



Wisconsin Crop Progress

December 2011

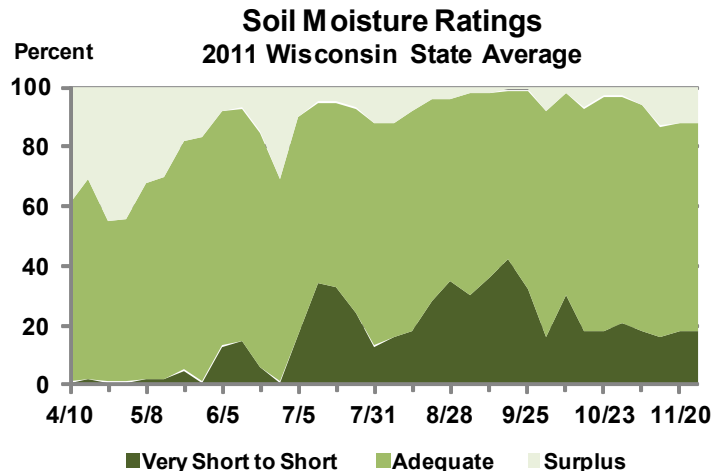
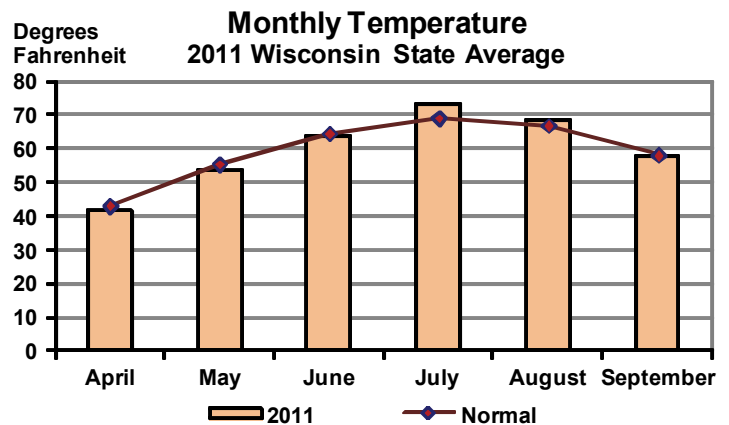
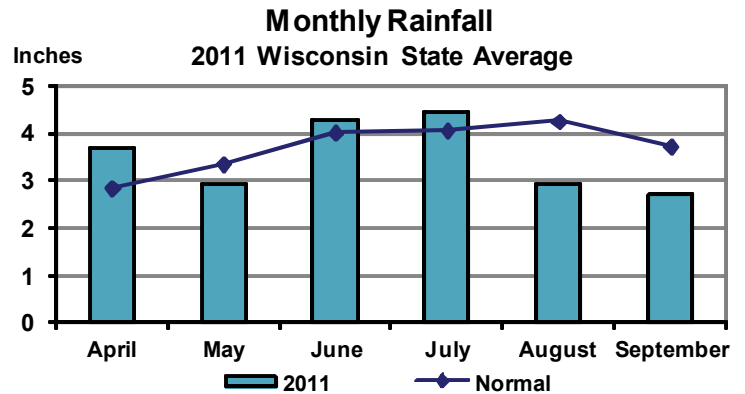
REVIEW OF THE 2011 CROP YEAR

2011 – Late Spring, Hot Summer, Dry Fall

After a late, cold start, 2011 saw a roller coaster growing season. April's snows and cold rain allowed little advancement in spring tillage and planting. Frosts continued well into May, as excess rain and unseasonably cool temperatures delayed crop emergence. A warm, dry start to June allowed soil moistures to drop below 95 percent adequate-surplus statewide, but moistures climbed back above 94 percent adequate-surplus by the end of the month as rains and cool temperatures returned. July and early August brought unremitting heat, boosting crop growth and drying out fields. By the end of August, soil moistures were short or very short for 35 percent of the state, with the most pronounced shortages in southern Wisconsin. September remained very dry, with lower than average temperatures. An early frost mid-month halted the growing season in some northern parts of the state. Temperatures then climbed briefly into the 80s in early October before settling back to more seasonable levels. Dry, warm conditions allowed harvests, haying and fieldwork to quickly catch up to and surpass five-year averages. In spite of a mid-month snowstorm, temperatures remained above average throughout November. Rain and melting snow brought muddy field conditions to the eastern parts of the state, while bypassing the northwest. However, the overall mild fall weather proved favorable for harvest and fieldwork, particularly fall tillage. On November 27, fall tillage was 82 percent complete, well above the five-year average of 68 percent.

