



CROP WEATHER

SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



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Please make corrections to name, address and ZIP code, if necessary.

Your help is needed for a weekly report on the progress of crops in Michigan. Your observations regarding crop progress and soil moisture conditions are important in order to have adequate information for your part of the state. Please mail or fax your report to reach our office by 8:30 a.m. on **Monday, April X.**

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. Your responses will be kept confidential and any person who willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you or your operation is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both. This survey is conducted in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws. For more information on how we protect your information please visit: <https://www.nass.usda.gov/confidentiality>. Response is **voluntary**.

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Please make corrections to name, address and Zip Code, if necessary.

For Week Ending Sunday, April X, 20XX

Please read definitions on back before answering.

1. Number of days suitable for field work during week.....  
010

(Friday returns, estimate for Saturday and Sunday.)

• \_\_\_\_

2. Enter percent of each type (percentages should add to 100%).

Soil Moisture  
Very short  
Short  
Adequate  
Surplus

Reported by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This completes the survey. Thank you for your help.



## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork:

A "suitable" day is one where weather and field conditions allowed producers to work in fields a major portion of that day. If mailing questionnaire by U.S. Postal Service, send on Friday and include an estimate for Saturday and Sunday.

### Soil Moisture:

**Very Short** - Soil moisture supplies are significantly less than what is required for normal plant development. Growth has been stopped or nearly so and plants are showing visible signs of moisture stress. Under these conditions, plants will quickly suffer irreparable damage.

**Short** - Soil dry. Seed germination and/or normal crop growth and development would be curtailed.

**Adequate** - Soil moist. Seed germination and/or crop growth and development would be normal or unhindered.

**Surplus** - Soil wet. Fields may be muddy and will generally be unable to absorb additional moisture. Young developing crops may be yellowing from excess moisture.

### General Crop Condition:

**Very Poor** - Extreme degree of loss to yield potential, complete or near crop failure.

**Poor** - Heavy degree of loss of yield potential which can be caused by excess soil moisture, drought, disease, etc.

**Fair** - Less than normal crop condition. Yield loss is a possibility but the extent is unknown.

**Good** - Yield prospects are normal or above. Moisture levels are adequate with only light disease and insect damage.

**Excellent** - Yield prospects are above normal and crops are experiencing little or no stress.

### Pasture Condition:

**Very Poor** - Pastures provide very little or no feed considering the time of year. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.

**Poor** - Pastures are providing only marginal feed for the current time of year. Some supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.

**Fair** - Pastures are providing generally adequate feed but is still less than normal for the time of year.

**Good** - Pastures are providing adequate feed supplies for the current time of year.

**Excellent** - Pastures are supplying feed in excess of what is normally expected at the current time of year.

### Corn Phenological Stages:

**Silking (R1)** - The emergence of silk like strands from the end of ears. Occurs approximately 10 days after the tassel first begins to emerge from the sheath or 2-4 days after the tassel is emerged.

**Milk (R3)** - Kernel displays yellow color on the outside, and the inner fluid is now milky white due to accumulating starch.

**Dough (R4)** - Normally half of the kernels are showing dent with some thick or dough-like substance in all kernels.

**Dent (R5)**- Occurs when all kernels are fully dented and the ear is firm and solid. There is no milk present in most kernels.

**Mature (R6)** - Plant is considered safe from frost. Corn is about ready to harvest with shucks opening and there is no green foliage present.

### Soybean and Dry Bean Phenological Stages:

**Blooming (R1)** - A plant should be considered as blooming as soon as one bloom appears.

**Setting Pods (R3)** - Pods are developing on the lower nodes with some blooming still occurring on the upper nodes.

**Leaves Turning** (approximately R6) - Leaf yellowing beginning in the older lowest node leaves.

**Leaves Shedding** (approximately R7) - Leaves near the bottom of the plant are yellow and dropping, while leaves at the top may still be green. Leaves are 30-50 percent yellow.

**Mature (R8)**- Ninety-five percent of pods have reached mature pod color.

### Wheat and Oats Phenological Stages:

**Emerged (Feekes 1.0)**- As soon as the plants are visible.

**Headed (Feekes 10.1)** - The head is present, visible, and fully emerged.

**Turning Yellow (Feekes 11.0)**- Leaves and stem are turning yellow.