



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

April 18, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 2

## Cool, Wet Conditions Slow Start To Season

While most of the state encountered cold temperatures and moisture over the past week, which prevented them from entering fields, some reports from the southern part of the state indicated spring tillage and oat planting were well underway. Many reports also indicated that much of the state saw new snowfall over the past week. Lincoln County was reported as working hard on the tornado clean-up, and a report from Eau Claire County also reported tornado damage.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 3 to 5 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 54 to 59 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 36 to 41 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.25 inches in Eau Claire to 2.01 inches in Green Bay. There were 2.3 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

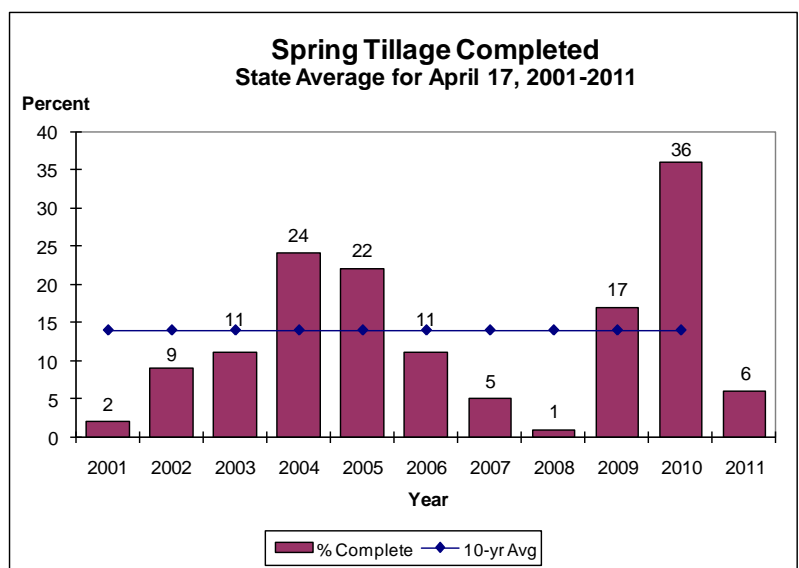
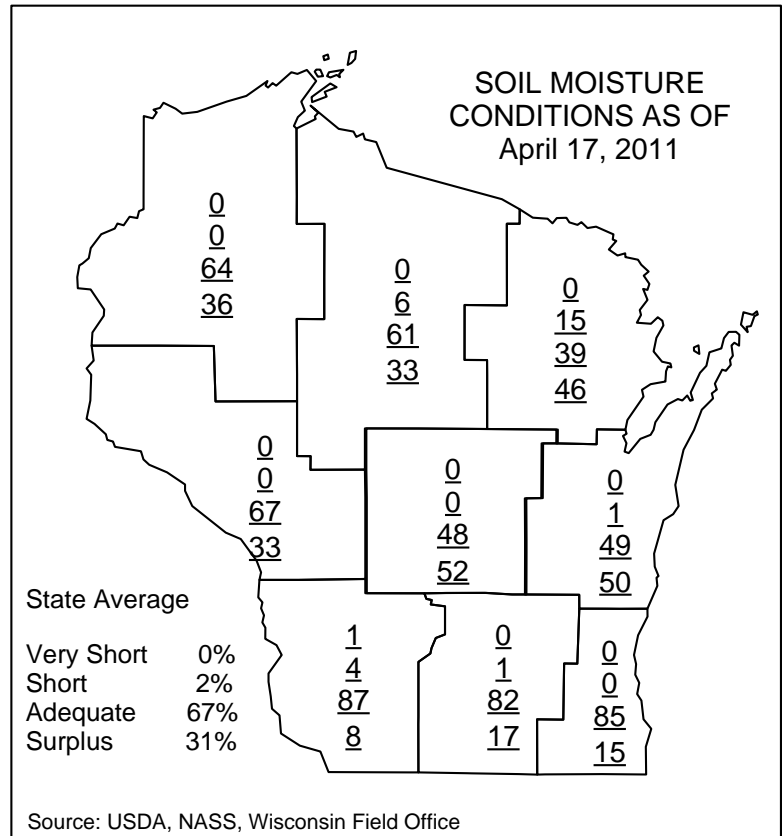
**Spring tillage** slowly continued over the past week. Most spring tillage reports were across the southern half of the state, with very little tillage being reported across the north as many fields were still too wet to enter. Statewide spring tillage was at 6 percent complete, up 3 percent from last week. Well behind last year at 36 percent complete and the five-year average of 14 percent.

