



# WISCONSIN CROP PROGRESS

May 20, 2013

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## Fieldwork Charges Ahead

Farmers took good advantage of this week's summery weather. Corn, soybeans, small grains, forage and vegetables were being planted simultaneously as producers raced to make up for a late start. Temperatures reached the upper 80s and low 90s in much of the state, warming soils and nudging fruit trees and vines into blossom. Though wet spots remained in many areas, tillage and planting progressed full tilt until slowed by sporadic rains over the weekend. Both winter weather and this spring's wet conditions have taken a toll on alfalfa and winter wheat statewide. Reporters noted that many alfalfa fields were being reseeded or rotated to other crops. Some commented that last fall's seedings were a loss due to drought conditions during planting. There were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were normal to 2 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 65 to 75 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 44 to 49 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.16 inches in Eau Claire to 0.86 inches in LaCrosse. 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/>

Statewide, **spring tillage** was 58 percent complete. **Manure and fertilizer applications** continued.

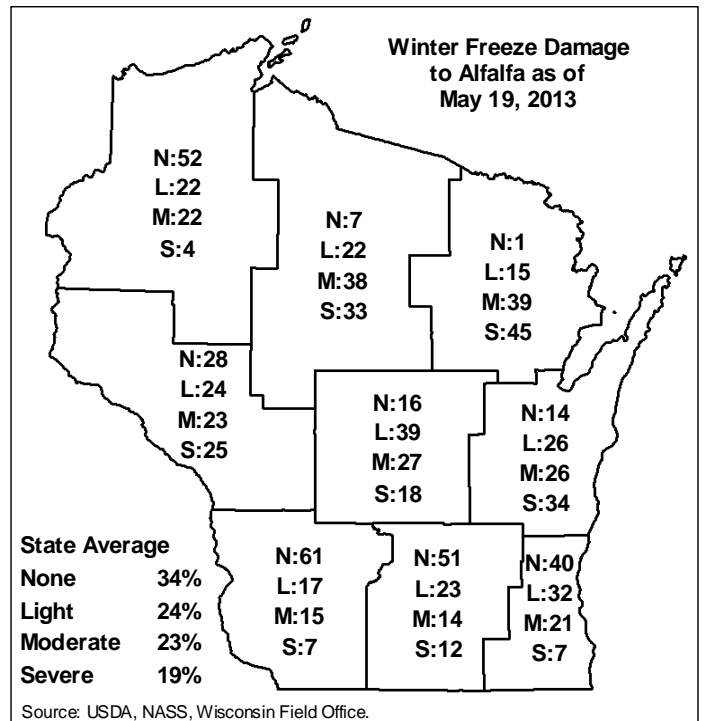
**Corn** was 43 percent planted, 29 points more than last week. Corn was 7 percent emerged statewide.

**Soybeans** were 11 percent planted this week.

**Oats** were 70 percent planted, a 35 point jump from last week. Oats were 30 percent emerged.

**Alfalfa** winterkill was 19 percent severe, 23 percent moderate, and 24 percent light statewide. Thirty-four percent of alfalfa suffered no freeze damage this year. **Pastures** continued to improve, with 49 percent in good to excellent condition compared to 35 percent last week.

Winterkill to **winter wheat, barley and rye** was heavy in some areas, though reporters noted that some fields which appeared dead in previous weeks were now emerging. **Potatoes** were reportedly being planted in Barron County and beginning to emerge in Portage County. **Cranberries, apples, cherries, and pears** were blooming statewide.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 19, 2013

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	5	45	40	9

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

## Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 19, 2013

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
	Percent									Percent			
Corn planted	31	24	50	32	42	31	63	54	43	43	14	79	68
Corn emerged	1	0	0	1	8	1	9	22	7	7	0	34	22
Soybeans planted	2	0	7	6	9	8	12	20	20	11	1	43	32
Oats planted	62	58	70	65	63	51	89	97	67	70	35	99	91
Oats emerged	4	0	15	13	32	17	65	76	32	30	12	87	67
Spring tillage	40	52	63	51	51	49	78	72	52	58	26	89	79

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

## Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions, May 19, 2013

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	5.2	5.1	6.1	5.0	5.5	4.7	5.7	4.4	5.0	5.1	3.6	6.3
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Short	4	0	2	4	0	4	3	2	0	3	1	27
Adequate	86	68	77	84	76	77	84	71	84	79	73	66
Surplus	10	32	21	12	24	19	13	27	16	18	26	4
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	n.a.
Short	19	0	10	19	8	1	13	6	1	10	10	n.a.
Adequate	78	100	66	76	82	81	82	79	91	81	79	n.a.
Surplus	3	0	24	4	9	18	3	15	8	8	10	n.a.

