



Wisconsin Crop Progress

September 6, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 22

Summer Winds Down

A warmer than average week ended with a cold snap this past weekend, with temperatures plummeting from highs in the 90s to lows in the 40s in some areas. The accompanying storms brought some rain, though additional moisture was still needed to help crops mature. Strong winds flattened fields in Juneau, Monroe, Trempealeau, Vernon and Waushara Counties. There were 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 2 to 5 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 79 to 81 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 59 to 65 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.23 inches in Eau Claire to 1.36 inches in Green Bay. Growing degree days for corn remain above normal for all reporting stations. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

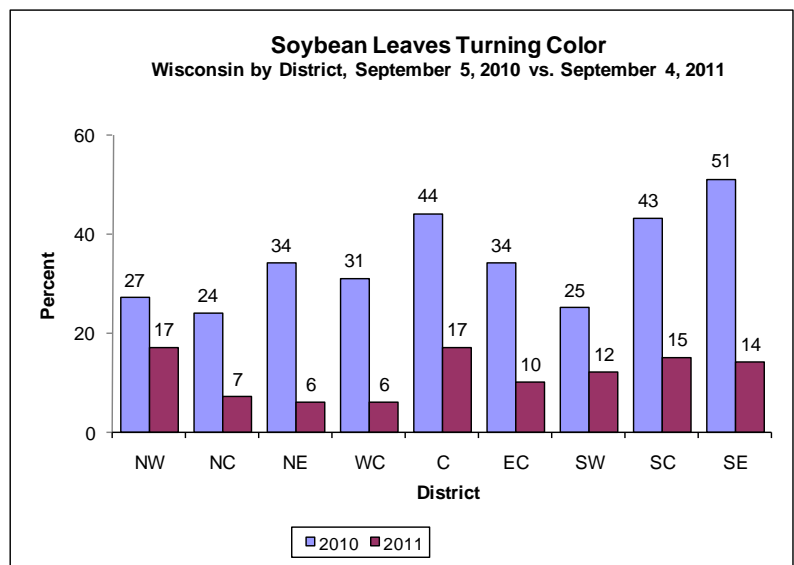
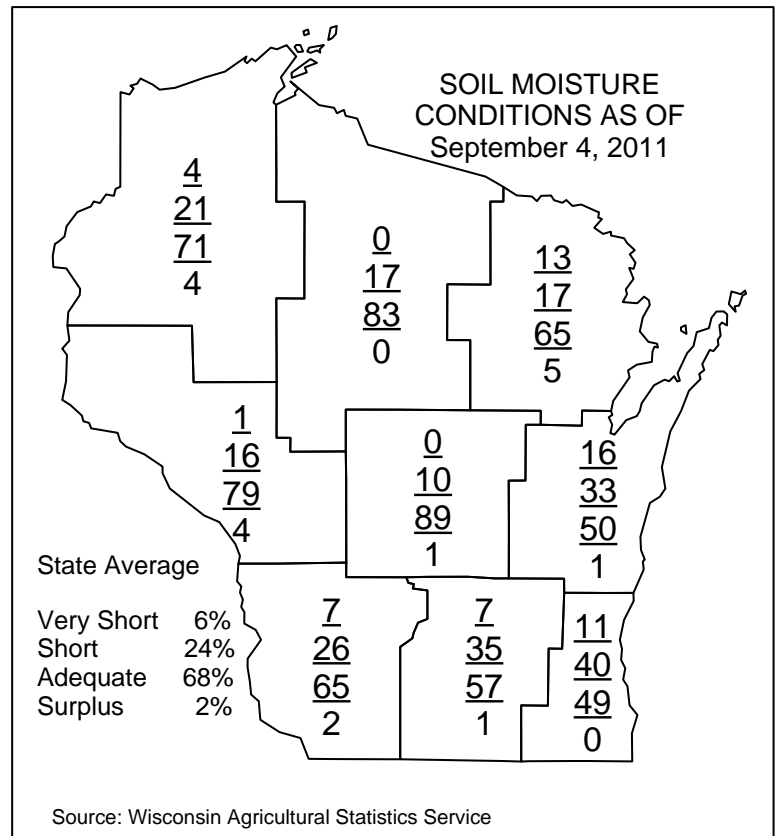
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn across the state was 87 percent in dough stage and 47 percent dented. Three percent of corn was mature, compared to 14 percent last year and 6 percent five-year average. Corn **silage** has started with most silage being taken where soils are driest. Additional rain and warmth were needed to help fill ears and kernels.

Statewide, 12 percent of **soybeans** had leaves turning color. Soybeans in a few areas have begun dropping leaves. In areas with adequate moisture the crop was reportedly in excellent condition, though reporters in southern Wisconsin comment that rain is badly needed to fill the pods.

Haying progressed well with hot, dry weather early in the week. The third crop **hay** harvest was 93 percent complete, and the fourth crop harvest was 27 percent complete.

