



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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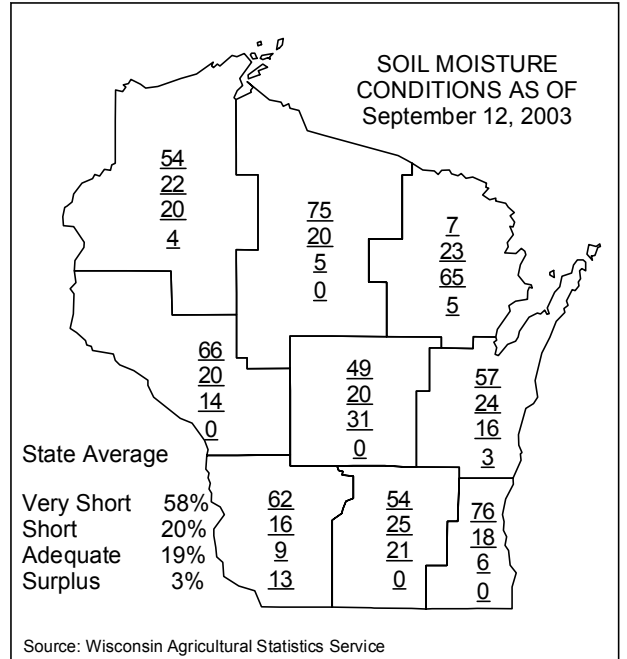
## Widespread Rain Welcomed...Finally

Rains finally arrived on Thursday to bring a measure of relief to very dry conditions. The precipitation was widespread and continued for a few days. The rains will benefit fall plantings, pastures, tillage operations, and some late crops, but arrived too late to benefit most corn and soybean fields. The week saw continuing above normal temperatures that added to the crop stress. Temperatures were 7-11 degrees above normal for the week. There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork for the week. The rains raised topsoil moisture condition ratings to 58% very short, 20% short, 19% adequate, and 3% surplus. Most of the state continues to be well behind normal year-to-date precipitation levels. Pasture feed conditions were rated 58% very poor, 27% poor, 12% fair, 3% good, and 0% excellent. Supplemental feeding of pasture livestock continues to be necessary.

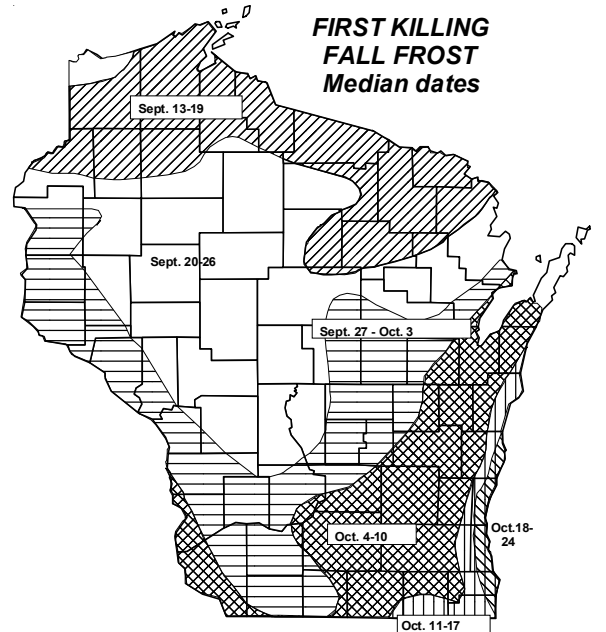
The dry conditions caused **corn** fields to turn brown rapidly. Many areas have ears pointing at the ground. **Corn silage** harvest progress was pushed to 49% complete, well above both the 21% last year and the 27% 5-year average. Plant moisture levels and amount of grain were both concerns for the crop. Early harvest of high moisture corn has begun. **Soybean** crop condition showed stress by leaves turning yellow and losing leaves very rapidly. Beans in lighter soils are showing many bare plants with few pods and small beans. Soybeans dropping leaves was reported at 39%, above both the 26% last year and the 28% 5-year average. Marginal fields in some areas were harvested as silage or baled to supplement low forage supplies.

The dry weather early in the week was beneficial for **alfalfa** harvest, but the crop was at a standstill due to low moisture levels. Many areas will not get a fourth crop, and third crop production was variable depending on moisture. Quality was reported very good in areas that received some earlier rains. The late-week rains improved planting conditions for **winter wheat** and fall cover crops.

Portage County reported that the white **cranberry** harvest is progressing with good yields. **Potato** harvest continued around the state. Summer **vegetable** crops are winding down, except where irrigated. The warm, dry weather pushed **pumpkin** crops ahead of schedule, and many are ripening early. Early **apple** harvest continues.



Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	58	27	12	3	0
Corn	20	28	30	19	3
Soybeans	24	27	28	17	4



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 14, 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
Corn in dough stage	85	89	87	94	93	88	98	98	97	92	93	93
Corn in dent stage	62	57	51	69	60	60	83	74	79	69	71	74
Corn mature	10	1	2	13	19	10	15	25	15	17	13	22
Corn hrvtstd. for silage	55	40	35	60	42	40	66	59	57	49	21	27
Soybeans turning color	76	77	65	64	73	60	82	86	70	75	77	72
Soybean dropping leaves	32	35	20	27	25	29	48	52	40	39	26	28
Third cutting hay	90	75	78	97	91	88	98	95	94	88	89	89
Fourth cutting hay	11	1	3	25	15	20	33	21	15	20	27	25

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

**BARRON-D.B.:** Corn silage harvest is going full tilt. Everyone is trying to chop the corn to salvage as much feed value from the corn as possible.

**POLK-C.S.:** Haying for this year is all but done. Dry weather has had an impact. Insect pest treatments are also finished for the year. The rain we had will help pastures and alfalfa fields. Row crops will have to wait for next year. Corn yields will be trimmed; pollination problems, and test weight. Soybeans were hurt the worst estimating 50 percent or more yield reduction compared to last year's good yields.

**CLARK-R.W.:** Very little third crop alfalfa due to no moisture. Rain may be coming, but it is too late for most of the corn, but can help some of the soybeans.

**LINCOLN-F.O.:** There is very little third crop alfalfa. Pastures are drying up. Corn and soybeans are dying due to lack of rain. Soybean pods are not filling. We are in a severe drought.

**SHAWANO-T.A.:** The late hay crops often exceeded both first and second crops combined. Whole plant moistures in the corn silage crop ranged from 65 to 72 percent and harvest has started; yields look very good. Soybean yields are going to be high as well.

**DUNN-J.F.:** Many farmers on the lighter soils are in the salvage mode. Lots of corn silage being made. The heavier soils look good. Ears are normal in size and filled out to the tip.

**PEPIN-H.R.:** Very dry conditions make hay baling easy, but not much quantity to bale or chop. Corn and soybeans are very dry, and some fields chopped. Soybeans have little or no beans on the stalks. This area is in dryer conditions than 1988. Hay could be selling for a good price this winter.

**GREEN LAKE-D.S.:** Some parts of the county received over 3.0 inches of much-needed rain over the weekend. Corn and soybeans are already too far along to benefit from the rain, but pastures and hayfields will benefit from a late season growth.

**WOOD-F.M.:** Very dry around the county. Corn silage harvest is way above average due to lack of hay supplies and corn drying down. Soybeans are the same story.

**FOND DU LAC-M.Z.:** A lot of corn silage was cut this week, which is about two weeks earlier than normal. Moisture content

has ranged from 70 percent (in green fields) to below 55 percent (in brown fields), most corn silage is around 60 to 63 percent, which is perfect. Corn kernels are shallow. Low test weight is expected. Soybeans continue to be harvested for forage. Most soybean plants have two to three seeds per pod, and seed size is running on the small side. Looks like soybeans will have a very low test weight also. Hopefully, protein content has not been sacrificed too much. Third crop alfalfa is finished and was short on yield, but quality was alright. There is hope for winter grains yet.

**SHEBOYGAN-M.B.:** Rains can still help improve our corn crop yields. Soybean yields will probably be reduced because of small seed size.

**LAFAYETTE-L.W.:** FCI appraisers are finding 5 bushel per acre to 130 bushels per acre on corn silage fields. Yields will be extremely variable and expect our county yields could average 40 to 50 bushels per acre lower than the last few years. Soybeans are still a guessing game. Substantial yield reductions are expected.

**COLUMBIA-R.S.:** Really an empty feeling to see crops not growing from such a good start this Spring. Corn ears are shorter than normal. Soybeans are about two per pod, and fewer pods per plant than normal. The only good rain now is for hayfields, lawns, gardens, and weeds. Need lots to recharge water table.

**KENOSHA-J.H.:** Third crop alfalfa quality was excellent, but quantity almost non-existent. Lots of insects. Very late rains for this growing season to be beneficial, but will benefit the planting of winter wheat.

**WAUKESHA-D.W.:** What little third crop alfalfa there was is done; there is no fourth crop alfalfa. The soybean yields have been hurt about 50 percent, and the corn yield, at this point, will be down about 40 percent.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 14, 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 Sep. 13	Mar. 1 to Sep. 13 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	84	60	93	56	72	11	2588	2279	0.43	0.43	-1.43	18.26
Green Bay	80	61	84	56	70	9	2193	2125	1.73	1.73	0.34	22.87
La Crosse	84	64	92	61	74	9	2823	2562	1.41	1.41	-0.24	18.27
Madison	83	60	89	56	72	10	2497	2497	3.02	3.02	1.47	19.49
Milwaukee	78	65	83	63	72	7	2325	n.a.	0.01	0.01	-0.99	13.23

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.