



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

April 17, 2006

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## Above Normal Temperatures

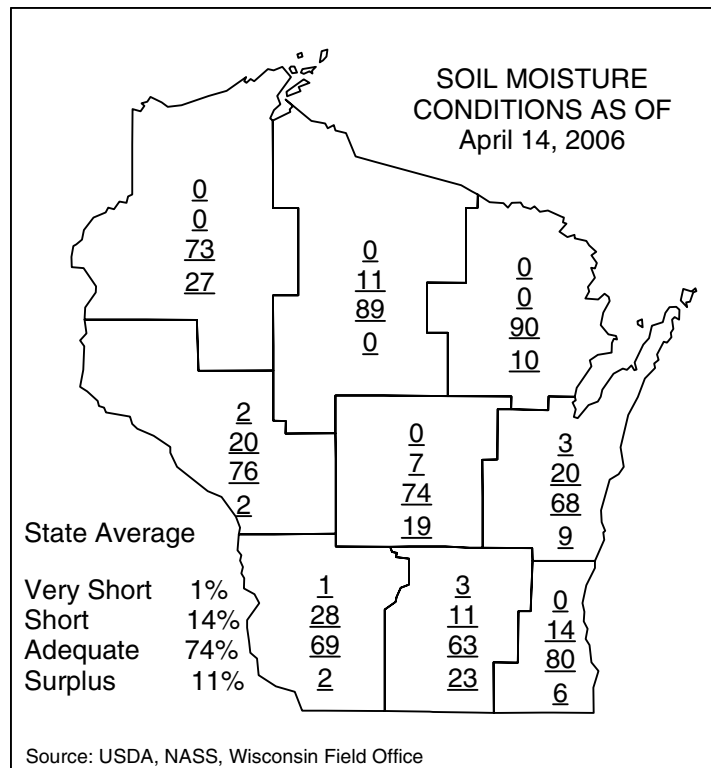
Warm temperatures encouraged many producers to start fieldwork. However, rain at the end of the week stopped activity in many areas. High temperatures reached the upper 70s and mid-80s during the week. Temperatures ranged from 12 to 15 degrees above normal. Average low temperatures were in the 40s across the state. Rainfall totals last week ranged from 0.01 in Eau Claire to 1.74 inches in La Crosse. Green Bay is the only reporting station with below normal precipitation since March 1. Soil moisture conditions were at 1 percent very short, 14 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus. There was an average of 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

**Oats** planted was reported at 14 percent complete, below last year's average of 29 percent and the 5-year average of 18 percent. Oat seeding started in northern counties during the week. Producers in central and southern counties were able to plant where they could find dry fields. There was a report of emerged oats in the southwest corner of the state.

**Spring tillage** was reported at 9 percent complete, compared to last year's 20 percent and the 5-year average of 12 percent. Finding dry fields continues to be a problem for many producers, as progress remains below the average pace. Farmers were able to complete some tillage on lighter soils.

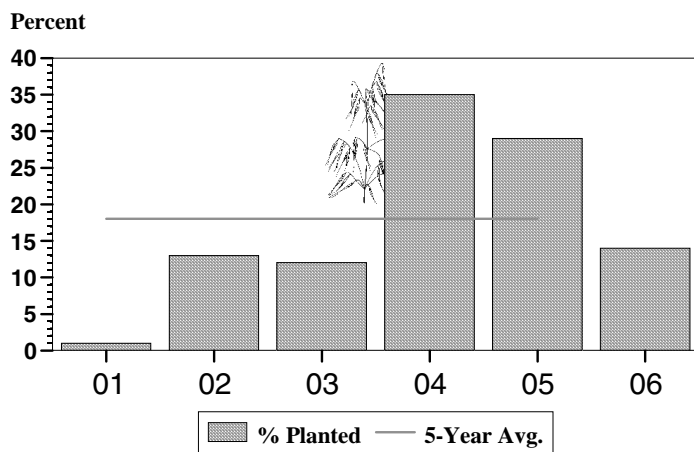
**Alfalfa** and **winter wheat** look good with the recent rain and warm weather. Most areas are not reporting any significant winterkill damage at this point. Alfalfa seeding continued during the week.

