

# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

April 11, 2005

Vol. 05, No. 02

## Spring Planting Starts

Warm temperatures and isolated rainfall allowed producers to get in the fields during the week. Temperatures were 6 to 14 degrees higher than normal for this time of year. Low temperatures were reported in the 30s, while high temperatures reached the 70s during the week. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 9 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. There was an average of 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Precipitation was limited during the week. The Milwaukee and Madison areas received 0.42 to 0.98 inches. The northern reaches of the state also reported rainfall early in the week. The remaining areas of the state saw only trace amounts of rain. With the limited rainfall across much of the state, precipitation ranged from 0.71 to 2.05 inches below normal for this time of year.

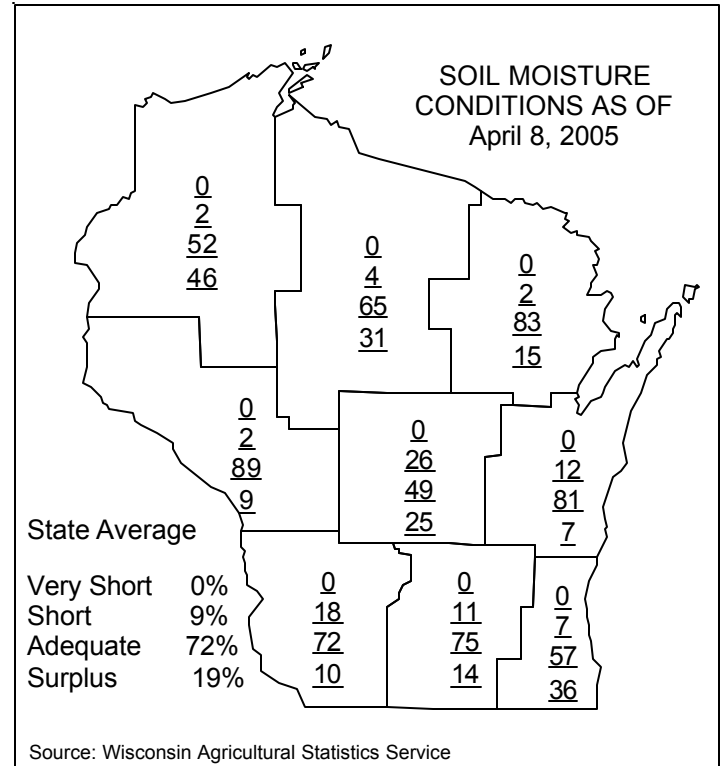
**Oats** planted was reported at 16 percent complete, below last year's average of 18 percent, but above the 5-year average of 11 percent. Most of the oat planting occurred in the southwest and south central districts. Oat seeding in the central area of the state was confined to light soils.

**Spring tillage** was reported at 7 percent complete, behind last year's average of 9 percent, and the 5-year average of 8 percent. Little tillage was completed in the northern two-thirds of the state during the week. Many of these fields were still too wet. There were some reports of frost remaining in the ground in the northeast district. Farmers in the southern half of the state have begun to work some corn ground, and many producers are applying fertilizer.

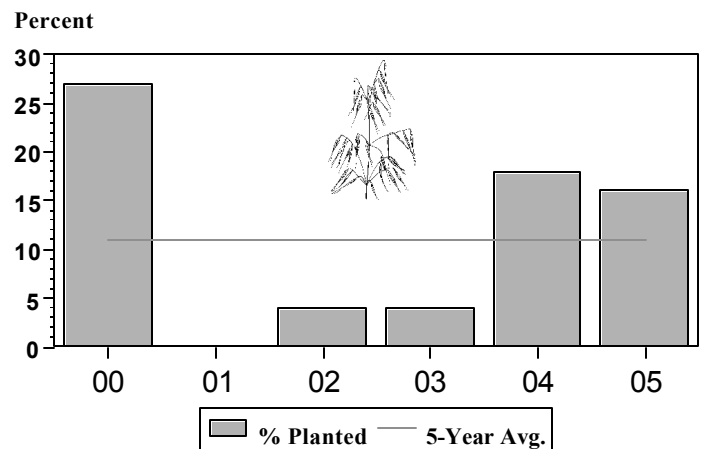
**Alfalfa** and **winter wheat** are beginning to green-up and recover from the winter. Many northern reporters stated that it was still too early to tell the extent of winterkill in their areas. However, there were reports of winterkill in the southern areas of the state. Most of the damage was located in areas that had standing water and ice.

**Maple syrup** season is slowing down. Warmer temperatures in the northwest and west central areas of the state caused below normal yields. Good yields were reported in the southwest and eastern areas of the state.

**Manure hauling** and spreading continue to occur this week. There were reports of **alfalfa** being planted in the southern part of the state. A limited number of farmers started planting **potatoes** in the central area of the state. Sandy soils in these areas allowed them to get into the fields, while heavier soils were still wet. There was also a report of **cabbage** planting in the southeast corner of the state.



**OATS PLANTED**  
State Averages for April 10, 2000-2005



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 10, 2005

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	3	0	0	1	3	0	33	32	0	16	18	11
Spring tillage completed	4	0	1	5	4	0	11	14	5	7	9	8

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

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Alfalfa looks good so far. Too early to tell, but the green plants are beginning to show. Maple syrup seems to be picking up after a slow start. There is no fieldwork, except for manure spreading on some higher, lighter soils.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Alfalfa is starting to show some growth. Looks like some kill in the lower parts. Snow is now gone in all but the deepest woods. Some manure being hauled, but with frost still in the ground, fields are still very soft. No field activity yet. Maple syrup hit and miss, almost too warm now for good runs.

**CLARK-N.S.:** The first signs of alfalfa breaking dormancy were observed this week. Manure spreading is taking place in spots, but no spring tillage has occurred yet. Maple sap collection is complete, with syrup production well below average.

**TAYLOR-D.E.:** Some manure pits have been emptied, but fields are still very wet.

**LANGLADE-A.K.:** Too early to tell about winterkill. Standing water just went down, frost still coming out. Was able to spread manure on some ground. If next week is like this week, could see tillage activity.

**OCONTO-K.H.:** I have seen some winter wheat fields that appear to have large areas of winterkill. Alfalfa is not advanced enough to notice any winterkill, and I have not talked with anyone who has been in the fields yet. There is no fieldwork underway yet. All except sandy knolls are still very wet.

**PEPIN-H.R.:** There is no winterkill so far. Some fieldwork is being done on the sandy soils. Too wet to even spread manure.

**PIERCE-D.J.:** Some farmers are disking. Manure is also being hauled and injected.

**JACKSON-W.E.:** Too early to tell about winterkill. There is no fieldwork to speak about.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** Nothing to mention about winterkill yet. Small amount of fieldwork beginning; couple of growers to start potato planting next week. Road limit coming off today, so things should start happening.

**WAUPACA-D.H.:** At this time, it appears that there is very little, if any, winterkill. Winter wheat is beginning to green up. Still the soil is too wet for tillage or planting. Maple syrup season was short and now over.

**FOND DU LAC-R.P.:** Winter wheat looks great on high spots and really poor on low spots. Still have hopes that fields will look better in a week. There is no tillage or planting going on locally. Manure hauling going on and some no-till seeding south of here.

**OUTAGAMIE-K.J.:** Alfalfa is breaking dormancy in places. Main activity is manure hauling, no tillage yet. Still some frost deep, but it is coming out quickly.

**IOWA-S.M.:** Parts of alfalfa fields are winterkilled, areas where ice caused damage. Winter wheat looks average. Some oats are being planted. Pastures are greening up after mid-week rains.

**LAFAYETTE-L.W.:** Lots of Anhydrous ammonia being applied. Considerable winterkill in the hay, especially in valleys and ravines.

**COLUMBIA-J.J.:** Fertilizer has been spread the last two days. Oat seeding will start today. Field conditions very good for this time of year.

**DANE-C.B.:** Still not able to get into the fields. Third and fourth year alfalfa stands are showing large amounts of winterkill. Winter wheat is showing similar symptoms due largely to early, warm days melting the snow and water freezing on fields that same night. Finding alfalfa and winter wheat dead where ponding froze over for extended periods of time.

**GREEN-M.M.:** Majority of the oats was planted this past week, as farmers had good weather and dry fields to work in. Some alfalfa fields are showing some winterkill due to areas covered with ice this winter.

**WALWORTH-E.P.:** Some winter wheat was drowned out. Most alfalfa came through if it was fertilized. Fieldwork started on Monday.

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

**Robert J. Battaglia**  
Director

**Jon Hornung**  
Statistician

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 10, 2005**

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 April 9	Mar. 1 to April 9 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	70	38	75	28	54	14	106	15	0.16	1.93	-0.71	3.82
Green Bay	62	35	74	29	49	9	68	14	0.00	1.33	-1.49	4.26
La Crosse	72	43	79	35	57	13	130	31	0.00	1.94	-0.99	4.62
Madison	70	40	77	30	55	13	118	34	0.98	2.54	-0.71	6.19
Milwaukee	58	38	73	32	48	6	59	n.a.	0.42	1.68	-2.05	6.78

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 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.