Statewide temperatures from June to September were 1.0 degrees above normal in 2011, continuing the trend from 2010. April through June and September had slightly below normal temperatures with May averaging 2.1 degrees below normal. July and August had above normal temperatures, with July averaging 3.9 degrees above normal. The month with the greatest departure from normal was November, which averaged 4.6 degrees above normal.

Precipitation totals for April through September were below normal across the state, with a statewide total of 21.00 inches. This was 10.36 inches below the total for 2010 and 1.33 inches below normal. Total precipitation in the northern third of the state was 1.20 inches below normal for April through September, the central third of the state was 0.43 inches below normal, and the southern third of the state was 2.12 inches below normal precipitation. Statewide, May, August and September were below normal for total precipitation, but April, June and July were slightly above normal.



MONTHLY TEMPERATURES: 2011 GROWING SEASON AND NORMAL*

District	April 1/		May 1/		June 1/		July 1/		August 1/		September 1/	
	2011	Normal	2011	Normal	2011	Normal	2011	Normal	2011	Normal	2011	Normal
	Degrees Fahrenheit											
NW	40.9	41.7	52.1	54.4	62.1	63.1	72.0	68.1	67.1	65.9	57.5	56.6
NC	38.6	40.4	51.0	53.2	61.4	61.8	70.5	66.4	65.6	64.2	55.1	55.3
NE	39.1	41.3	51.7	53.6	61.7	62.5	70.9	67.0	66.6	64.8	55.6	56.0
WC	43.5	45.2	55.6	57.4	66.4	66.4	74.9	70.8	69.5	68.3	58.2	59.3
C	41.9	44.5	54.5	56.7	65.0	65.8	73.9	70.2	69.2	67.7	57.9	59.0
EC	41.3	42.8	52.1	54.6	63.0	64.1	73.0	69.5	69.5	67.9	58.8	59.8
SW	44.6	46.1	56.6	57.9	67.6	67.2	75.5	71.4	70.2	69.0	59.0	60.5
SC	44.6	45.8	56.4	57.8	67.5	67.2	75.8	71.3	70.1	68.9	59.0	60.6
SE	43.2	45.0	53.5	56.3	64.4	66.0	74.5	71.2	69.9	69.4	59.9	61.4
STATE	41.5	43.2	53.4	55.5	63.9	64.5	73.0	69.1	68.2	66.9	57.5	58.1

1/Preliminary estimates, 2011. *Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist

MONTHLY RAINFALL: 2011 GROWING SEASON AND NORMAL*

District	April 1/		May 1/		June 1/		July 1/		August 1/		September 1/	
	2011	Normal	2011	Normal	2011	Normal	2011	Normal	2011	Normal	2011	Normal
	Inches											
NW	2.61	2.39	3.41	3.29	3.45	4.19	6.37	4.29	4.49	4.44	1.42	3.89
NC	3.29	2.40	3.00	3.31	4.20	4.01	3.83	4.06	3.53	4.36	2.52	4.03
NE	3.47	2.65	2.62	3.29	5.14	3.69	2.76	3.70	2.79	3.81	3.03	3.74
WC	3.54	3.05	3.15	3.69	4.90	4.24	5.98	4.45	2.49	4.54	2.17	3.82
C	4.44	3.02	2.67	3.52	4.58	3.88	4.90	4.13	1.77	4.22	3.72	3.72
EC	5.10	2.81	2.60	2.95	4.55	3.51	3.47	3.38	1.78	3.86	3.10	3.42
SW	3.66	3.55	3.06	3.60	4.52	4.35	3.60	4.33	2.33	4.46	3.32	3.42
SC	4.21	3.47	2.57	3.40	3.44	4.19	3.59	4.07	2.88	4.24	3.37	3.51
SE	5.21	3.48	2.98	3.13	3.70	3.76	3.83	3.82	2.07	4.22	3.77	3.48
STATE	3.69	2.86	2.95	3.37	4.27	4.02	4.45	4.07	2.92	4.27	2.72	3.74

1/Preliminary estimates, 2011. *Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist

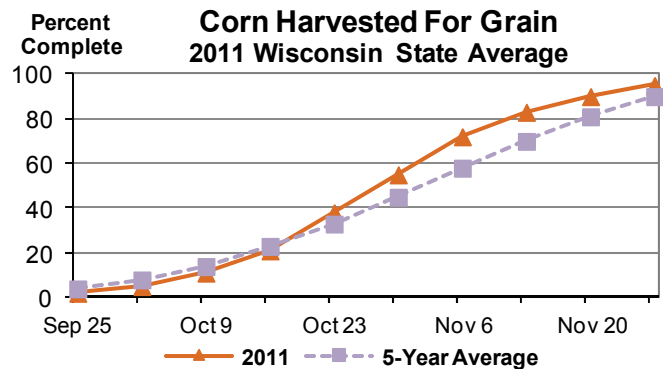
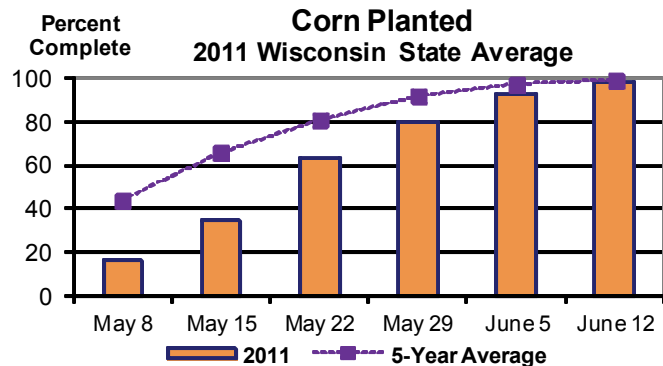
COMPARATIVE TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

District	Average Temperature						Total Precipitation					
	June - September						April - September					
	Normal*	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 1/	Normal*	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 1/
	Degrees Fahrenheit						Inches					
NW	63.4	65.0	63.5	62.7	64.7	64.7	22.49	18.55	21.46	13.35	29.80	21.75
NC	61.9	64.1	62.4	60.6	63.2	63.2	22.17	17.17	18.50	16.07	32.26	20.37
NE	62.6	64.9	63.3	61.5	64.3	63.7	20.88	14.58	17.82	15.71	27.09	19.81
WC	66.2	67.8	66.3	64.6	67.8	67.3	23.79	25.48	23.84	20.82	34.18	22.23
C	65.7	67.0	65.7	64.1	67.3	66.5	22.49	21.83	24.71	17.91	32.84	22.08
EC	65.3	66.9	65.8	63.7	66.9	66.1	19.93	16.81	21.56	15.92	27.57	20.60
SW	67.0	68.3	67.1	65.2	68.9	68.1	23.71	33.39	31.25	21.16	36.37	20.49
SC	67.0	68.6	67.5	65.5	69.2	68.1	22.88	28.78	30.32	21.74	31.96	20.06
SE	67.0	68.2	67.1	64.8	68.8	67.2	21.89	24.99	27.55	20.53	28.46	21.56
STATE	64.7	66.3	64.9	63.2	66.2	65.7	22.33	21.58	23.18	17.53	31.36	21.00

1/Preliminary estimates, 2011. *Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist

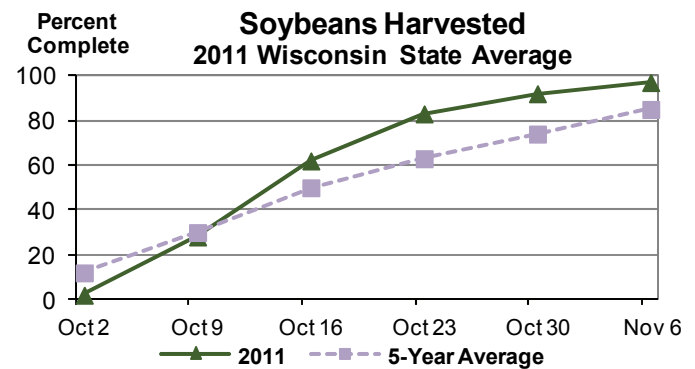
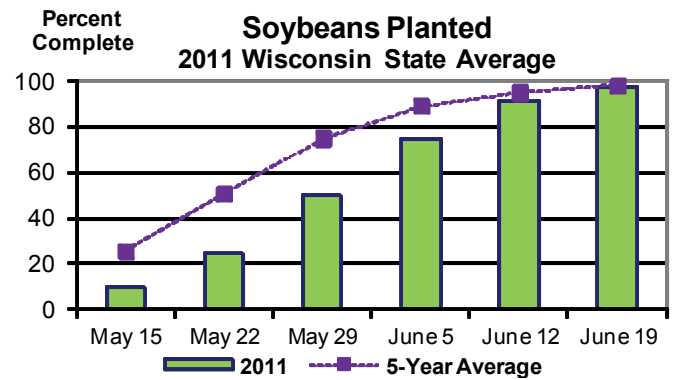
CORN


Unseasonably cold and wet conditions in April and May delayed corn planting in 2011. Adverse conditions led some producers to change their planting plans, substituting shorter maturity day corn or soybeans on planned corn acreage. By May 1, only one percent of corn was planted statewide, well below the five-year average of 23 percent and planting remained behind throughout the month. Corn emergence and height stayed below average through the end of June. The sustained heat and humidity of July and August boosted corn maturity up to the five-year average. Growing degree days for corn surpassed normal the week of July 10 and remained above normal for the rest of the season. However, short topsoil moisture stressed the crop and prompted some producers in southern Wisconsin to begin harvesting corn for silage in mid-August. A hard frost in mid-September caused some corn in northern Wisconsin to stop maturing early. Corn harvest was starting up statewide at the beginning of October, with unusually warm and dry weather creating excellent harvesting conditions. By October 30, corn silage harvest had wrapped up and corn for grain was 55 percent harvested, well above the five-year average of 45 percent. In spite of a mid-November snowstorm and soggy field conditions in the eastern parts of the state, corn harvest was finished for most by the end of the month.



