

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

Week of August 31 - September 6, 2026

Crop	Growth stage	Crop water use (in/week)			
		Constantine	Berrien Springs	Entrican	Hart
	Reference ET	1.05	1.08	0.78	0.81
Corn	VT, Silk, Blister, Dough, Begin Dent	1.16	1.19	0.86	0.89
	Full Dent	1.05	1.08	0.78	0.81
	Black Layer	0.69	0.71	0.51	0.53
Soybeans	R3 (Begin pod) - R4 (Full pod)	1.16	1.19	0.86	0.89
	R5 (Begin seed) - R6 (Full seed)	1.16	1.19	0.86	0.89
	Begin Mature	1.05	1.08	0.78	0.81
Potato	Bulk	0.63	0.65	0.47	0.49
	Pre-Senescence	0.32	0.32	0.23	0.24
	Maturity	0.11	0.11	0.08	0.08

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/>.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- R5 **corn** uses about 0.7–1 inch/week. Consider your last irrigation, as there is little benefit once corn reaches black layer.
- R5–R6 **soybeans** use about 1.16 inches/week. Check soil moisture before the last irrigation; ~50% yellow leaves is a good irrigation endpoint.
- Cooler temperatures and variable rainfall will reduce crop water demand, especially in west-central Michigan.

This week estimated rainfall (in/week)

Constantine	Berrien Springs	Entrican	Hart
0.35	0.39	1.85	0.94

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