



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

July 28, 2003

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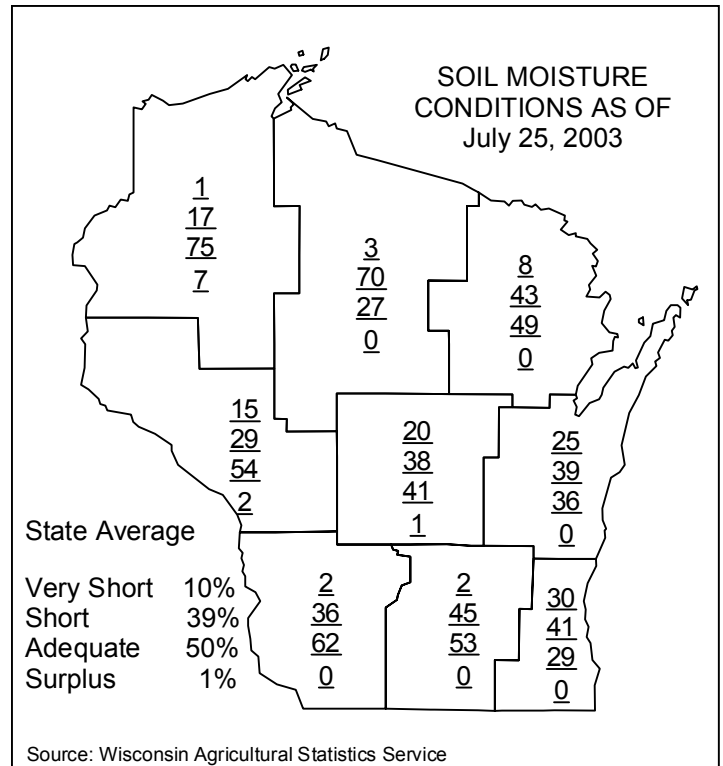
## Producers Look for Rain

Lack of precipitation continues to be the topic of discussion amongst farmers around Wisconsin. The week saw very little rain. Precipitation totals were under .25 inch over most of the state. Farmers reported dry conditions in much larger areas. Topsoil moisture conditions averaged 10% very short, 39% short, 50% adequate, and 1% surplus. Areas reporting short to very short moisture conditions increased over 20% from the previous week. The southern half of the state is currently 1.50-3.25 inches behind normal precipitation for the June 1 to present time period. Temperatures remained on the cool side, averaging 1-3 degrees below normal. This continues a cooler than normal trend for the growing season. There was an average of 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the week. Pasture field conditions decreased with the dry week. Conditions were rated 2% very poor, 9% poor, 37% fair, 46% good, and 6% excellent.

Despite the dry conditions, **corn** gained 9 inches of growth from the previous week, to an average height of 70 inches. The combination of cool weather and dry conditions have held crop development back. Percent of corn silked was reported at 34%, behind both the 39% last year and the 5-year average of 54%. **Soybeans** also showed stress from lack of moisture. Soybeans blooming averaged 54% for the state, which is behind both the 66% reported last year, and the 60% for the 5-year average. Some soybean growers reported large Aphid populations. Plant height is also short in some areas.

Harvest of second crop **hay** advanced with the dry weather. Harvest completed was reported at 66% complete. This is still behind the 74% complete for both last year and the 5-year average. Conditions were good for harvesting of dry hay, but quantity suffered from lack of moisture. **Winter wheat** harvest has begun, with good yields reported in southern Wisconsin. The cool spring has delayed harvest. Wheat harvested was reported at 16% complete, far behind the 55% last year and the 62% 5-year average. **Oat** harvest is also just beginning. Weeds are a problem in some fields.

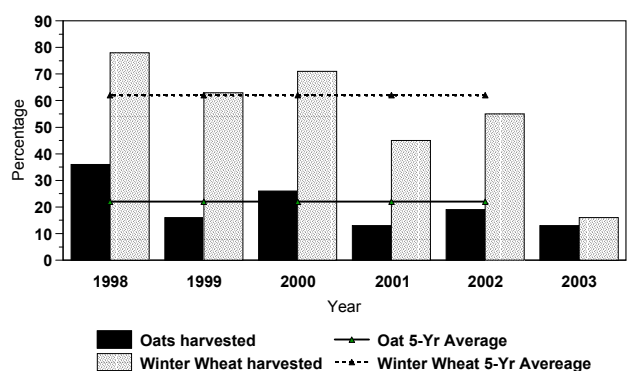
Portage County reported early **potato** harvest. Many fields are still blooming, and irrigation lines are running at capacity. **Tobacco** is growing well, but fields appear uneven in growth. Topping of plants is ongoing in Dane County. Moisture would be appreciated in most vegetable crop fields.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 25, 2003

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	2	9	37	46	6
Winter wheat	1	3	24	58	14
Oat	1	3	29	53	14
Corn	2	4	22	50	22
Soybeans	1	3	18	57	21

