



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



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Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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For the week of March 31-April 6, 2014
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A Slow Start to Spring

Though temperatures were close to average this week, the state was still feeling the effects of one of the coldest winters on record. Average temperatures ranged from 4 to 14 degrees below normal from December through March. This allowed deep and persistent snow cover, greater than normal frost depths and near-record high ice coverage on lakes and rivers.

Across the south and central portions of the state, reporters noted that snow was disappearing and frost was slowly coming out of the ground this week. Many reporters commented that pastures and winter wheat were slow to green up and condition was difficult to assess. Muddy fields and standing water were noted in some areas.

Northern Wisconsin experienced heavy snowfall on April 3rd and 4th, with total accumulations up to 15 inches reported. In many areas, this fell on top of up to 2 feet of snow already on the ground. Reporters in the north of the state noted roof collapses and difficulty accessing maple sugar bush due to deep snow.

Reporters commented that the extended cold and snowy conditions have some livestock producers contending with tight feed supplies, higher than normal livestock fatalities, and at or near-capacity manure storage structures.

On average, there were 0.2 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

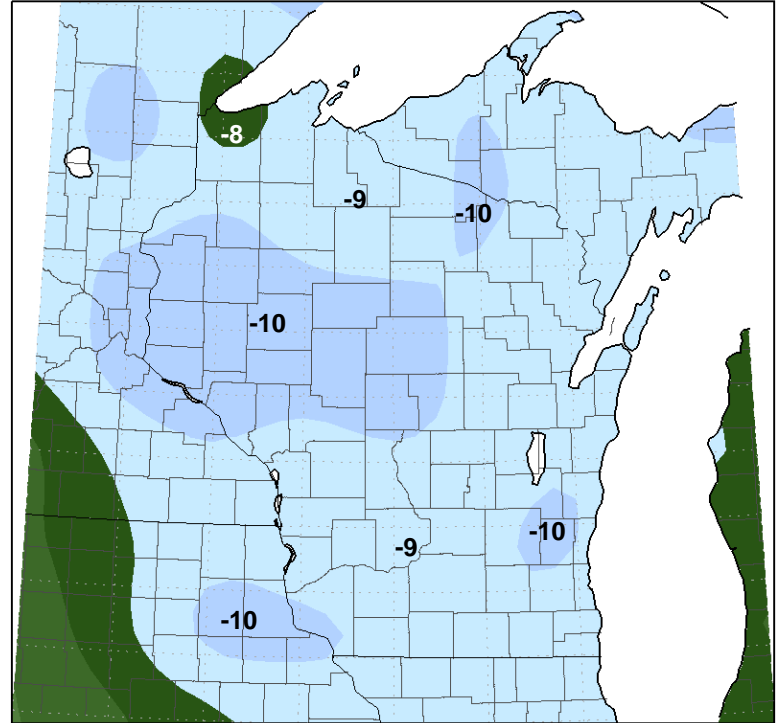
Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 2 degrees below normal to 1 degree above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 45 to 51 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 26 to 30 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.09 inches in Milwaukee to 1.27 inches in Eau Claire. 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/>

As of April 6, **spring tillage** had not yet begun.

The **maple syrup** season was underway, but off to a later start than usual. Some reporters noted that taps are not flowing due to cold temperatures.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
January 6, 2014 to April 5, 2014



Mean period is 1981-2010.



Wisconsin State Climatology Office www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco
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Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 6, 2014

| | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-----------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Pasture & Range | 40 | 23 | 20 | 17 | 0 |
| Winter Wheat | 5 | 10 | 52 | 32 | 1 |

Source: USDA, NASS

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of April 6, 2014

| Item | District average | | | | | | | | | | State average | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|---------------|-----------|--|
| | NW | NC | NE | WC | C | EC | SW | SC | SE | This week | Last week | Last year | |
| Days Suitable | Days | | | | | | | | | | Days | | |
| | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 | n/a | 0.3 | |
| Topsoil Moisture | Percent | | | | | | | | | | Percent | | |
| Very Short | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a | 2 | |
| Short | 2 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 4 | n/a | 14 | |
| Adequate | 67 | 70 | 35 | 58 | 59 | 48 | 72 | 82 | 79 | 66 | n/a | 69 | |
| Surplus | 31 | 22 | 56 | 40 | 41 | 52 | 14 | 15 | 18 | 30 | n/a | 15 | |
| Subsoil Moisture | Percent | | | | | | | | | | Percent | | |
| Very Short | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a | 9 | |
| Short | 16 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 31 | 14 | 7 | 13 | n/a | 33 | |
| Adequate | 74 | 75 | 45 | 74 | 67 | 58 | 62 | 78 | 85 | 71 | n/a | 52 | |
| Surplus | 9 | 17 | 46 | 13 | 29 | 36 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 16 | n/a | 6 | |

Source: USDA, NASS.

