



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

September 4, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 22

## Crops Drying Down As Drought Continues

This week's hot, dry and windy weather exacerbated drought conditions for much of the state. Soil moistures were 73 percent short to very short statewide, compared to 64 percent last week. Pastures were in 61 percent poor to very poor condition this week, compared to 56 percent past week. Many reporters commented that crops are drying down in the fields as the lack of moisture pushes plants into early maturity. Corn silage harvest and haying were the major field activities reported, with the poorest, most damaged corn being chopped first. **Apple** harvest has begun early, though reporters commented that spring frost damage and drought have taken a heavy toll on production. There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 5 to 8 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 81 to 88 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 58 to 67 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in La Crosse to 0.29 inches in Green Bay. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

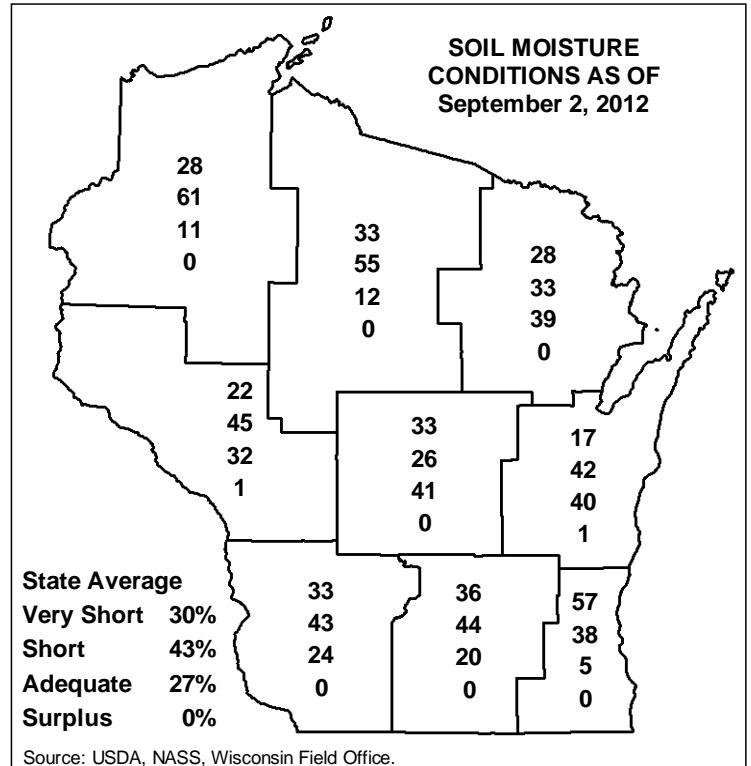
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

**Corn** was 89 percent in dough stage, 61 percent denting and 10 percent mature statewide. Corn **silage** was 18 percent harvested. Tonnage was reportedly low in many areas.

**Soybeans** were 40 percent turning leaves, a full 25 percentage points above the five-year average. There were scattered reports of soybeans beginning to drop leaves.

**Fourth cutting hay** was 68 percent harvested. Reporters commented that August rains have perked up hay stands in many areas. However, tonnages were reportedly lower than normal, and demand for hay remained high. A fifth crop harvest was well underway in the northeast where more moisture has been adequate.

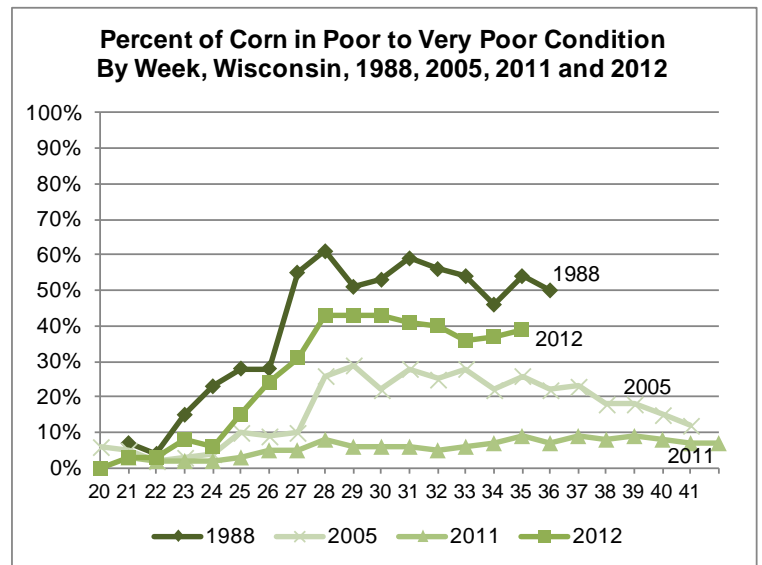
**Potato** harvest was ongoing in Oneida, Vilas and Portage Counties. Vegetables for processing were being harvested in Portage County as well, including **snapbeans, sweet corn** and **beets**. **Grapes** were reportedly being picked before September 1 in Shawano County. Another reporter for Portage county commented that **trees** have been hard-hit by the drought, with newly planted trees a near total loss and many mature trees succumbing to stress and disease.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 2, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Percent		
			Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	29	32	32	6	1
Corn	17	22	25	29	7
Soybeans	10	17	33	32	8