Percentage of Oats and Winter Wheat Harvested Wisconsin - July 27, 1998-2003



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, July 27, 2003

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
Winter wheat harvested	2	6	1	6	7	6	58	43	20	16	55	62
Oats harvested	6	4	1	8	12	20	23	28	13	13	19	22
Average height of corn	59	65	60	70	59	61	76	74	69	70	69	74
Corn silked	16	5	5	26	20	39	54	51	51	34	39	54
Soybeans blooming	69	50	61	44	44	48	62	55	60	54	66	60
Soybeans setting pods	6	4	4	9	5	10	15	4	3	8	15	21
Second cutting hay	58	61	50	66	65	69	82	77	77	66	74	74

**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**BARRON-A.B.:** Early third crop hay looks good. Potato Leafhoppers are still active and explosive in numbers, although the cooler weather has slowed them down. Many corn fields showing unevenness and yellowing from either denutrition in the low spots or leaching on the sandier areas of fields. Combining of small grains is still at least two weeks away.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Second crop hay coming off, it has good quality and excellent quantity, while moisture is alright. We could use a good soaker to start third crop hay. Third crop hay will really need to be monitored for Leafhoppers. Weeds seem to be coming through the herbicides in all crops, especially small grains. Corn is beginning to silk. Blooms on soybeans are about half. There is no harvest on small grains yet.

**CLARK-R.W.:** Starting to get dry. Second crop hay would have been better than first crop hay, but not enough rain. Really need a rain to get third crop hay started. Corn is extra tall, but late tasseling. Hopefully we get some needed rain to help the corn pollinate.

**ONEIDA-P.L.:** Without rain, the second crop hay will not be worth much in quantity or quality. Looks like the small grains will tend to be light due to the lack of moisture.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Leafhoppers are in full force in alfalfa fields. Many are spraying to control them. Some fields of second crop hay are just fantastic for yields, while others are disappointing. Corn just starting to tassel, and sure has a nice, dark green color to it. Wheat harvest is about a week away.

**BUFFALO-R.S.:** We have went ten days without rain. Light areas showing areas of dead soybeans and corn. Second crop hay nearly all harvested. Hay has good quality and quantity. Small grain harvest just starting.

**DUNN-H.A.:** We have lots of corn borers.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Second crop hay has good quality, light yield. Oatlage has poor yield. Oats are beginning to turn. Potato harvest is beginning. Snapbean harvest continues with good yields.

**WOOD-F.M.:** Second crop hay is mostly done. We have been without rain for twelve days and is slowing re-growth of third crop hay. Corn starting to tassel and looks good. Soybeans are progressing, and everything needs rain.

**FOND DU LAC-V.F.:** Maybe harvest wheat next week. Oats still three weeks away.

**SHEBOYGAN-E.P.:** There are no tassels on corn yet, but will show in a few days. Oat fields are turning color. Very little rain. Some corn curling the last two days. Starting to see firing of bottom leaves in places. Hay crop growth is slowing.

**GRANT-L.F.:** Second crop hay has good quality; yields are down a little where it was made early. Third crop hay is coming on strong. Some people are fertilizing and spraying for Leafhoppers. Corn is tall and starting to tassel as few silks are starting to pop up. We need rain to pollinate the corn to have a real good crop.

Soybeans also need rain because they're starting to bloom and pod. Oats are getting ready to combine, straw is short, but heads quite large. No yields reported as of yet. Sweet corn is tasseling.

**RICHLAND-S.K.:** Last week's weather was great for plant growth and harvesting. The several weather scares missed our area, and we had great drying conditions. Oats harvest is getting underway, and the stand has stood the winds pretty well, just a few signs of lodging. Second crop hay harvest is wrapping up. By next week, third crop hay will start coming down. The corn has shot up, and nearly all fields have tassels. Some of the early maturity corn is silking. Soybeans are really starting to bloom, with a few fields almost to the pod setting stage.

**DODGE-L.P.:** Hay is short. Grass is growing in sprayed fields, need a little rain.

**GREEN-M.M.:** Majority of corn is pollinating and could use some moisture. Small grain harvest is underway with yields running above average on winter wheat.

**WALWORTH-E.P.:** Started windrow on winter wheat on Tuesday. Corn started to tassel, and some fields silked out

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** Crops showing stress, and we need rain soon. Excellent weather for making hay. Very light third crop hay.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 27, 2003**

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 July 26	Mar. 1 to July 26 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	82	58	89	48	70	-2	1545	1452	0.12	6.54	-0.97	17.42
Green Bay	79	56	84	50	68	-2	1250	1334	0.56	6.15	-0.12	15.17
La Crosse	84	62	92	54	73	-1	1678	1629	0.01	4.18	-3.28	14.20
Madison	79	62	85	53	71	-1	1479	1584	0.33	5.78	-1.53	15.02
Milwaukee	78	62	85	56	70	-3	1270	n.a.	0.10	3.96	-2.53	12.65

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.