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.

DOUGLAS-C.B.: Still have snow 2 feet deep or more throughout most of the area.

POLK-A.M.: Still snow on the ground. Maple sap harvest has begun.

SAWYER-K.S.: Late spring snow storm dumped another 10-15 inches of snow, keeping fields snow covered. Snow depth is anywhere from 24 to 30 inches. Let's hope no more buildings collapse with this new wet and heavy snow. Some earlier melting occurred, with little or no frost in the ground, melt water should soak in. The long cold and snowy winter has stretched feed supplies, and a delayed spring green up will further put pressure on feed inventories. Maple syrup producers are having a difficult time accessing trees due to snow. Very little sap has run yet and given the calendar and forecast, the sap run will likely be limited and short.

TAYLOR/PRICE-D.E.: There is still a good snow cover in most areas, but fields planted to winter wheat are starting to green up nicely.

VILAS-R.K.: 7 inches of snow today. Add that to the 2 ft still on the ground. Looks like a late planting season again.

MARINETTE-S.R.: Difficult to calculate subsoil and topsoil moisture in soil that is frozen solid. Even with predicted warmth next week, will probably be a fair while before field work gets started.

OCONTO-J.M.: Fields continue to be under snow cover. Warmer temperatures received over the weekend and are forecasted for the upcoming week.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Most of the frost is still in the ground yet. We will not be in the fields for a while. Wheat is still brown.

DUNN-S.S.: No field work - some manure hauling. Still 35% snow covered. Frost just starting to come out. Hay fields too early to tell. Maple syrup just started to get under way.

EAU CLAIRE-J.C.: Soil was starting to appear from under the melting snow and is now covered again. Manure application is occurring as needed to make room in storage structures. Some farms reporting higher than normal livestock fatalities this winter.

PORTAGE-J.B.: Too early to tell on anything here. Still many areas covered in snow!

WOOD-M.L.: We still have snow cover so field work has not begun.

KEWAUNEE-J.J.: Some snow cover in drifted areas of fields, water ponded in other areas.

OUTAGAMIE-S.S.: Crop conditions are really hard to judge because of such a late spring.

IOWA-S.M.: We have not had enough heat units for pastures or winter wheat to break dormancy.

RICHLAND-J.C.: The winter is still holding on, and there has not been a chance to get into the fields at this point. Still a lot of frost in the ground.

SAUK-J.P.: It is really difficult to make any sort of assessment of ground conditions; we still have patches of snow and the ground is frozen. Though it was a long winter and it seemed like a lot of snow we may find that we are low on moisture.

COLUMBIA-G.K.: Still have frost in most locations. Winter wheat is showing very few signs of greening up yet. Snow is gone in most locations, just a few small piles or drifts visible.

DANE-F.P.: Snow still remaining along fence lines, trees and ditches. Haven't seen anyone out in fields anywhere.

KENOSHA/RACINE-N.B.: Fields are still fairly wet. Two producers were seen fertilizing wheat acres. Some areas of fields damaged by ice. Frost is rapidly coming out of the ground.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: Snow cover gone except for north side of fences and buildings. Winter wheat still in dormancy or showing very little growth. Rye is greening up. Alfalfa still in dormancy. Too cold for anything to grow.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 6, 2014

| 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 5 | Mar. 1 to Apr. 5 normal* | Last Week | Since Mar. 1 | Mar. 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Eau Claire | 46 | 26 | 59 | 18 | 36 | -1 | 8 | 7 | 1.27 | 1.79 | -0.50 | 4.99 | +0.87 |
| Green Bay | 45 | 28 | 53 | 24 | 37 | +0 | 5 | 8 | 0.23 | 1.14 | -1.33 | 3.93 | -0.74 |
| La Crosse | 51 | 29 | 68 | 21 | 40 | -1 | 21 | 20 | 0.56 | 1.86 | -0.62 | 4.22 | -0.46 |
| Madison | 50 | 30 | 65 | 22 | 40 | +1 | 18 | 22 | 0.14 | 1.40 | -1.40 | 3.29 | -2.01 |
| Milwaukee | 47 | 30 | 58 | 21 | 38 | -2 | 12 | n.a. | 0.09 | 1.22 | -1.99 | 3.96 | -2.75 |

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.

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