.28	4.98	3.01
Belding	83	37		359	279		1.58	2.95	4.60	5.29		
Coldwater	83	37		376	290		1.50	2.48	3.96	4.06		
Lansing	83	35		382	302		2.13	3.68	5.20	5.45		
<b>South Central</b>	86	35	8	384	311	296	1.59	3.32	4.84	5.11	4.78	2.92
Detroit	84	48		398	325		0.66	1.82	3.44	3.60		
Flint	85	38		398	307		1.36	2.19	3.93	4.14		
Romeo	86	39		358	270		1.27	3.50	5.84	6.00		
Tipton	84	46		379	317		1.59	2.74	4.06	4.20		
Toledo, OH	86	50		435	338		0.63	1.17	2.68	2.91		
<b>Southeast</b>	86	38	9	383	311	279	1.08	2.63	4.43	4.63	4.70	2.85

<sup>1</sup> Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service 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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