



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

September 12, 2005

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## Corn, Soybeans Maturing Quickly

Warmer temperatures and limited precipitation aided the rapidly maturing soybean and corn crops. The warm weather also contributed to the increase in corn silage harvest. Rainfall last week ranged from none in Madison to 0.38 inches in Green Bay. The average temperature ranged from 6 to 10 degrees above normal. Low temperatures were in the high-40s, while highs rose to the low-90s. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 20 percent very short, 45 percent short, 32 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

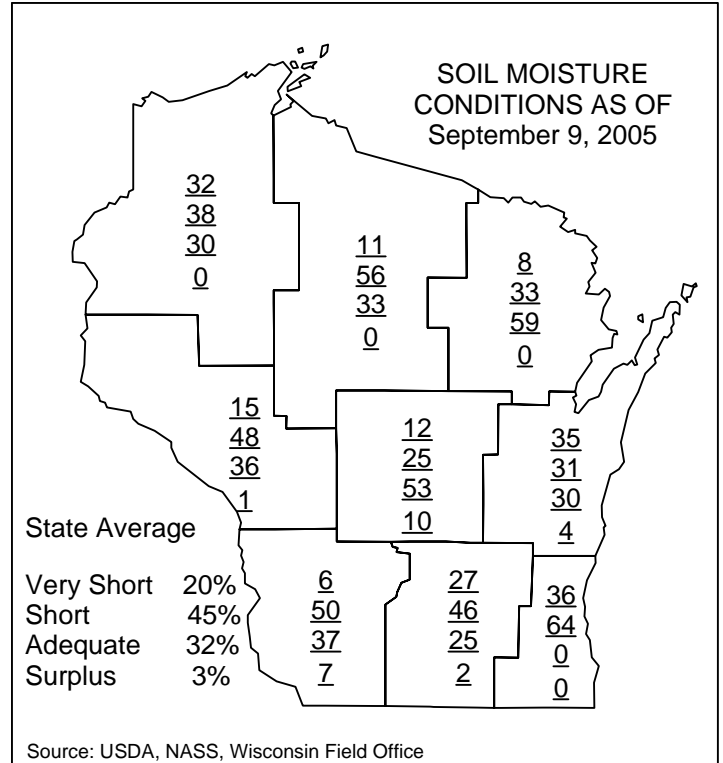
**Corn** conditions were reported as 7 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Corn progress continued to be ahead of schedule with the dough stage at 94 percent, compared to last year's 70 percent, and the 5-year average of 83 percent. Corn dent was reported at 74 percent, higher than last year's 31 percent, and the 5-year average of 48 percent. Corn mature was at 21 percent, above the 5-year average of 5 percent. Corn harvested for silage was at 39 percent, higher than last year's 5 percent and the 5-year average of 12 percent. Corn maturity progressed rapidly across the state during the week. Corn silage harvest was active statewide.

**Soybean** conditions were rated as 6 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. The progress of soybeans remains well ahead of recent years. Soybean leaves turning color was reported at 83 percent, ahead of last year's 26 percent, and the 5-year average of 48 percent. Soybeans dropping leaves was at 39 percent, compared to last year's 9 percent, and the 5-year average of 13 percent. Soybeans are maturing fast with continued concern about small seed size by some farmers.

Third cutting **hay** harvest was reported at 88 percent complete, slightly ahead of last year's 81 percent, and the 5-year average of 85 percent. Fourth cutting hay was at 20 percent complete, compared to last year's 16 percent and the 5-year average of 18 percent. Third crop hay quality remains good, but with below average yields. Fourth crop hay quality and yields ranged from poor to good, depending on the amount of precipitation received recently.

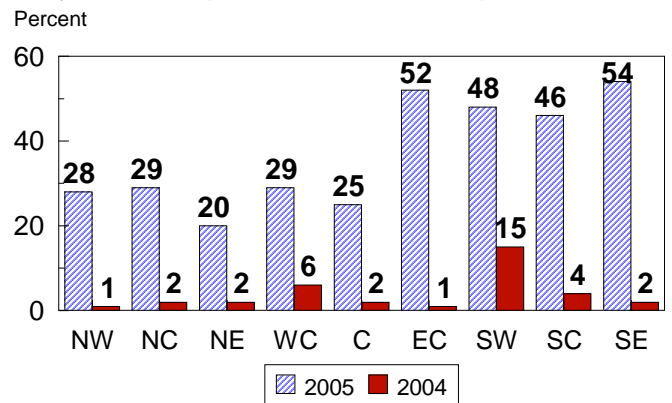
**Pasture** conditions continued to decline with 18 percent very poor, 29 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 19 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

