



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

August 4, 2003

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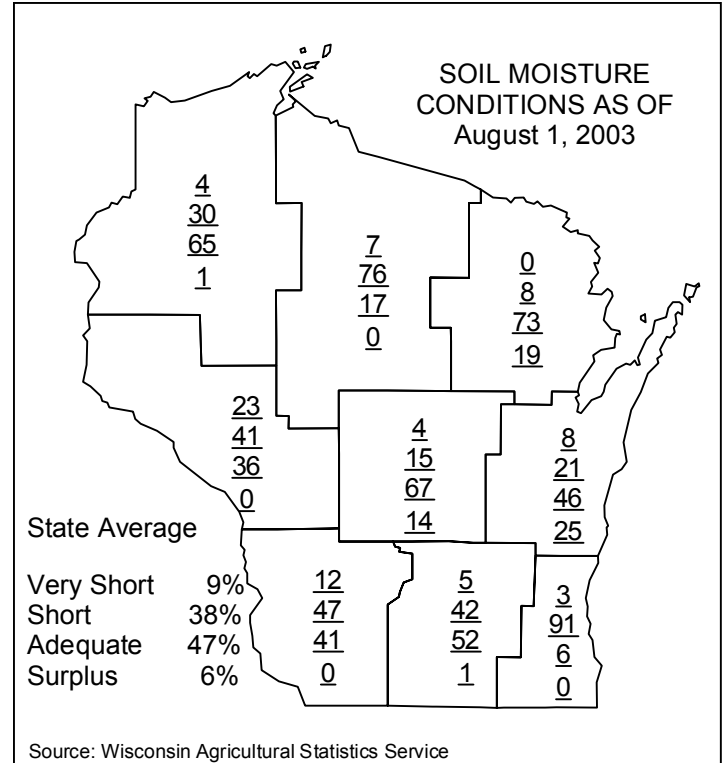
August Brings Relief with Rain

Rain was welcomed across Wisconsin to help end July's dry spell. Most of the precipitation was in scattered events, with some heavy rains occurring in the northeast. The heaviest rains were from 3.0-6.0 inches. Producers had hoped for a long "soaker", but were happy to see any relief for their thirsty crops. Most areas of the state were under .75 inch for the week. The period of June 1 to Aug. 3 remains up to 4.00 inches behind normal precipitation levels. Statewide soil moisture conditions were ranked as 9% very short, 38% short, 47% adequate, and 6% surplus. Temperatures for the week were near normal for this time of year. There was an average of 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the week. Pasture field conditions were lowered to 5% very poor, 14% poor, 42% fair, 35% good, and 4% excellent.

The rains last week coincided with tasseling and pollination of the **corn** crop. The crop reached 60 percent silked, behind both last year's 73% and the 5-year average of 79% silked. Producers are hoping for a late fall to give the crop time to mature. The crop looks to be in good condition, but would certainly benefit from continued moisture. **Soybeans** are showing much more variability in stands around the state. Cool temperatures and moisture stress have caused some stands to appear short, while Aphids are common and are being sprayed to control populations. Soybeans are beginning to set pods and would benefit from added moisture.

The second crop **hay** harvest is at 80% complete. This is slightly behind last year's 81% and the 5-year average of 86% complete. Quality of the second crop was good, but quantity suffered due to dry weather and Leafhopper infestations. Some producers waited to harvest in hopes of increasing tonnage. Small grain crops were actively harvested during the dry weather. **Winter wheat** harvest is reported at 44% complete, behind the 73% for last year and the 5-year average of 84%. There were reports of very good yields for this year's crop. **Oat** harvest at 30% complete, lagged behind both the 39% last year and the 45% 5-year average. Oats are reported slow to dry down, and weeds are also slowing harvest.

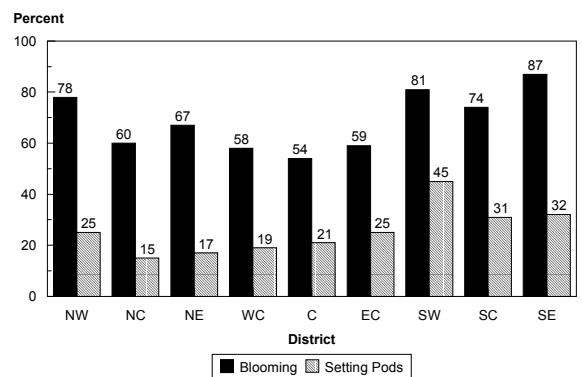
Richland County reported an above average **apple** crop developing. **Seed corn** was being detasseled in Grant County. **Tobacco** is being topped in Dane County and some fields experienced hail damage. **Potato** harvest on early varieties continued in Portage County.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 1, 2003

