

Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 2, 2005

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Farmers Anxious for Warmer Temperatures

Cooler than normal temperatures during the week slowed the pace of planting for producers. Many continue to wait for warmer weather so they can return to the fields. Temperatures were 4 to 10 degrees lower than normal for this time of year. Low temperatures were reported in the low 30s, while high temperatures only reached the low 60s during the week. Rainfall this past week ranged from 0.05 to 0.50 inches. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 1 percent very short, 20 percent short, 69 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. There was an average of 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

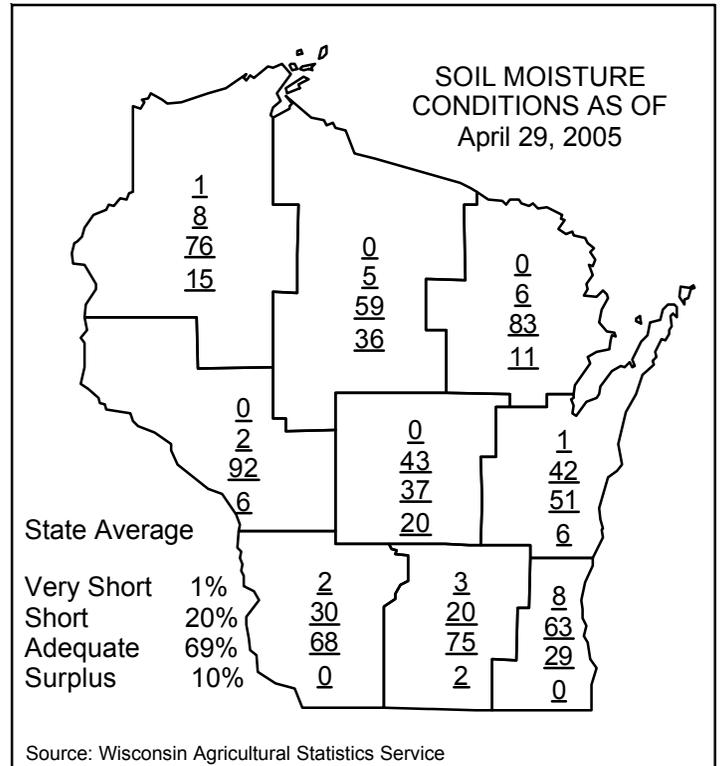
Corn planted was reported at 26 percent complete, above both last year's 14 percent, and the 5-year average of 17 percent. Corn emerged was reported as 1 percent complete. Colder temperatures in the northern part of the state caused some farmers to delay planting, whereas southern farmers made considerably more progress during the week. Soil temperatures remained a concern across the state, continuing to affect corn emergence.

Winter freeze damage to **alfalfa** has affected planting decisions for many producers across the state. Some have decided to tear up severely damaged fields and plant other crops, such as corn and oats. Reports indicate that the winterkill has had a greater impact on older alfalfa stands, while recently planted stands have fared better.

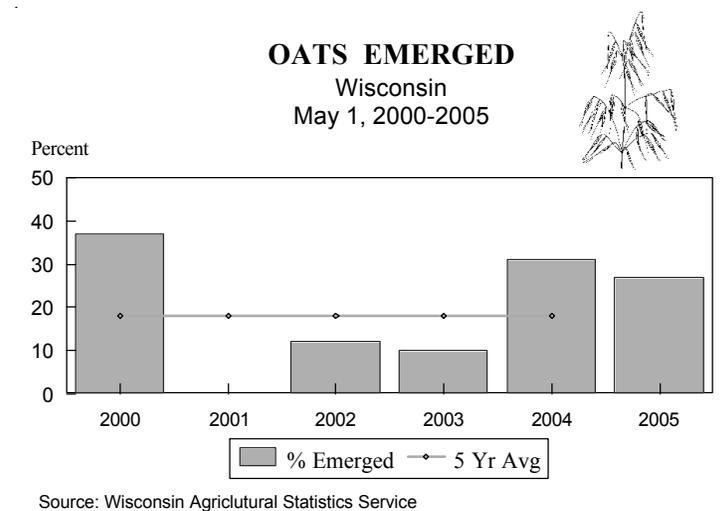
Oats planted was at 68 percent complete, below last year's 72 percent, but above the 5-year average of 57 percent. Oats emerged was at 27 percent, behind last year's 31 percent, but above the 5-year average of 18 percent. **Spring tillage** completed was at 51 percent, above last year's 50 percent, as well as the 5-year average of 44 percent. **Soybeans** planted was reported at 4 percent complete, above last year's 2 percent and the 5-year average of 1 percent.

