



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

August 12, 2002

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Southern Districts Still Ask, "Where's the Rain?"

Last week, Wisconsin experienced its first week of below average temperatures after eight full weeks of normal or above normal temperatures. While most Wisconsin farmers are thankful for the change in the temperature trends, many wish the precipitation trends would also change. Most farmers in the northern and central regions have been satisfied with the recent amount of rainfall; however, last week marked the sixth week in a row that farmers in the southern half of the state called for rain. And, similar to the water, patience is running out. Each rainless day means additional yield reduction. While Mother Nature's plans have not always been fair, Wisconsin's southern fields have had enough of her dry humor.

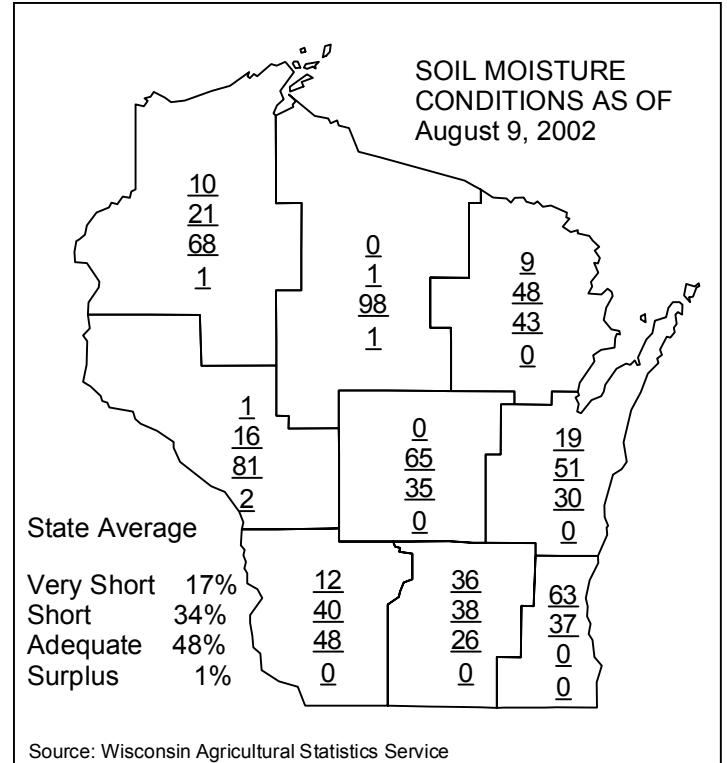
Wisconsin had an average of 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week. As a whole, farmers rated the soil moisture as 17 percent very short, 34 percent short, 48 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

Fortunate farmers in the northern part of the state reported excellent progress of **corn** and **soybeans** last week. The ample rain the fields received over the past 2 weeks improved the crops' conditions. Conversely, southern farmers continued to report corn and soybean moisture stress, adding that additional rain would be useless to some of the corn fields. Corn silking was near complete last week, with 89 percent of corn silked. Twenty-five percent of corn was in the dough stage. As a whole, 3 percent of Wisconsin's corn was in the dent stage last week. A Rock County farmer spotted spider mites in the soybean fields last week. At the close of the week, 94 percent of soybeans were blooming, and 62 percent of soybeans were setting pods.

The dry weather continued to deliver appropriate conditions for second and third crop **hay** harvest last week. Farmers generally agreed that the quality of both crops was decent, but tonnage had declined due to the dry weather. Across the state, farmers remarked that fields not sprayed for leafhoppers suffered from insect damage.

Farmers in Monroe, Dunn, and Waupaca counties noted that **oat** yields dropped this year due to the late spring. **Rye** harvest wound down in Oneida County. **Winter wheat** yields varied significantly across the state. In Barron County, reported yields slipped 25 to 35 percent from last year, while some yields in Door County surpassed 110 bushels per acre.

Blackberry harvest began in Oneida County last week. **Potato** harvest was underway in Waushara County. Waupaca County anticipates a good fall **raspberry** crop.

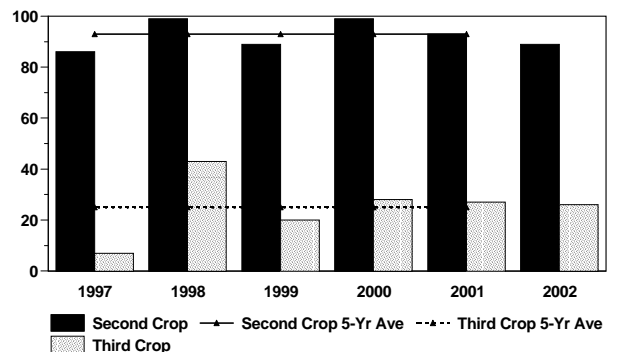


Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 9, 2002

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	11	15	36	31	7
Corn	8	14	30	36	12
Soybean	6	13	26	46	9
Oat	1	4	31	54	10

