



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of  
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

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## Storms Raise Havoc in South Central Wisconsin

While most of the state delighted in much-needed rainfall, south central Wisconsin was hit hard with tornados, hail, and high winds. In addition to residential damage, some fields were completely leveled or severely damaged by the storm. Dane and Jefferson counties, especially the Stoughton area, were hit the hardest. In terms of precipitation, Green Bay saw the most rain, with 1.90 inches, followed by La Crosse with 1.14, Milwaukee with 0.79, Eau Claire with 0.59, and Madison with 0.57. As of August 21<sup>st</sup>, Madison has received 4 inches less than normal for the season. Temperatures for the week remained slightly higher than normal, with lows reaching the high-40s and the high reaching 87. Soil moisture conditions improved to 17 percent very short, 31 percent short, 50 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. There was an average of 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Insects remain a problem, but are dying down.

**Corn** conditions were rated as 9 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 34 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Corn progress remains ahead of schedule with the dough stage at 58 percent, higher than last year's 32 percent, and the 5-year average of 40 percent. Corn dent was reported at 11 percent, compared to last year's zero percent, and the 5-year average of 5 percent. As corn approaches maturity, there are concerns about additional yield loss if soil moisture does not continue to improve. Harvest of corn silage has begun in some areas.

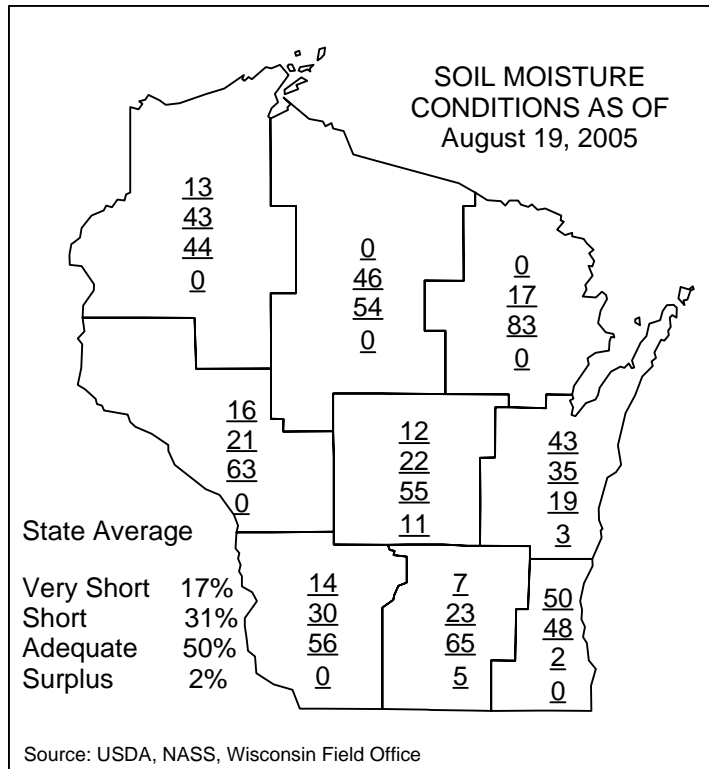
**Soybean** conditions were reported as 5 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Like corn, soybeans are progressing well. Pod setting was reported at 92 percent, ahead of last year's 74 percent, and the 5-year average of 77 percent. Soybean leaves have begun to turn color, with last week reported at 6 percent, compared to last year's zero percent, and the 5-year average of 1 percent. Soybeans on sandy ground are suffering the most, with some areas wilted and showing little or no pod development.

**Oat** harvest for grain has about wrapped-up, reported at 98 percent complete, well ahead of last year's 76 percent, and the 5-year average of 84 percent.

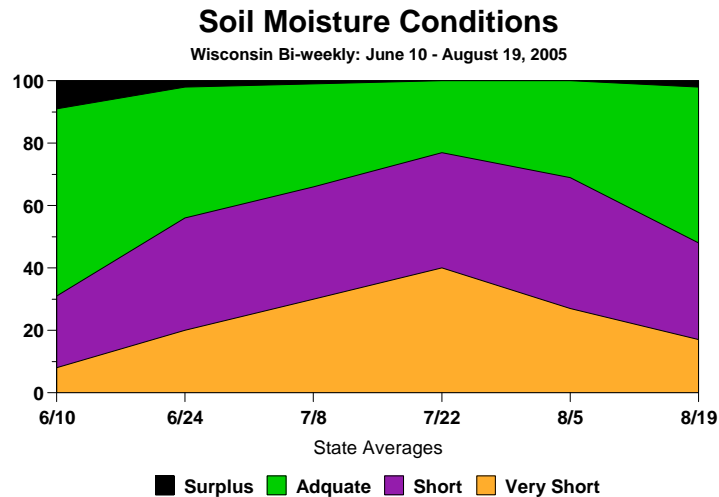
Third cutting **hay** is over half-way complete, reported at 57 percent, ahead of last year's 32 percent, and the 5-year average of 47 percent. Hay reports are relatively consistent, indicating short cuttings, but good quality.