**Manure and fertilizer** were being applied in many areas of the state last week. **Potatoes** were being planted in the central counties. **Sweet corn** was planted on a few areas last week. There were reports of **fruit trees** being pruned in the southwest part of the state. **Corn** planting started in few areas of southern Wisconsin. The corn planting pace is expected to increase this week.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 16, 2006					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	2	14	63	21
Pasture	8	15	31	39	7

**OATS PLANTED**  
State Averages for April 16, 2001-2006



Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 16, 2006												
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	10	5	15	20	6	5	20	25	12	14	29	18
Spring tillage completed	8	7	10	8	8	8	10	9	15	9	20	12

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

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Oat seeding began in most parts of the county. Lighter soils have started to be tilled. Alfalfa came through good, with new seedings looking very good.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Growth is beginning on alfalfa and red clover. Looks like very little winterkill, except in very low spots.

Temperatures are way above normal. Spring has pushed along quickly. Most frost is out of the ground. Fieldwork is going on the lighter soils and just starting on heavier ground. Some oats and seeding just starting. No corn planted as of yet. If conditions stay like this, it could start anytime.

**WASHBURN-L.C.:** Winter wheat greened-up very well this week. Small areas are still oozing water. Surfaces are firm with good moisture.

**ASHLAND-G.M.:** Both alfalfa and winter wheat look good. Fields are too wet to even spread manure. Cold nights are slowing down field drying.

**CLARK-N.S.:** Very little winterkill in winter wheat; it is off to a good start. Horse-drawn tillage was active for most of the week. Tractor-drawn tillage started to pick up at the end of the week.

**FOREST-A.K.:** Some fieldwork has started.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** A few farmers on lighter soils are starting to do fieldwork. Alfalfa and winter wheat are looking very good at this time.

**MONROE-W.H.:** Winter wheat and alfalfa appear to be in good shape at this time. Fieldwork activity is increasing, primarily hauling manure and tillage. I saw a tractor and chisel plow stuck in a field in an area with poorly-drained soils. There has been seeding of oats and alfalfa on some sandier soil.

**PEPIN-H.R.:** Alfalfa is coming up real good now. Very little winterkill. Should be some good alfalfa stands in this area. Fields are too soft on the heavy grounds. Some manure is being hauled. Some sweet corn is planted.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** Potato planting is just getting underway. Most alfalfa fields look alright so far. Do not need anymore 20-degree mornings.

**WAUSHARA-A.S.:** Alfalfa seems to be coming nicely. Not much wheat in this area. Rye is greening-up just fine. Few oats are in. Tillage is getting underway. Had some nice showers but sub-soil moisture is low.

**SHEBOYGAN-T.B.:** No winterkill on either alfalfa or wheat anywhere in our area. Growers are able to get into about one third of the fields and parts of most fields. Oats and new seeding alfalfa is being planted on the well-drained soils. Limited amount of spring tillage so far because so few fields are completely dry.

**WINNEBAGO-R.H.:** Winter wheat fields look good, with a few bare spots looking brown. Most fields look good. Alfalfa is starting to look green and very good. Very little fieldwork started, as the fields have not dried up enough for working. No planting done yet.

**GRANT-R.R.:** Alfalfa fields seem to have come through the winter very well. If it was there last fall, it still is. We had 2.0 inches of rain the last twenty-four hours, which will put an end to fieldwork for some time.

**IOWA-K.V.:** Alfalfa is looking good. Winter wheat looks excellent this spring. Corn and soybean fertilizer is being applied. Oat and alfalfa seeding is going well. Pastures look great.

**COLUMBIA-J.J.:** Alfalfa looks really good. Oats are being sown.

**JEFFERSON-B.K.:** Alfalfa looks beautiful. Wheat is great with lots of tillers. Oats are mostly in. Soils need to dry out for fieldwork to really roll. It was a tremendous winter for soil moisture re-charge. Finally have some subsoil moisture again after two very dry years.

**KENOSHA-J.H.:** Wheat looks very healthy.

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat look very good. All manure has been spread.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 16, 2006**

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 Apr. 15	Mar. 1 to Apr. 15 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	74	41	78	24	58	15	125	38	0.01	4.02	0.78	5.56
Green Bay	68	42	78	30	55	12	90	32	0.73	2.59	-0.77	5.57
La Crosse	74	46	80	31	60	13	133	58	1.74	6.78	3.16	7.96
Madison	72	44	84	27	58	14	114	61	0.57	5.05	1.11	7.82
Milwaukee	68	45	84	31	57	13	102	n.a.	0.24	6.31	1.84	10.14

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.