

Estimated Weekly Crop Water Use for Field Crops in Michigan (in/week)

Week of July 20 - 26, 2026

Crop	Growth stage	Crop water use (in/week)			
		Constantine	Berrien Springs	Entrican	Hart
	Reference ET	1.31	1.29	1.31	1.30
Corn	V12	1.00	0.98	1.00	0.99
	V14	1.31	1.29	1.31	1.30
	VT and Silk	1.44	1.42	1.44	1.43
Soybeans	R1	1.31	1.29	1.31	1.30
	R2 (Full bloom)	1.44	1.42	1.44	1.43
	R3 (Begin pod)	1.44	1.42	1.44	1.43
Potato	Tuberization	1.31	1.29	1.31	1.30
	Blossom	1.31	1.29	1.31	1.30
	Tuber bulk	1.19	1.17	1.19	1.18

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Corn has reached the **peak crop water stages**. Corn at VT (tasseling) and silking is using approximately **1.4 inches of water per week**.
- Soybeans are also at peak water demand, requiring approximately **1.3–1.4 inches of water per week**. The most critical stages for avoiding water stress are R3–R4 (pod development) and R5–R6 (seed fill).
- Potatoes in tuber bulking stage continue to have high water demand (**1.2 inches/per week**.)
- Irrigation demand will continue to remain high as crops reach peak water use stages. Watch for **visible signs of water stress**,

This week estimated rainfall (in/week)			
Constantine	Berrien Springs	Entrican	Hart
0.03	0.14	0.03	0.00

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This table presents projected potential crop evapotranspiration values for field crops in Michigan and does not account for precipitation obtained during the week of calculation. The procedure used for the calculation was based on the FAO-56 single crop coefficient approach: <https://www.fao.org/4/X0490E/x0490e0b.htm#TopOfPage>. Reference evapotranspiration values were obtained from <https://enviroweather.msu.edu/>.