

Summer weather reduces harvest for fall crops

Michigan's harvest this fall is smaller than expected because of the unusually hot weather and scant rainfall the state received over the summer months.

Apples, peaches and plums are smaller in size this year and the grape crop has been termed a disaster by area agricultural experts with only 10 per cent of the normal crop being harvested.

Nine state weather stations reported less than half the normal amount of rainfall for May and August with the Detroit area reporting only 49 per cent of its normal rainfall. And records were set this summer for the number of days above 90 degrees. From June to September the Detroit area reported 21 days of high temperature.

This type of weather, accompanied with many days of low humidity and cool nights added to the unusual stress placed on crops and on our forestlands, said Gov. Vanderbeek, advisory agricultural

metereologist of the National Weather Service at Michigan State University. Grain crops were also affected by the summer's hot, dry weather with crops down six to 22 per cent from last year's harvest and a total state shortage of 13 per cent.

Corn is down 13 per cent with a total reduction of 140 million bushels below last year's crop. Potatoes harvested this fall are down 10 per cent below earlier forecasts and sugar beets are down six per cent.

In most areas dry beans are about 900 pounds to the acre, the lowest in 18 years and soybean acreage statewide will produce 22 per cent less than last year's crop.

August was the driest of the two months, Vanderbeek said, "a time when rain is critically needed for such crops as beans and corn when they are producing grain."



Donna is new queen

Donna Miller cried tears of joy Friday night when she was crowned Clarenceville High School's homecoming queen. She received a bouquet of flowers from her mother while her escort Matt Prisk looks on. The Trojans made homecoming fans happy with a 58-0 trouncing of Woodhaven. (Photo by Frank Gualdoni)

Here comes Charlie

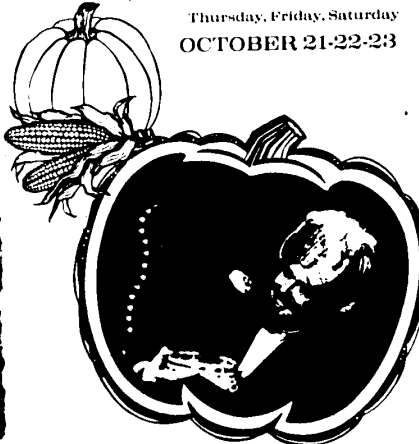
The cast of the popular Peanuts comic strip came to life Friday night when students at Clarenceville High School made a colorful float for the school's annual homecoming parade. (Photo by Frank Gualdoni)

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