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

### Alert! The window to respond to the Census of Agriculture is almost closed!

**There are only a few weeks left to complete and return the 2012 Census of Agriculture.** Because time is running out, NASS may contact you or farmers in your area by phone or in person to collect information for the Census. **Help ensure you and your industry have the most complete set of agricultural statistics available for your country and county.** For more information or for help filling out your Census form, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call (888) 424-7828.

# Wisconsin Crop Progress

## 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-T.J.:** Near perfect field conditions and long hours for farmers and farm supply businesses alike resulted in amazing progress with field work and planting this week.

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Planting equipment has been rolling this week. Corn and soybeans being planted on lighter soils. Alfalfa winterkill is about 40 percent. Apple blossom set is heavy on early varieties.

**CLARK-R.H.:** Alfalfa winter kill is about 30-40 percent of total acreage. It appears that red clover was also subject to winterkill. Good news, crops are getting planted, slowed down with showers on Saturday morning. Trees are blossoming and leaves are beginning to emerge. With some good weather later in the week more crops will get planted. Winter wheat and rye are looking OK, slow growing with cool weather early in May, some areas of field winterkilled where water pooled.

**FLORENCE-T.B.:** Pastures and fields are very green but are still very slow in growth do to below normal temperatures. Winter rye, wheat, and alfalfa showing a lot of winterkill due to ice and ponding from early winter rains. We need heat.

**DUNN-S.S.:** Appears to be a great deal of winterkill on hay.

**LACROSSE-I.H.:** There is a small amount of winterkill damage on the alfalfa and winter wheat. The only thing holding back from planting is the sporadic rains. The oats planted are starting to emerge, winter wheat can be seen in fields as well.

**MONROE-M.Y.:** We had 4 nice days. Now it is raining again. Field work was going well.

**GREEN LAKE-B.K.:** Corn and oats just starting to emerge, winter wheat has suffered from winterkill. Field conditions are wet and the soil temp is cooler than normal at this time of year.

**WAUSHARA-K.W.:** Clay soils on the east side of the county are still a challenge due to wet conditions.

**DOOR-T.S.:** Peas started going in last week. A hard frost early last week has cherry growers watchful for damage to blossoms.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** The planters were really rolling this past week. A lot of corn and oats, and even some soybeans went into the ground. The dry weather really spurred this activity on, and it also helped the alfalfa to grow. The height of this crop is approaching 12 inches in some spots. Soon scissors cutting testing will begin to take place. While there are areas of winterkill in both the alfalfa and winter wheat, the crops are recovering. Much of the alfalfa appears to have suffered only a little. Those fields that have been affected have either been plowed under already or will be after the first crop has been removed. The winter wheat is growing as well, but it appears the winterkill has hit this crop harder than the alfalfa. There are many areas with little if any wheat growing. Producers may choose to either plant other crops in these barren spots or till up entire areas and plant other crops in them. However, the wheat is looking better every day and some producers may choose to do nothing but let the crop grow, spraying the drowned areas so the weeds don't show up. The oats planting has pretty much wrapped up, and much of this crop has begun to emerge.

**CRAWFORD-J.B.:** A lot of field work was completed during the week. Farmers were able to proceed full speed ahead with planting corn, applying fertilizer, and performing spring tillage. For the most part alfalfa and winter wheat look good, however there are a few spots showing signs of winterkill. Vegetable operations have been planting early vegetable crops and fruit trees are blooming.

**LAFAYETTE-M.Y.:** I have not heard too much regarding the percentage of alfalfa affected by winter kill in the county, but I do know some has been affected as well as some winter barley.

**DODGE-R.H.:** Need warm, dry weather.

**WASHINGTON-J.N.:** Rain last Friday put all field work to a halt. Apple and pear trees are in full bloom.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 19, 2013

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 May 18	Mar. 1 To May 18 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	74	44	91	29	59	+2	226	287	0.16	9.63	+2.95	12.20	+3.67
Green Bay	65	45	76	30	55	0	209	238	0.30	7.91	+1.83	12.56	+4.30
La Crosse	75	49	92	35	62	+2	271	338	0.86	10.72	+3.43	13.12	+3.62
Madison	73	46	88	31	59	+2	292	331	0.57	11.31	+3.87	16.59	+6.66
Milwaukee	65	46	78	33	56	+1	218	n.a.	0.55	10.70	+2.54	16.90	+5.25

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.



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