**Sweet corn, cucumber, and tobacco** harvest is nearing completion. **Potato, apple, and pear** harvest is still in progress.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 9, 2005					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	7	15	31	36	11
Soybeans	6	11	30	41	12
Pasture	18	29	31	19	3

**Corn Silage Harvested in Wisconsin**  
By District, September 11, 2005 vs. September 12, 2004



Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 11, 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
Corn dough	95	96	86	92	87	92	97	97	99	94	70	83
Corn dent	74	66	66	71	64	68	84	77	93	74	31	48
Corn mature	17	14	11	12	21	25	23	28	23	21	0	5
Corn harvested for silage	28	29	20	29	25	52	48	46	54	39	5	12
Soybeans turning color	81	87	76	74	89	77	84	85	91	83	26	48
Soybeans dropping leaves	31	38	18	31	35	42	50	46	41	39	9	13
Third cutting hay	67	82	90	88	85	88	93	95	97	88	81	85
Fourth cutting hay	16	10	21	16	9	17	31	35	18	20	16	18

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

**POLK-C.S.:** Silage harvest is in full swing. Variable yields and significantly less than normal. As crops finish maturing, it is becoming more evident how much stress the dry weather has affected growth.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Continued dry weather with no rain again this week. Soybeans dropping their leaves; plants look short, but have lots of pods. Corn silage is in full swing-drying down fast. High moisture corn will start soon. General comments on corn is that it is better than expected, given the dry weather. Hay harvest is almost done for the season. Second, third, and fourth crop hay is all being harvested right now-quality and quantity are poor.

**ONEIDA-L.O.:** It is very dry. Very little second crop hay. Feeding hay and chopping corn early to supplement shortages in pasture growth.

**VILAS-L.K.:** First crop hay is still being made; not very good quantity or quality. Started irrigating potatoes again to give them more size. Had to start feeding hay to beef cows. We are on our second month without measurable rain, very bad.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Another good rain this week of 1-2 inches, especially in the eastern part of the county. Even after getting 7.0 inches of rain in the last couple of weeks, we are still not too wet. Fourth crop hay is looking excellent. Soybeans are beginning to lose their leaves. Very little corn is mature yet.

**MONROE-W.H.:** Soybean leaf color changed and dropped rapidly; accelerated over the past week.

**PEPIN-H.R.:** Lots of corn being chopped for silage now. Corn on heavy soil looks real good with nice filled-out ears and drying down real good. Soybeans are turning colors, and some on light soils are losing their leaves.

**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** Yields of corn and soybeans are varied from poor to good. Silo filling is the order of the day. Third and fourth crop hay is being harvested. Yields are from poor to good depending on rainfall amounts.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** Corn matured very fast in this warm weather we had. A lot of ears have dry kernels. Most of the soybeans have turned color and started to drop leaves. Most third crop alfalfa has been harvested and had good quality.

**FOND DU LAC-R.P.:** Fieldwork is progressing. Soybean size is small. All hay harvest is done for the year, and pastures are grazed to the ground. Some corn got too dry to chop in bunkers. Will need to think about planting winter wheat this fall.

**SHEBOYGAN-T.B.:** Corn yields are better than expected and surprising a lot of growers. Soybean harvest could start this coming week, but should be in full swing very soon. Hay harvest has been a disappointment all season. Most growers are short of hay and will be taking a final cutting before winter. Late-planted sweet corn is almost ready to be harvested.

**CRAWFORD-V.H.:** Crops continue to improve. We are going to have an excellent harvest.

**GRANT-D.W.:** Crops continue to look good. Third and fourth crop hay yields were excellent, both quantity and quality. Corn silage harvest is winding down; yields have been good.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Dry weather has made fourth crop hay not worth harvesting on some fields, as there is nothing there. Corn for silage is completed, but very little high moisture started as of yet. Farmers are leaving strips for yield checks, as it has become evident that some stalks blanked out without even an ear being formed. Corn is variable. Soybean harvest could begin this week. Manure application is being done on corn ground harvested for silage.

**WALWORTH-E.P.:** A neighbor started silo filling. Soybeans have dropped their leaves. Corn crop will not make 150 bushels per acre. Third cutting alfalfa has good quality, not much for yield.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 11, 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 Sept. 10	Mar. 1 to Sept. 10 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	81	59	90	49	70	8	2630	2243	.36	.53	-.94	18.96
Green Bay	80	55	89	48	68	6	2429	2105	.38	.38	-.80	17.77
La Crosse	83	61	91	54	72	6	2905	2519	.25	.36	-.92	20.57
Madison	85	60	92	54	73	10	2729	2454	0	0	n.a.	17.62
Milwaukee	81	65	88	61	73	7	2643	n.a.	.05	.05	-1.20	16.02

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.