SOYBEANS

Due to this year's cold, wet spring, soybean planting for most producers did not get underway until mid-May. Soybeans were only 10 percent planted on May 15, compared to 29 percent in 2010 and a five-year average of 26 percent. Soybean emergence lagged behind averages throughout June. The heat of July helped the soybean crop to slowly catch up; on August 7, soybeans were 89 percent blooming compared to a five-year average of 85 percent, and 53 percent setting pods, right in line with the five-year average. However, soybeans were slow to fill pods due to a lack of moisture in southern Wisconsin and a mid-September frost damaged soybeans in low-lying areas across the state. These adverse conditions delayed harvest until the beginning of October. Warm, dry fall weather helped soybeans surge from only 2 percent harvested on October 2, 10 percentage points below the five-year average, to 83 percent harvested on October 23, a full 20 percentage points above the five-year average. The harvest wrapped up quickly in the first week of November, with average to good yields and low moistures reported.





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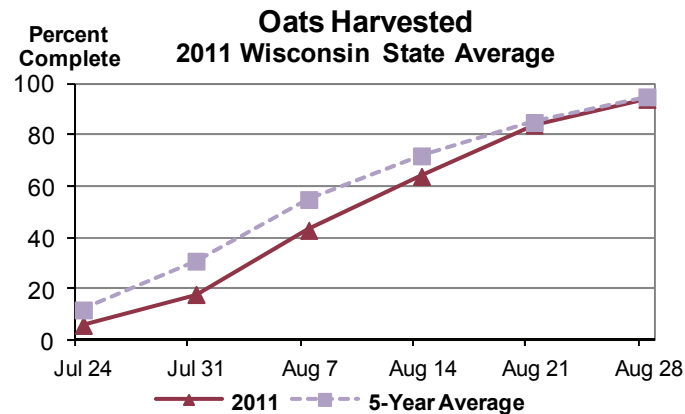
Robert J. Battaglia, Director Vanessa Huang, Statistician

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SMALL GRAINS

April's snowfall and below normal temperatures delayed oat planting in much of the state. On May 1, oats were 38 percent planted in the three southernmost districts of the state, but only 4 percent planted in the six northern districts, compared to a statewide five-year average of 64 percent. Cool, wet weather kept planting, emergence and maturity well below averages throughout May and June, though 84 percent of the crop was reportedly in good to excellent condition on June 26. July's blast of heat helped speed grain development, and harvest began late in the month. Statewide, the harvest was 94 percent complete on August 28, right in line with the five-year average of 95 percent.

Winter wheat came through the winter in good condition and tolerated the snowy spring well. On May 8, 74 percent of winter wheat had no freeze damage, with 20 percent showing light freeze damage. Condition showed steady improvement throughout April, May and June, reaching and holding at 81 percent good to excellent through the heat of July. Condition then fell a few percentage points as harvest took off in August. Reports on yields and test weights varied widely from county to county.



HAY & PASTURES

Alfalfa stands in Wisconsin came out of winter in good shape. Winter freeze damage was reported as 92 percent none to light as of May 15. Though the late spring delayed the start of haying, the first cutting quickly caught up to averages, finishing up by early July. Second cutting hay stayed ahead of the five-year average, though the high humidity of July and August made drying hay difficult. On September 4, third crop hay was 93 percent harvested, compared to 87 percent in 2010 and an 85 percent five-year average, and fourth crop hay was 27 percent harvested, compared to 31 percent in 2010 and an 18 percent five-year average. Though short soil moisture adversely impacted fourth crop yields in some areas, the dry, sunny weather of late summer and fall allowed some southern Wisconsin producers to take a fifth crop in early October. Statewide, hay and roughage supplies were 78 percent adequate and 15 percent surplus on October 30.

Pastures were slow to green up due to the lingering cold spring. Pasture conditions improved each week throughout May and June, peaking at 86 percent good to excellent on June 26. Extended hot and dry conditions began to take a toll on both livestock and pastures in July and August, and conditions declined slowly until mid-October.

