

# Time to harvest the ripe vegetable, fruit and grape crops

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From 14 to 20 September, the agrometeorological conditions will be determined by temperatures around and above the norm for the second ten-day period of September. By the end of the ten-day period, most of the late agricultural crops will have completed their development. The late maize hybrids will enter the wax and full maturity stages. In rice, the mass ripening stage will be observed. The ripening stage will proceed in cotton and peanuts. In sugar beet, technical maturity will prevail (in this stage the sugar content in the root crop is at its highest).

During the period, significant precipitation is not forecast. The precipitation that occurred during the first and at the beginning of the second ten-day period of September was unevenly distributed. In parts of Northern Bulgaria

and the Sub-Balkan fields, the total amount of precipitation exceeded 20-25 l/m<sup>2</sup> (Vratsa - 21 l/m<sup>2</sup>, Montana - 21 l/m<sup>2</sup>, Lom - 29 l/m<sup>2</sup>, Knezha - 54 l/m<sup>2</sup>, Veliko Tarnovo - 23 l/m<sup>2</sup>, Dobrich - 29 l/m<sup>2</sup>, Varna - 23 l/m<sup>2</sup>, Kazanlak - 32 l/m<sup>2</sup>), which led to an improvement in the water reserves in the upper soil layers and in the conditions for carrying out seasonal soil tillage. In some places in Southern Bulgaria - Sandanski, Blagoevgrad, Pazardzhik,

Haskovo, the precipitation was below 5-6 l/m<sup>2</sup>. During the following period, in some of the southern regions the drought will intensify, which will hinder the pre-sowing tillage of the areas designated for sowing with winter oilseed rape and winter cereal crops. At the end of the second ten-day period, the optimal agrotechnical period for sowing oilseed rape expires.

During the period, critical minimum temperatures for vegetable crops from late field production are not forecast. The conditions will be suitable for completing the sunflower harvest, for clearing the areas from late row crops (maize, potatoes, sugar beet, carrots), and for harvesting the ripe vegetable, fruit and grape production.

*Source: NIMH*