Apples were reportedly plentiful this year, with the earliest varieties just starting to be picked this week. In the dry southern areas, some trees are dropping fruit. After the hot summer, **tomatoes** across the state were reported in good to excellent condition. A reporter from Eau Claire County stated that the **elderberry** and **grape** crops were above normal. Wine grapes were being harvested in Vernon. Waupaca County's fall **raspberry** crop was reportedly excellent this year. A reporter from Oneida County stated that the **cranberry** crop was maturing well, and harvest is expected to begin around October 1.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 4, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	2	7	15	51	25
Soybean	2	5	17	49	27
Pasture	5	14	29	47	5

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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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
Corn in dough stage	87	81	67	92	84	78	95	93	88	87	78	92	81
Corn in dent stage	34	26	30	40	44	28	64	64	61	47	25	74	46
Soybean leaves turning	17	7	6	6	17	10	12	15	14	12	n.a.	32	24
Third cutting hay	85	86	94	95	91	94	98	93	96	93	88	87	85
Fourth cutting hay	22	15	43	24	14	27	24	49	43	27	13	31	18

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Corn silage harvest has begun. Apple crop is excellent. Soybean leaves beginning to change.

RUSK-G.P.: Drying out a bit, which is a good thing with corn silage harvest just around the corner. I saw a chopper box buried along a waterway the other day. Third and fourth crop harvest continues with good quality, but just average yields. Oats is mostly done, not a great year. Corn and beans continue to look good and seem to have potential for a good crop.

CLARK-J.B.: Apple trees are full of fruit, looks like a big harvest. Corn and soybeans look good. Small grains were down on yield due to excess moisture at time of harvest. Fourth cutting hay is just starting.

MARATHON-S.N.: Crops look good. Corn is beginning to dent spurred by the shortened day length. Small grain harvest was fair compared to other years with a good harvest; the test weight was noticeably higher. Soybeans look good.

FLORENCE-T.B.: We got about 0.75 inches of rain the past few days but soil conditions still remain very dry. Pastures are in very poor shape and the second crop hay is also very poor. Most are taking it off for feed needs but the yield is very poor. A lot of ground travel for a wagon load or a round bale. Corn crops seem to be all over the map. Some fields look good with nice cobs and others look terrible. The dry conditions will hurt yield whether for grain or silage. A lot of leaf tips and edges are dried up the full length of the plant.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Crops in our area look very good, and some are beginning to reach maturity. Field conditions are great and will not hinder any field operations at this time. Hay crops were very good and conditions allowed for making some dry hay. Small grain yields were average due to flooded areas of fields bringing down whole field averages of the excellent parts of fields. Crop conditions look very good but diseases are present in all.

MONROE-M.Y.: We got 0.8 inches of rain Friday morning with wind, some corn is down-

ST CROIX-D.K.: Green beans really look good after irrigation. Corn and soybeans look good after irrigation, mostly used to speed up maturity.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Three quarters of an inch of rain this past week helped all crops finishing off. Haymaking major activity this week, variable yields and quality. Snap bean and sweet corn harvest continues at a rapid pace with good yields. Fall seeding and tillage are going well. Apples and pumpkins have good coloring. Good tomato crop.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Dry weather pushed corn on sand to early

drying. Many areas have corn cobs hanging down. Some corn tipped or broken due to high winds on Sept. 2.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: We need rain bad.

OUTAGAMIE-J.B.: Need a lot of nice fall weather.

GRANT-R.R.: We continue to get plenty of rain. It is hard to get hay up without rain. The crops all look good. Weeds are also doing well.

VERNON-K.L.: The northwest portion of Vernon County was hit with high winds on Friday. Winds were up to 70 mph and resulted in damages to corn, trees, and some buildings in the county. Corn silage harvesting has begun in the county and with the corn in some areas flattened, bent over, or snapped off. Harvesting is going to take a lot more time and patience. Producers started harvesting wine grapes this past week.

DANE-J.K.: Vegetables and fruits look o.k., with tomatoes the best in years. They like dry weather. Apples plentiful and good quality. Field conditions are hard and cracking. Third and fourth crop hay was short, but good quality that didn't get over ripe. Yields of small grains and fruit and vegetables are very good. Weeds are still growing, but slowing down due to dry weather. Same with diseases. Most people started chopping corn. Trucks are on the road in every direction. Some late sweet corn has fungus on it. Don't know why the fungus is present because it is dry. The ears and everything is maturing rapidly. Imagine if we had rain.

DODGE-S.B.: Corn cobs are smaller and kernels are small. Many of the cobs did not completely fill due to the lack of rain at pollination. We received about 1.0 inch of rain last week; we definitely could use more.

WAUKESHA-A.S.: Everything is just burning up, especially soybeans.



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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 September 4, 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 Sep. 3	Mar. 1 to Sep. 3 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	80	59	91	50	69	3	2306	2141	0.23	0.19	-0.27	27.75	4.04
Green Bay	79	59	84	50	69	5	2193	2004	1.36	1.27	0.90	28.15	7.61
La Crosse	81	62	95	55	71	2	2586	2402	1.21	0.98	0.57	29.11	5.25
Madison	81	60	92	49	70	4	2496	2340	1.21	1.06	0.66	21.55	-2.66
Milwaukee	81	65	90	56	73	5	2341	n.a.	0.56	0.50	0.11	23.79	-0.73

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.