



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 10, 2004

Vol. 04, No. 05

## Spring Planting in Full Swing

Farmers were busy with spring tillage and planting this past week. The dry weather made field conditions good for the tractors to be out in full force. Most farmers are working hard at planting soybeans and finishing no-till corn planting. In some areas, spring tillage is almost complete. Rain is needed to get the crops started in some of the dryer areas, and most of the state could use warmer temperatures.

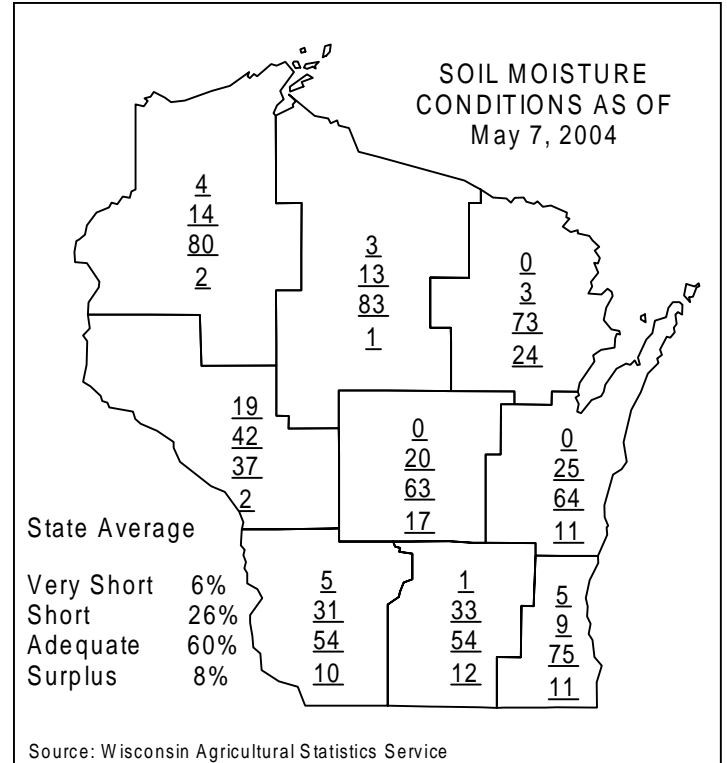
Average temperatures were 2 to 6 degrees below normal, with temperatures ranging from the high 70's to the high 20's. There was an average of 5.9 days suitable for field-work this past week. Soil moisture conditions were reported to be 6% very short, 26% short, 60% adequate, and 8% surplus. Traces of rain were seen in some parts of the state, while some parts received 1.4 inches. Year to date precipitation is still below normal in most parts of the state.

**Spring tillage** is 74% complete, ahead of both last year at 57% and the 5-year average of 66%. Farmers are saying that planting is going great, but they could use some rain, especially on the light soils.

**Corn** planting progressed at a rapid pace this past week with 56% planted this year, compared to 38% last year and the 5-year average of 45%. Emergence of corn is being reported at 3% this year, compared to 0% last year and the 5-year average of 7%. Planting of **oats** is just about complete at 92%, well ahead of last year's average of 75% and the 5-year average of 78%. Emerged oats are reported at 59%, compared to last year's average of 34%, and the 5-year average of 41%. **Soybean** planting is ongoing in many parts of the state. The state average of 13% planted is ahead of both last year's 5%, and the 5-year average of 12%.

**Pasture** conditions were reported as 2% very poor, 14% poor, 32% fair, 49% good, and 3% excellent. The condition of **oats** was reported as 2% poor, 27% fair, 55% good, and 16% excellent. **Winter wheat** conditions were reported as 2% poor, 20% fair, 61% good, and 17% excellent. Some warm rains will give the crops a good boost.

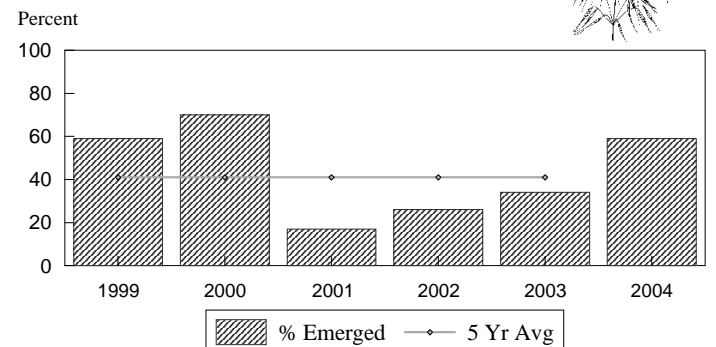
**Apple trees** are in full bloom across most of the state. **Potato** planting is wrapping up.



| Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 7, 2004 |         |      |      |      |           |
|---|---------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Item  | V.-poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|   | Percent |      |      |      |           |
| Pasture                                     | 2       | 14   | 32   | 49   | 3         |
| Oats  | 0       | 2    | 27   | 55   | 16        |
| Winter wheat                                | 0       | 2    | 20   | 61   | 17        |

## OATS EMERGED

Wisconsin  
May 9, 1999-2004



| Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 9, 2004 |                  |    |    |    |    |    |     |    |    |               |           |                |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| 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 |
| Oats planted                         | 84               | 90 | 75 | 96 | 95 | 71 | 100 | 99 | 99 | 92            | 75        | 78             |
| Oats emerged                         | 25               | 28 | 24 | 73 | 68 | 31 | 81  | 84 | 95 | 59            | 34        | 41             |
| Corn planted                         | 38               | 48 | 33 | 56 | 41 | 39 | 65  | 73 | 72 | 56            | 38        | 45             |
| Corn emerged                         | 0                | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 7   | 6  | 7  | 3             | 0         | 7              |
| Soybeans planted                     | 7                | 8  | 1  | 13 | 10 | 11 | 25  | 11 | 10 | 13            | 5         | 12             |
| Spring tillage completed             | 64               | 76 | 62 | 78 | 68 | 59 | 83  | 81 | 77 | 74            | 57        | 66             |

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

**BURNETT-R.B.:** Most oats planted, but need rain. Some corn ground is too dry to plant and some is too wet to get ready.

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Corn planting is going great. Oats are beginning to emerge. Soybeans are being planted. Alfalfa injury is about 20% of stands, especially 3-plus year stands. New seedings look great.

**POLK-C.S.:** Alfalfa came through winter quite good. Winter wheat was damaged quite extensively. All crop planting is going well. Hoping to finish most corn and soybean planting by mid-May.

**PRICE-M.K.:** Dry weather has really helped farmers with fieldwork. Most plowing is complete, and small grain and forage seeding is progressing rapidly. Some corn is in on lighter soils; nothing up as of yet.

**TAYLOR-D.E.:** Farmers worked furiously in the last two weeks to get tillage done and crops planted. Early oats are coming up and look good. Last night's rain will boost the newly-planted crops, but will slow planting progress, especially in low areas. Farmers are waiting for the ground to warm up before they plant soybeans. Hay is looking good, but growing slowly with the cold temperatures.

**FOREST-A.K.:** Oats are being planted. There has been no corn planted yet.

**SHAWANO-T.A.:** Tillage is nearly complete. Corn has been going in on the lighter soils at a pretty good clip. Things have been slower on the heavy ground.

**BUFFALO-R.S.:** Emerged oats just do not seem to get any taller the last two weeks. Corn planting is happening at a rapid pace. Fifty percent of corn is planted and none has germinated. Alfalfa is 6-8 inches tall and looks good.

**MONROE-W.D.:** Some of the fields have spots that were hit hard with winterkill. Some spots were reseeded. This past week corn planters were working overtime. Ground is still cold.

**PEPIN-R.C.:** Planting is going strong with no rain to slow the progress. Small grains are emerging, but we need moisture to get the corn germinating.

**WAUPACA-L.B.:** It looks like very little winterkill around here.

**WAUSHARA-J.J.:** Some long rotation fields look thinner than

early observation. Corn planting had progressed at a rapid pace this past week. Potatoes are close to emerging.

**FOND DU LAC-R.P.:** Winter wheat is not as good as most drive-bys make it look. Most corn is planted. Waiting for warmer weather before planting soybeans. Hay crop is looking good.

**SHEBOYGAN-E.P.:** Seeding of oats mostly all planted and planting of corn well underway. Spring tillage is getting dry. There are no wet spots in the fields anymore.

**GRANT-D.W.:** Planting is winding down. Almost all the corn is in, and farmers are working on soybeans. Alfalfa looks good.

**LAFAYETTE-M.R.:** All the worked ground is muddy and ready to erode away, or at best, crust over. Direct-planted corn is emerging nicely through last year's crop residue.

**SAUK-C.N.:** A lot of corn was planted during the week.

**COLUMBIA-J.J.:** Hay and pasture growth is very slow. Corn going in at a fast pace. Some soybeans are planted. Subsoil moisture still alright. Topsoil very dry and hard.

**GREEN-F.Z.:** Hay and winter wheat look very good and growing. Crops look good.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Very little signs of winterkill. The corn is up. Ground is dry. We need moisture to get things going. Hay prices are through the roof. Soybean planting is going strong. New alfalfa crop looks great.

**WASHINGTON-K.R.:** With 1.5 inches of rain on Friday and Saturday and more rain in the forecast, planting and fieldwork will be slow this coming week. Corn that is planted will get a good start with warm weather.

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** There are no signs of winterkill. There has been much planting of corn and soybeans going on in the last few days.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 9, 2004**

| City       | Temperature |           |           |          |      |                       | Growing degree days<br>(modified base 50) 1/ |                          | Precipitation |               |                           |              |
|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------|
|            | Avg. max.   | Avg. min. | High max. | Low min. | Avg. | Avg dep. from normal* | Mar. 1 to May 8                              | Mar. 1 to May 8 normal * | Last week     | Since March 1 | March 1 dep. from normal* | Year to date |
| Eau Claire | 65          | 35        | 76        | 24       | 50   | -4                    | 242  | 195                      | 0.07          | 4.31          | -1.28                     | 7.25         |
| Green Bay  | 59          | 36        | 71        | 27       | 47   | -6                    | 178  | 160                      | 1.43          | 6.65          | 1.42                      | 9.51         |
| La Crosse  | 67          | 42        | 79        | 29       | 55   | -2                    | 329  | 238                      | 1.07          | 5.95          | -0.31                     | 8.20         |
| Madison    | 65          | 40        | 73        | 27       | 52   | -2                    | 269  | 236                      | 0.18          | 5.55          | -0.90                     | 7.61         |
| Milwaukee  | 57          | 39        | 75        | 31       | 48   | -4                    | 235  | n.a.                     | 0.04          | 5.90          | -1.29                     | 8.43         |

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.