



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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Warm and Wet Week

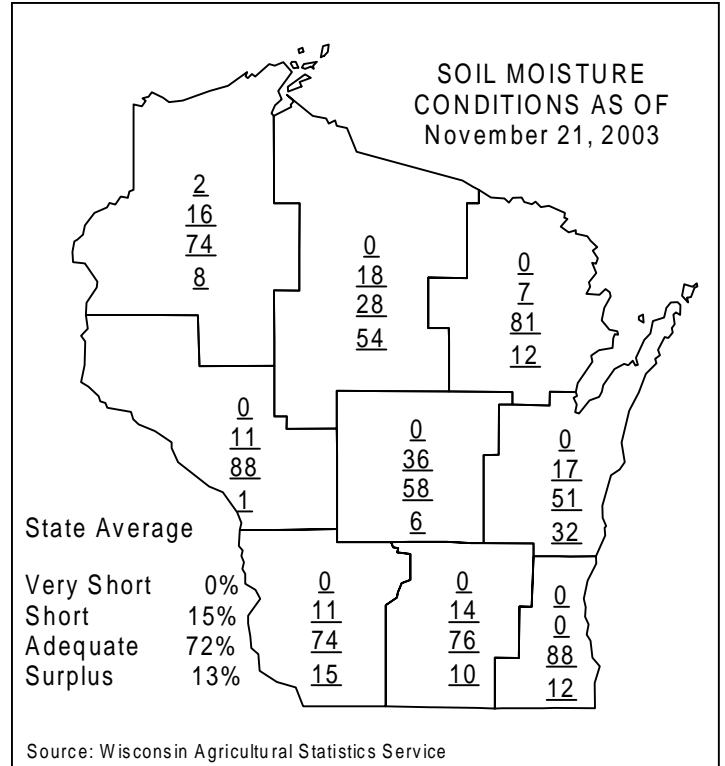
Wisconsin enjoyed temperatures around 10 degrees above normal last week. The rain that fell early in the week was also welcomed by the state's farmers. Fields again dried fairly quickly, and farmers were able to get back into the fields by the end of the week. There was an average of 4.7 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Topsoil moisture ratings averaged 0% very short, 15% short, 72% adequate, and 13% surplus. The 15% of the soil rated as short or very short is the lowest total to fall into those categories since July 11 of this year. Reporters commented that the added moisture at the end of the year has given them some hope that the 2004 growing season can get off to a good start.

Corn harvest advanced to 94% complete. This is ahead of last year's 87% and equal to the 5-year average. With snow already reported in northern areas of the state, all farmers with corn left in the fields are hurrying to complete harvest before snow depth becomes a factor. Yield reports remain highly variable after this very challenging growing season.

The warm weather helped **fall tillage** advance after the fields dried up. Tillage completed for the fall reached 71%, ahead of both last year's 54% and the 5-year average of 70%. Reporters commented that they are happy with the amount of tillage that was completed this fall, and many are probably done for the year. Deer hunting and visiting with relatives over the holiday will provide a well earned break for many farmers this week.

Winter wheat was reported to be in good condition, statewide. Weak **alfalfa** stands heading into winter are a concern for some farmers. Many are hoping for a deeper snow cover than last year to provide protection for both crops.

This is the last regular *Wisconsin Crop Weather* for the season. The review of the 2003 growing season will be released in early December. The Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service wishes to thank the many farmers, county agents, and others that make this report possible each week.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, November 23, 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 for grain harvested	93	99	82	95	95	92	95	94	91	94	87	94
Fall tillage completed	80	81	73	61	79	83	62	67	79	71	54	70

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON -R.C.: The lack of moisture and excessive heat took its toll on soybeans and corn grown on lighter ground through out the county. The county average corn yield will be around 100 bushels per acre with test weights for the most part falling between 52 and 56 pounds per bushel.

WASHBURN-R.H.: Corn yield was average, hay supplies will be short. 2003 growing season was wet early then a hot and dry spell.

VILAS-J.K.: Growing conditions were terrible. The summer growing season was 14.0 plus inches of rain short.

SHAWANO-T.A.: Corn yield was up to 200 bushels per acre. A majority of the test weights were low. Some in the mid 40's. Winter wheat looks great. Fall tillage is only slowed by the combines and a little weather. The major concern is with alfalfa. Digging roots of the plants shows older stands with moderate to significant discoloration of the root and crown. Another open winter might be more than the stands can deal with.

BUFFALO-R.S.: About 2.0 inches of rain for November will help start next year's crops. Too wet for stalk chopping and fall tillage. Some corn is out yet.

PEPIN-H.R.: Corn yields are spotty. Light soils are very poor. Heavy wet soils were very good. Winter wheat looks real good. Lots of fall tillage started again as the ground has thawed out. Some stalks being chopped or stacked. Lots of manure being spread where the ground permits.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Corn is yielding better than last year. Winter wheat is growing well. Yields of hay crops below normal this year.

WAUSHARA-A.S.: Right close to home, crops were the worst they have been that I can recall. We have had poor crops in the past, but not all of them, as they were this year. My own soybeans yielded 7 bushels per acre and corn yielded 35 bushels per acre. Hay is also in very short supply.

BROWN-K.J.: Corn yield was 150 bushels per acre. Fall tillage is moving along at 80 percent. Good growing season overall with good hay supplies but poor soybean yields. A good year compared to other areas.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Corn has been yielding way better than

was expected. Many reports of over 150 bushels per acre. Winter wheat planting is almost done. The early planting is looking very good. Late-planted wheat has been slow growing. Now with the moisture conditions, it is growing very good. Some fertilizer is being spread on fields for the 2004 crop year.

IOWA-S.M.: Winter wheat looks good. Yields for corn ranged all over the place, 55 to 220 bushels per acre. Most farmers got the corn stalks baled, and most of the fall fertilizer was spread. Alfalfa looks good going into the winter.

RICHLAND-S.K.: Rain in the early part of the week slowed things down, but most farmers have completed their harvest. It appears that most of the fall tillage is completed. Though it's late fall, we have greened up considerably compared to earlier in the fall. Some pastures are being used again to help make the forage supply last.

JEFFERSON-B.K.: County has received 5.0 to 7.0 inches of rain in the past three weeks providing beneficial recharge of soil and optimism for better results in 2004. Small grains were fantastic, but hay, corn, and soybeans were short on yield. Winter wheat plantings are up nicely.

ROCK-C.O.: The 2003 growing season was good for corn on good to excellent soils. The season was poor for soybeans. Third and fourth alfalfa crop and new seeding alfalfa is mostly done or finishing. Manure hauling, pit clean out, and tillage is done or nearly done.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Winter wheat looks very good. Lots of progress on fall tillage. Corn yields are highly variable.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Still some corn is out. Winter wheat looks good. A lot of corn stalks put up for bedding. I saw some soybean ground worked.



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

Robert J. Battaglia
State Statistician

Steve Stockdale
Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on November 23, 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 Nov. 1	Mar. 1 to Nov. 1 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	48	33	61	24	40	10	2902	2574	0.70	4.57	-2.80	22.40
Green Bay	49	35	62	30	42	10	2488	2433	0.57	7.40	0.42	28.54
La Crosse	51	36	65	30	44	10	3200	2923	0.82	5.31	-1.77	22.17
Madison	51	35	65	32	43	9	2834	2884	0.65	11.66	4.72	28.13
Milwaukee	53	39	64	34	46	9	2679	n.a.	1.13	6.90	-0.85	20.11

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.