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	5	14	42	35	4
Oat	0	3	30	55	12
Corn	2	4	18	55	21
Soybeans	1	4	17	56	22

Soybeans Blooming and Setting Pods Wisconsin by District - August 3, 2003



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 3, 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	14	20	13	26	40	28	85	62	77	44	73	84
Oats harvested	7	5	2	27	35	26	50	52	33	30	39	45
Corn silked	57	40	49	67	50	54	67	64	74	60	73	79
Soybeans blooming	78	60	67	58	54	59	81	74	87	70	82	78
Soybeans setting pods	25	15	17	19	21	25	45	31	32	29	36	38
Second cutting hay	73	70	76	85	83	81	85	85	91	80	81	86
Third cutting hay	1	1	5	5	2	4	10	8	7	5	12	14

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

POLK-C.S.: Second crop alfalfa is of average quality; yields are a little less than normal with winterkill and leafhopper pressure. Grasses and broadleaf weeds coming back in post treatment cornfields. First harvested wheat fields are yielding good.

WASHBURN-K.S.: Potato Leafhopper damage on under seeding and second cut alfalfa is fairly significant.

ASHLAND-G.M.: Corn is behind about a week to 10 days. Late-cut first crop hay has poor quality, and ground moisture is short for second crop. Most grain headed out, but short.

VILAS-L.K.: Finally got some moisture, but need lots more. Some oats so short, it will be hard on combines. Watered potatoes doing excellent.

FOREST-A.K.: Very little second crop hay is to be made, very short. Corn growing nicely, just about ready to tassel.

OCONTO-K.H.: Second crop hay yield and quality was good. Many stands that appeared marginal at first cut have recovered nicely. Small grains are ready for harvest, but being held up by wet weather.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Crops generally look good. Rain was very spotty; in some places nice showers, and in others dry.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Rains missed us, for the most part, as scattered showers were around us. Leafhoppers still a problem. Sweet corn harvest is going on. Irrigators are running steady to keep up with water demands.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: The drought has ended by rain this week. Some corn permanently damaged by dry conditions. No grain harvested as of yet.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: We finally got rain, so corn and soybeans look better. It was too dry, so there is no third crop hay to harvest yet. Quality of second crop hay is good, but quantity is not too good.

BROWN-D.S.: Second crop hay was good to very good, with some Leafhopper pressure showing up. Wheat yields are reported as excellent, with 80 bushel averages and some reports of 100 bushel fields. Recent rains have guaranteed a corn crop, but will start to impact the wheat and oats.

OUTAGAMIE-K.J.: The second hay crop that was treated for Leafhoppers when needed came off good in quality, that

which was not is a different story. Plot results show tonnage ranging from 1.3 to 1.5 tons of dry matter per acre. Lots of reports of soybean Aphids; however, more than 6 inches of rain received late in the week did a good job flushing out populations. Third crop hay on test plots should be ready to harvest after things dry out, which will take a while, as there is water standing everywhere in the county. Corn crop needed a drink, as things were getting dry; however, these recent rains certainly have taken care of that concern.

CRAWFORD-A.B.: Soybean Aphid numbers increased throughout last week. Alfalfa Leafhoppers 2-3 times over threshold. Winter wheat harvest yielding around 60-65 bushels per acre average.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Oats yielded very well over 100 bushel per acre and weights were 36-38 pounds a bushel.

COLUMBIA-J.J.: Showers have been very spotty. Some crops showing stress. Haying is going well. No bumper hay yields with either first or second crop hay. Barley being combined, yields above average.

DANE-J.K.: Second crop hay is all done, and third crop is being cut now and looks excellent. Quantity may be down some, we needed a few more showers. All crops look excellent at this time. Winter wheat is averaging about 80 bushels per acre. Oats seem very slow to ripen, very green straw.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Rain on Sunday had good coverage over our area. Yields on drought-type soil will be very low. Because rain came at beginning of silking, others may not suffer much yield loss. As always, we will need the rest of summer to see how it turns out.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 3, 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 Aug. 2	Mar. 1 to Aug. 2 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	85	61	89	56	73	1	1705	1577	0.09	6.66	-1.77	17.54
Green Bay	80	58	83	52	69	-1	1383	1454	3.30	9.45	2.35	18.48
La Crosse	86	65	90	60	76	2	1856	1766	0.28	4.47	-3.96	14.49
Madison	82	61	85	53	72	0	1631	1718	0.60	6.38	-1.90	15.62
Milwaukee	81	61	87	54	71	-1	1418	n.a.	0.07	4.04	-3.30	12.74

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.