Percentage of Second and Third Crop Hay Harvest Complete

Wisconsin - August 11, 1997-2002



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 11, 2002

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn silked	79	77	77	90	87	85	96	92	94	89	84	94
Corn in dough stage	10	15	9	24	25	25	32	30	27	25	7	27
Soybeans blooming	85	83	84	92	87	92	98	97	97	94	82	89
Soybeans setting pods	39	30	30	54	48	53	75	73	72	62	33	58
Oats harvested	37	38	36	68	73	67	93	92	91	65	48	64
Winter wheat harvested	68	75	74	85	90	87	98	96	98	90	88	90
Second cutting hay	80	75	80	92	91	92	96	97	98	89	93	93
Third cutting hay	12	8	10	28	19	27	40	45	41	26	27	25

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-R.C.: Wheat yields are down by 25 to 35 percent from last year and test weights are lighter as well.

BURNETT-R.B.: Corn looks real good after recent rains and warm weather. Hay coming along good. Most second crop hay is in. Low spots have standing water again; had 2.4 inches this week, but temperature and humidity much better.

RUSK-G.P.: Pretty good week for hay; second crop mostly done and third crop starting. Quality and quantity of hay is good. Weed pressure is heavy in the corn. Leafhoppers continue to be a problem in alfalfa. Not too much oats or barley in yet.

ONEIDA-P.L.: Second crop hay has real nice quality. Most of the rye is harvested, and some of the oats are starting to be harvested. Sweet corn is ripe and the red potato crop is coming in now. Potato crop looks good for the time being.

PRICE-M.K.: Second crop forage harvest going full-tilt this week. Variable yields and quality. Corn and soybean crops are continuing to make excellent progress with ample warmth and moisture. Small grain harvest is beginning.

FOREST-A.K.: Lots of weeds in oats. Second crop hay is good.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Wheat yields are between 50 to 75 bushels per acre and oats between 70 to 95 bushels per acre. Third crop hay starting to come off, but will not have a high yield due to dry conditions.

DUNN-S.S.: Second crop hay quality so-so. Quantities 65 percent of normal-just too dry there for a while. Third crop should be better, if we get more rain. Small grain yields I have heard of are 70 to 85 bushels per acre. Lots of straw in most cases. Soybeans and corn sure came on strong after the rain two weeks ago.

ST. CROIX-L.M.: Oat and wheat yields appear to be in the 70 to 100 bushels per acre range. Corn and soybeans look very good. Some have a nice fourth crop hay coming in.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Sweet corn harvest moving along, yields are so-so.

WAUPACA-G.K.: With recent rains on most fields, hay, corn, and soybeans all look quite good and are yielding quite good. Oats suffered from late spring weather.

DOOR-M.F.: Weeds are now getting aggressive in the pea fields that were harvested a month ago. Snap bean harvest is getting started and, with some spotty showers, some growers will likely yield well. Winter wheat plots around the county have shown some varieties to break the 110 bushel per acre mark. Expect to see more wheat planted this fall than seen in many years.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Combining oats has been good. Grain yields are average. Some corn on light soil was hurt by heat and shortage of rain. Alfalfa yields are low.

GRANT-G.C.: With recent rains and high humidity, corn, soybeans, pasture, and third crop hay regrowth look excellent. Corn ears are starting to swell and turn down.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: We need rain. Pastures are really suffering. Damage occurring to corn and soybeans is not so obvious.

DANE-C.B.: Many spraying after third crop alfalfa. Nobody has sprayed any soybean aphids, the aphids should begin leaving the soybeans and moving to buckthorn this week. Many fields are showing drought stress, especially on sandy knolls. Seeing the worst outbreak of corn rootworm beetles in past fifteen years. Found two large fields in the county that had five beetles per plant. Recommend walking your fields this week and digging up roots, will explain a lot later if high winds tip over corn, that was also corn last year.

ROCK-S.H.: Spider mites are moving in on the soybeans, and bean leaf beetles are feeding on the pods. Soybeans could still benefit from the rain. Rain will not even help the corn anymore.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Corn is terrible and soybeans are just behind it.

RACINE-L.F.: Hay cutting is creating more dust and dirt than hay. Not much to be found in the fields.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
 P.O. Box 8934
 Madison, WI 53708-8934
 (608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia
 State Statistician

Alexandra Erbes
 Student Intern

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 11, 2002

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Aug. 10	Mar. 1 to Aug. 10 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	82	61	85	54	71	0	1933	1730	0.66	10.77	1.16	22.63
Green Bay	79	56	85	50	67	-2	1724	1603	0.28	7.13	-0.88	17.13
La Crosse	81	61	86	55	71	-2	2126	1936	0.21	11.21	1.63	20.96
Madison	80	56	85	49	68	-3	1918	1884	0.61	6.38	-2.86	17.25
Milwaukee	79	62	89	58	71	-1	1917	n.a.	0.24	5.73	-2.57	16.29

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.