Scattered showers helped **pasture** conditions improve to 14 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 26 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

Harvest of **canning crops** is in progress, showing good yields in most areas. **Apples** and **pears** are ahead of schedule, while **pumpkins** have started to turn color.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 19, 2005					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	9	19	25	34	13
Soybeans	5	15	31	37	12
Pasture	14	20	37	26	3



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 21, 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 harvested for grain	97	98	94	97	100	98	100	100	99	98	76	84
Corn dough	47	69	44	56	48	60	65	68	64	58	32	40
Corn dent	9	6	11	7	8	9	14	17	23	11	0	5
Soybeans setting pods	98	93	92	88	85	86	99	90	100	92	74	77
Soybeans turning leaves	2	2	3	1	9	11	4	6	5	6	0	1
Third cutting hay	46	48	60	60	51	53	80	61	65	57	32	47

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

**BARRON-R.C.:** Rain, too little too late. The continued lack of rain leaves corn and soybean yields with no place to go but down as both crops reach maturity. Field visits are showing less pods and less beans per pod than the three-year average. Corn yields estimated to be in the 70-80 bushel per acre range for 2005.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Spotty rains have helped with dry conditions, but generally, still quite dry. Corn and soybeans are holding their own, mostly because of cooler temperatures. Hay and pastures are suffering the most, very little third crop. Oats and barley had good yields, but light test weights. Straw yields OK. Still doing some spraying for soybean Aphids.

**CLARK-N.S.:** Sufficient rainfall continues to arrive in time for crop development. Early maturing soybean varieties have reached full seed in some fields. Soybean Aphid populations have dropped considerably. Corn continues to develop slightly ahead of normal.

**MARATHON-M.K.:** Crops are looking great. Lots of feed. Soybeans are a big crop.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** We received 3.5 inches of welcomed rain this week with very little run off due to the dry conditions. While many fields have suffered greatly from the drought, this should still help fill out the grain on the cobs that are there. Spider mites stayed longer than expected and did quite a bit of damage to the soybeans. Third crop alfalfa is mostly done, and now the fourth crop should grow like mad with this rain. There is no fall seeding done yet due to the dry and hard conditions, but that should change now.

**BUFFALO-R.S.:** Corn pollination was variable-some very poor. Soybeans are looking good. Got a much-needed inch of rain for the week. Third crop alfalfa looks good.

**ST. CROIX-K.P.:** Middle of county has very good corn and soybeans. Third crop alfalfa is very good. Oat harvesting is pretty much done. Oat yields were average.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** Third crop alfalfa is very short, irrigated corn looks excellent, and dry land is good in some areas.

**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** Corn and soybeans have recovered by recent rains, but yields are hurt by dry conditions. We had 0.75 inch rain last night, which will help late hay crops and pastures.

**OUTAGAMIE-K.J.:** Most notable improvement was in the soybeans which were at a standstill for a long time. Corn whole plant moisture increased anywhere from 3-5 percent putting most of the corn back into the low to mid-seventies, when just two weeks earlier some of it was down to 67-70 percent in many parts. Nitrate levels ranged from 200-1,600 ppm two weeks ago and most recently after visiting those same sites, the lower levels increased and the higher ones decreased, putting most of the corn in the 600-1,000 ppm range. At 1,000 parts producers should be careful at 2,000 feeding adjustments should be made.

**WINNEBAGO-R.H.:** Corn and soybeans need rain soon to help with pollination of corn and soybean pod filling. Third crop alfalfa is pretty much harvested with quality being very good but not too much quantity. There is no winter wheat seeded as of yet.

**IOWA-K.V.:** Soybeans have aborted some pods due to dry weather. Corn is maturing nicely, some is in half dough stage. Third crop alfalfa is equal to second.

**LAFAYETTE-L.W.:** Some fourth crop hay has been made.

**GREEN-J.T.:** All crop yields will be reduced due to the drought this year-especially in the shallow and sandy soils. Corn and soybeans are still showing stress.

**RACINE-L.F.:** Spider mites are really affecting the yields of the soybeans. Corn ranges from very, very, poor to some pretty nice fields in northern part of our county. Lot of rootworm damage.

**WAUKESHA-D.W.:** Spider mites have turned some soybeans brown. The bottom leaves in corn on high ground have turned brown due to lack of rain. Third cutting of alfalfa is very short.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 21, 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 Aug. 20	Mar. 1 to Aug. 20 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	81	59	85	47	70	1	2267	1915	0.59	9.50	-1.54	17.72
Green Bay	80	58	82	51	69	2	2089	1778	1.90	8.19	-1.01	16.45
La Crosse	82	62	84	52	72	0	2509	2142	1.14	9.49	-1.14	18.47
Madison	82	60	85	53	71	2	2329	2081	0.57	6.62	-4.05	17.47
Milwaukee	81	65	87	61	73	2	2194	n.a.	0.79	6.27	-3.37	16.12

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.