Planting of **oats** got underway in southern parts of the state, but there were still very few reports of oats planted across the northern and central districts. Statewide, oats planted was at 10 percent complete, compared to 58 percent last year and 23 percent for the five-year average.

Some **manure spreading** was completed throughout the state, but the cold, wet conditions in some areas limited many from entering fields.

It was still too early for many reporters to know how **winter wheat** and **alfalfa** weathered the winter months, but some reports indicated that they appear to have survived the winter well. One report from Dodge County stated winterkill on winter wheat was apparent on west facing fields.

**Maple syrup** reports ranged from a poor to above average season. Many reports indicated that the maple syrup season was still running last week, but one Rusk County report stated the season was over.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 17, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	2	4	25	54	15
Pasture	11	12	40	34	3

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

## Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 17, 2011

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Spring tillage	1	0	1	4	3	0	25	9	7	6	3	36	14

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

**BARRON-C. B.:** Spring tillage is minimal as the fields are still too wet, even for hauling manure. This past weekend brought another snowfall, just a few inches. More snow is forecasted for the middle of this week. Some drying weather and warmer temperatures are greatly needed, with many farmers anxious to get in the fields.

**LINCOLN-K.S.:** The Maple syrup season did very well in Lincoln County. No one has been able to get in the fields to start planting potatoes. Lincoln County is still working very hard on the tornado cleanup.

**ONEIDA-B.E.:** We were preparing to assemble our irrigation system, but the weather here turned for the worse, with temperatures dropping to about 10 degrees below average, gusting winds, and on and off rain and snow later in the week. We received approximately 0.2 inches of rain, and about 3.0 inches of snow. The cranberry beds have been re-flooded, to protect them from the cold and wind, and also to help get some of the frost out of the ground.

**SHAWANO-T.B.:** Neither alfalfa or winter wheat are showing signs of winterkill. If you look hard you can find some winter damage to the wheat but it appears to be surviving and growing out of it. The winter weather conditions have kept anything from getting done in the fields. A very small amount of tillage has been started, and some manure hauling is being attempted but cold and wet conditions has everyone waiting to get started. The maple syrup season continues and sap collection was much better than last year. No potato planting going on yet.

**TREMPEALEAU-J.H.:** Winter Wheat is up and looks good so far. Winterkill on alfalfa and fall seeded crops appears minimal. Limited field work due to wet fields and cool temperatures. Received one report indicating the maple sap yield was good (better than 2010) with high sugar content. Manure being spread on fields that allow it.

**WAUSHARA-K.W.:** One farmer discing corn stalks, one Amish farm plowing sandy soil in the SW corner of the county. We need warmer weather.

**DOOR-T.S.:** Alfalfa and wheat are starting to green up. No reports of winterkill but some recent ponding may cause some isolated issues.

**SHEBOYGAN-S.D.:** No winterkill noticeable. Winter wheat coming along slowly but looks OK. Received 1.5 inches of cold, pounding rain in some parts of the County - typical spring weather in Eastern Wisconsin. Some warm breezes and sunshine is needed.

**GRANT-J.R.:** Recent rains missed Grant County allowing for more oats and field work to be completed. Alfalfa fields are beginning to green up and appear to have made it through the winter.

**VERNON-K.L.:** More snow last week, 1.0–2.0 inches. Temperatures at least 10 degrees below normal. Farmers spreading manure and fertilizer. Some spring tillage done, but minimal. Winter wheat and rye is 3.0–6.0 inches in height and looks good. Hay fields are just starting to leaf out. Grassy pastures are just starting to green up.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Snow this morning will halt all field work for a few days. Manure hauling is the biggest thing going on right now, along with the application of fertilizer. This snow should really wake up the wheat crop which doesn't look too good yet.

**KENOSHA-J.H.:** Some oats being planted. Some anhydrous is being applied. A few fields have been chisel plowed.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office  
P.O. Box 8934  
Madison, WI 53708-8934  
(608) 224-4848  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

**Robert J. Battaglia**  
Director

**Colette Childs**  
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 17, 2011**

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. 16	Mar. 1 to Apr. 16 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	59	37	80	31	48	5	64	45	0.25	3.04	-0.26	4.89	-0.25
Green Bay	54	36	76	31	45	3	38	38	2.01	5.63	2.20	8.20	2.55
La Crosse	59	41	81	32	50	4	85	66	2.00	5.73	2.04	7.64	1.77
Madison	59	38	81	32	49	5	73	68	0.52	4.11	0.09	6.98	0.46
Milwaukee	57	38	84	34	47	4	52	n.a.	1.67	5.58	1.01	9.04	0.97

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. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.