Pasture conditions were rated as 2 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. **Winter wheat** conditions were reported at 9 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

Potatoes, peas, and other vegetables continue to be planted. **Apple, apricot, peach,** and **pear** trees have begun to flower in the central and southern parts of the state.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 29, 2005					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	2	12	34	48	4
Winter Wheat	9	12	37	39	3



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 1, 2005

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Oats planted	47	30	63	62	77	63	94	94	96	68	72	57
Oats emerged	2	1	3	16	14	20	58	65	64	27	31	18
Corn planted	5	4	10	11	10	24	43	40	46	26	14	17
Soybeans planted	0	0	1	0	0	3	4	5	7	4	2	1
Spring tillage completed	36	41	61	36	46	42	67	63	68	51	50	44

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Too early to tell about winterkill. Some oats are being planted; however, a full week of cold, cloudy, snowy days with freezing temperatures every night has brought everything to a standstill.

BURNETT-R.B.: Rye looks like about 20 percent with light damage, clover much more. Some oats planted, but most fields have one or two low spots in it. There is no corn planted yet. Had light snow three days this week and cold wind.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Very little winter damage to alfalfa or rye, except where water ponded in low areas. Some spring tillage is done. Planting of all spring crops is well behind normal. There are no crops emerging; too cold and wet.

MARATHON-M.K.: Lost 95 percent of hay seeding from last year and old stands. Too cold and wet.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Alfalfa damage is none to quite severe in all fields. Age of stand not a factor, December ice and thaw was. Rain and snow showers all week have kept things damp and cool. Ground ready for corn and soybeans-just needs to warm back up.

OCONTO-K.H.: Both alfalfa and winter wheat have been affected by winterkill. Upland areas are thinned and in low spots large and small stands are completely killed out. Small grain and hay seeding is progressing. Corn planting just getting a good start.

MONROE-W.D.: Most severe winterkill is along road ditches and areas of heavy snow and ice accumulation. This past week has been wet and cold; not much going on except manure hauling.

PEPIN-H.R.: Older alfalfa showing lots of winterkill, especially in low spots and water runs. There is no reseeding in this area yet. Spring tillage is going good only on the light soils. Plenty wet yet on heavy soils. Some corn getting planted by the larger corn farms. Some early-planted sweet corn has emerged. Cold weather this week makes everything look a little on the yellow side.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Winterkill varied from field to field. Older seeding more damaged than newer seeding. Too cold and wet for much work to be done. Some early-planted oats is emerging. We need drier and warmer weather to get going again.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: No-till wheat looks poor, conventional till wheat looks good. Older alfalfa and some with a three cut system have severe winterkill. New seedings look good. Oats are all planted, along with the new seeding. Too cold to plant corn this week.

BROWN-D.S.: Severe winterkill is across the county. Anywhere from 40 to 100 percent of alfalfa is either bring reseeded or replaced with corn. Tillage was making good progress until the recent rain this week.

CALUMET-M.G.: Most of the alfalfa replanting has been completed. If the weather cooperates, we will really be hitting the corn hard next week.

GRANT-D.W.: The alfalfa really looks good- no appreciable damage, and it is growing well. Lots of activity in the field- some are done planting corn.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: This cool, dry weather is harming alfalfa that had gotten off to a fast start earlier. Most of the first year hay was in pretty good shape relative to winterkill.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Some alfalfa is being spot treated, and other fields are completely plowed up. The cold nights are holding the corn in the ground. Some corn has been planted almost two weeks and is still not up. Most fields are fit to plant-just too cold.

ROCK-S.W.: A lot of alfalfa, winter wheat, and pastures were winterkilled. Plenty of alfalfa being reseeded. Corn planting should wrap up soon. Soybeans are being planted.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: There is winterkill in both wheat and alfalfa. The ground is dry and cold. It is windy, so can not even spray. Ground has perfect tilth to plant in.

WAUKESHA-D.R.: A lot of reseeding in alfalfa is being done. We are very dry here, a lot of corn is being planted very early.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 1, 2005

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 April 30	Mar. 1 to April 30 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	51	32	60	29	41	-9	242	120	0.30	4.15	-0.62	6.04
Green Bay	51	33	62	30	42	-7	171	97	0.50	2.99	-1.61	5.92
La Crosse	53	34	61	29	44	-10	281	151	0.09	3.92	-1.44	6.60
Madison	54	33	62	30	44	-7	257	152	0.12	3.25	-2.35	6.90
Milwaukee	54	37	64	32	45	-4	149	n.a.	0.05	2.23	-4.14	7.33

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.