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 2, 2012

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	93	93	84	93	88	76	98	90	80	89	80	84	78
Corn in dent stage	66	61	61	70	53	36	61	75	53	61	41	41	40
Corn in mature stage	23	7	7	9	6	1	9	16	10	10	3	1	4
Corn harvested for silage	23	11	12	23	22	8	38	23	14	18	6	2	5
Soybeans leaves turned	64	46	22	37	41	30	35	51	31	40	18	9	15
Fourth cutting hay	64	82	68	65	56	73	69	76	53	68	46	23	18

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

NASS is currently conducting our annual September surveys on crops and livestock. In the first two weeks of September, NASS is surveying U.S. small grains growers for final production. We are also asking hog producers about their summer pig crop, next year's farrowing intentions, and current inventory. The responses will provide the foundation for 2012 production estimates. All participating farmers should respond.  
**Your information matters!**

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## 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.M.:** Apple harvest is beginning for early varieties. The cold period in April will result in a general 70 percent loss in apple production. Some varieties such as Zestar will have zero production at some of our orchards.

**SAWYER-K.S.:** Hot dry weather has continued. Rain is needed to finish out the corn and beans, but in general the crops still look good. If dry weather continues it will be an earlier than normal harvest. Lots of corn silage being harvested as corn dries down. Hay regrowth has slowed way down, lots of dormant and brown looking grass in pastures and lawns. Spotted winged drasophilia being found in fall raspberry.

**VILAS-R.K.:** Potato vines are killed. Harvest will start as soon as we have cooler temps for storage. Crop looks to be average yield and high quality.

**FLORENCE-T.B.:** Hot, dry and wind!!! We have had a couple of small grass fires while cutting hay and nicking stones. Conditions are very dry. All crops are looking bad at this point. Corn conditions vary depending on planting dates, but even the corn in dent stage is starting to dry out. Could be taking corn silage early if we don't get significant rain soon.

**PIERCE-G.A.:** Early corn silage yields excellent. Soil moisture generally adequate but some signs of moisture stress appearing on eroded fields.

**ST CROIX-D.K.:** We have some green beans that look really good. Soybeans on the light ground have really suffered in the last week.

**JUNEAU-J.W.:** Alfalfa and other hay crops appear to be doing ok. Some producers were trying to decide whether to cut now or let the forage grow until the frost comes so they get more volume. They aren't sure if they will be able to get another cutting if they cut now. Leaves really dropped off the soybeans this past week. Silage harvest is picking up with the poorer corn being taken first. A lot of appraisals coming back with less than 10 bushels per acre on corn.

**WAUSHARA-K.W.:** Corn silage samples on Monday 8/27 had moisture levels in the 60-70 percent range. Dry weather pushing crop to an early drydown. 3.0 inches of rain on 8/26, still extremely dry.

**FOND DU LAC-B.P.:** Looking forward to harvest completion.

**WINNEBAGO-S.E.:** Corn silage harvest has started. Corn and beans really matured this week with more hot weather. Hay yield still a little low.

**SAUK-J.P.:** After a hot summer, tomatoes are finally starting to ripen. They did not set during the hot days of July and early August. Some late strawberries really seem to hit the spot also. Muskmelons are huge and especially juicy. We had over an inch of rain a little more than a week ago so we are ready for another shot. Lawns around here are as green as anywhere and need to be mowed weekly. Everyone seems to want more hay and no one has any to sell.

**GREEN-D.M.:** Weeds in organic soybean field did very well during the drought. After the first two early cultivations, I stayed out of the field to save soil moisture. About 1/4 of this field was on a hill top, and weeds are about all there is in this section.

**ROCK-C.O.:** The grain elevators won't have much business this fall as the corn is being harvested for silage. Silage yields are in the 3-6 ton per acre range. Soybean harvest is not far off as most fields have leaves dropping.

**KENOSHA-R.R.:** Spider mites are everywhere, soybeans leaves are dropping and fields are turning yellow. On the other hand, robins came back - does this mean a lot of rain coming or early winter?

**OZAUKEE-K.A.:** Had 0.5 inch of rain Sunday, but it helped to pick things up a little. Hay fields greened up a bit - but back in the 90s the rest of the week. Some ripe ears of corn, which is early for Labor Day. Some corn chopping started - very short stalks.



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Director

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 2, 2012

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. 1	Mar. 1 to Sep. 1 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	88	60	97	53	74	+8	2764	2123	0.18	0.00	n.a.	19.17	-4.20
Green Bay	81	58	88	54	70	+5	2661	1987	0.29	0.00	n.a.	22.04	+1.64
La Crosse	88	64	97	58	76	+7	3042	2383	0.00	0.00	n.a.	18.99	-4.74
Madison	86	63	92	56	74	+8	2964	2321	0.15	0.00	n.a.	16.98	-6.93
Milwaukee	83	67	92	62	75	+7	2834	n.a.	0.15	0.00	n.a.	19.85	-4.35

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.