Unseasonably warm and dry conditions advanced harvest progress during the week ending October 11, 2020, according to USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork, the most of any week this year. Field activities included fall tillage, harvesting corn for grain, soybeans, potatoes, sugarbeets, sunflowers, and dry beans.

Topsoil moisture condition rated to 3% very short, 17% short, 76% adequate and 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture condition rated 4% very short, 14% short, 78% adequate and 4% surplus.

Corn for grain had reached maturity on 98% of the acres, 20 days ahead of last year and 12 days ahead of the 5-year average. The corn for grain harvest was 34% complete, 20 days ahead of last year and 10 days ahead of average. Corn moisture content of grain at harvest averaged 19%. Corn condition remained at 81% good to excellent. One-quarter of Minnesota’s soybean crop was harvested during the week ending October 11 with 87% now harvested, four weeks ahead of last year and 17 days ahead of average.

Sunflowers were 41% harvested, 25 days ahead of last year and 8 days ahead of normal. Sunflower condition declined slightly to 77% good to excellent. The potato harvest was 95% complete, three weeks ahead of last year and 9 days ahead of normal. Over one-third of the total sugarbeet acres were harvested during the week, advancing the total harvest progress to 86% complete. This is 27 days ahead of last year and 15 days ahead of normal.

The dry bean harvest was 97% complete, more than 5 weeks ahead of last year. Pasture condition increased to 57% good to excellent.
Minnesota Temperatures and Precipitation for the week ending October 11, 2020

Maps from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflect data collected from 7:00 A.M. Central Time on October 5, 2020, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on October 11, 2020.

Growing Degree Days can be found at https://mygeohub.org/groups/u2u/gdd
Temperature and Precipitation Maps, courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, are available at: http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE/