

Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 16, 2005

Vol. 05, No. 07

Precipitation Arrives

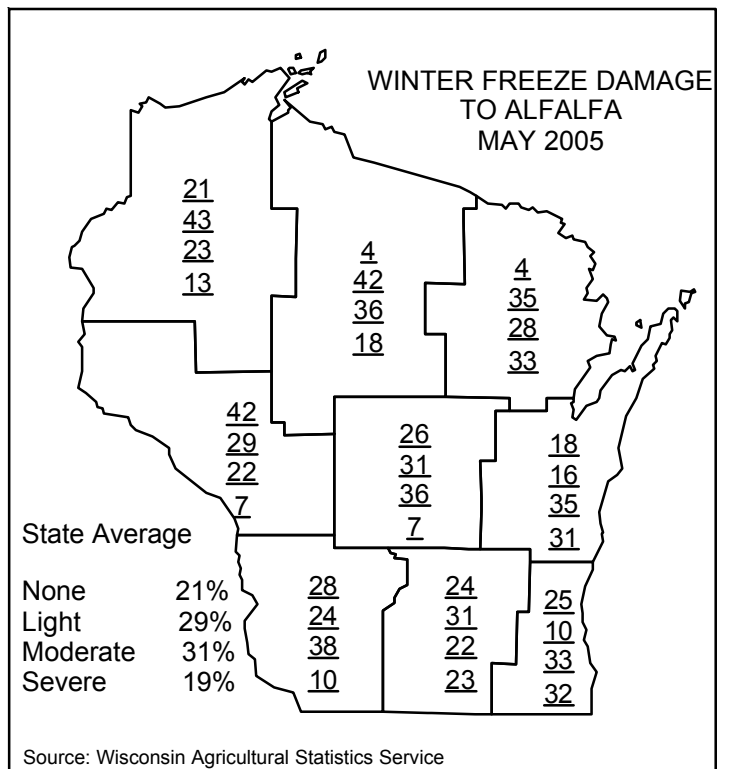
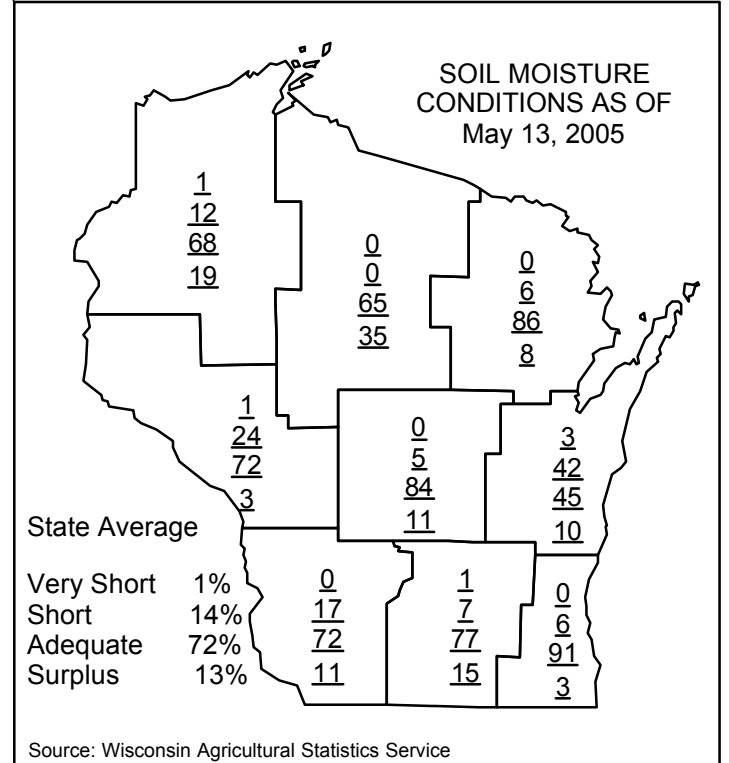
A significant amount of much-needed rain fell this week, and farmers are hoping for warmer temperatures to assist crop emergence. Temperatures were very close to normal for this time of year. Low temperatures were reported in the mid 30s, while high temperatures reached the low 80s during the week. Rainfall this past week ranged from 0.95 to 2.28 inches, pleasing many farmers who reported an earlier need for rain. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 1 percent very short, 14 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus. There was an average of 3.8 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn planted was reported at 76 percent complete, above both last year's 68 percent, and the 5-year average of 61 percent. Corn emerged was reported as 12 percent complete, lower than last year's 20 percent, as well as the 5-year average of 23 percent. Many farmers cited low temperatures as the primary barrier to corn emergence.

Oat conditions were reported as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Oats planted was at 94 percent complete, below last year's 98 percent, but above the 5-year average of 87 percent. Oats emerged was at 56 percent, below both last year's 75 percent and the 5-year average of 62 percent. **Spring tillage** completed was at 83 percent, above last year's 80 percent and the 5-year average of 74 percent. **Soybeans** planted was reported at 39 percent complete, significantly above last year's 21 percent, as well as the 5-year average of 26 percent.

Pasture conditions were rated as 2 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. **Winter wheat** conditions were reported as 4 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Winter freeze damage to **alfalfa** as of mid-May was rated as 21 percent none, 29 percent light, 31 percent moderate, and 19 percent severe.

Potato planting is near completion, with some farmers reporting small amounts emerging. **Hay** appears to be growing slower than expected. **Apple** and other fruit trees are blooming, but may be affected by earlier frost.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 13, 2005					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Oats	1	3	25	58	13
Pasture	2	10	40	42	6
Winter Wheat	4	11	39	41	5

Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 15, 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	87	91	92	94	91	96	100	100	100	94	98	87
Oats emerged	33	36	25	46	58	51	84	92	91	56	75	62
Corn planted	54	75	67	62	62	82	89	86	92	76	68	61
Corn emerged	2	5	2	3	4	9	25	21	32	12	20	23
Soybeans planted	9	20	24	20	19	62	47	49	62	39	21	26
Spring tillage completed	77	83	87	72	72	87	91	90	93	83	80	74

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Most new seeding looks pretty good. Everything is at a standstill this week. Had a hard freeze again last night with snow showers predicted for tomorrow. Nothing is growing.

BURNETT-J.D.: Alfalfa and winter wheat has shown evidence of winterkill. Alfalfa is being reseeded. Slow emerging for both corn and oats.

ONEIDA-L.O.: Temperatures too cool-nothing is growing.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Reports of winterkill on alfalfa are still coming in. Other hay types seem to have fared better. Some oats are up, but the cold, wet weather stalled spring tillage. Planted crops are sprouting, but not emerging as they should.

LANGLADE-K.W.: Potatoes started going in by most growers in the early part of the week. Ice and snow pellets on Thursday, high about 34 degrees. Need warm weather.

OCONTO-K.H.: Weather this spring has helped even out the workload for fertilizer dealers according to local co-op agronomist. He reported checking a corn field that had been planted in late April, but that had not emerged. He found healthy, germinated seeds with the shoots just below the soil surface. Some soybeans have been planted in spite of the cool weather and soil. Conditions for tillage and planting were good until the end of last week.

EAU CLAIRE-R.S.: Alfalfa looks good, but short; need a warm rain. Rains on Thursday and Friday were very welcomed, but very cold. Hayfields need some heat soon.

TREMPEALEAU-H.T.: Seen some considerable winterkill, did not see any reseeding. We received just a little over an inch of rain Wednesday night and Thursday.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Much winterkill in wheat and alfalfa fields in low lying areas. Little alfalfa is being reseeded, but some Italian rye seeding into open areas. Oats are planted and have emerged.

WOOD-F.M.: Corn planting is progressing very good. Soybean planting has started, but cool weather has slowed working conditions. Early-planted corn is not emerging. Hay crop grasses growing, but alfalfa, like everything else, needs warmer temperatures.

BROWN-D.S.: Winterkill is heavy across the county. Many are tilling up hay to plant corn or rye grass. Others are planning to take first cutting off hayfields and replant with corn.

OUTAGAMIE-K.J.: Most of the corn acreage has been planted and many of the soybeans are already in the ground, although emergence has not been seen in either of these. Soybeans are the only remaining crop that still has a significant amount of acreage to be planted yet. Moisture over the weekend will help new seeding and established hayfields; however, we could use some more growing degree days to get those crops moving quicker. New seeding or reseeded fields appear to be doing alright, despite some frosty temperatures a short time ago.

GRANT-L.F.: Not much winterkill in alfalfa or winter wheat, looks very good. Hardly any reseeding being done, only when planting oats. Spring tillage going at a rapid pace. Oats are mostly done and up; some starting to cover ground. Most corn planting is done. Lots of soybeans are planted. Some corn and a lot of oats have emerged. We got some much-needed rain and warmer nights. Pastures greatly improved.

IOWA-K.V.: Starting to see more alfalfa fields turning yellow and dying. Most tillage is done. Corn and soybean planting have went well. Recent rains will help germination and herbicides work.

DODGE-G.R.: Winter-killed fields of alfalfa almost all plowed over or burned down for no-till planting. Tillage nearing completion. Most corn planting is finished. Two days of warm temperatures and light wind allowed fieldwork to progress rapidly.

RACINE-L.F.: Some very large farms have completed all of their planting for this year.

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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 May 15, 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 May 14	Mar. 1 to May 14 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	61	46	80	35	54	-2	343	242	1.49	5.30	-0.93	7.19
Green Bay	62	43	81	33	53	-2	255	199	0.95	4.02	-1.72	6.95
La Crosse	63	49	81	37	56	-3	392	289	1.10	5.48	-1.37	8.16
Madison	67	47	81	37	57	1	363	285	2.28	6.22	-0.76	9.87
Milwaukee	64	46	76	38	55	1	231	n.a.	1.59	4.08	-3.61	9.18

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.