



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

April 23, 2001 - 3 p.m.

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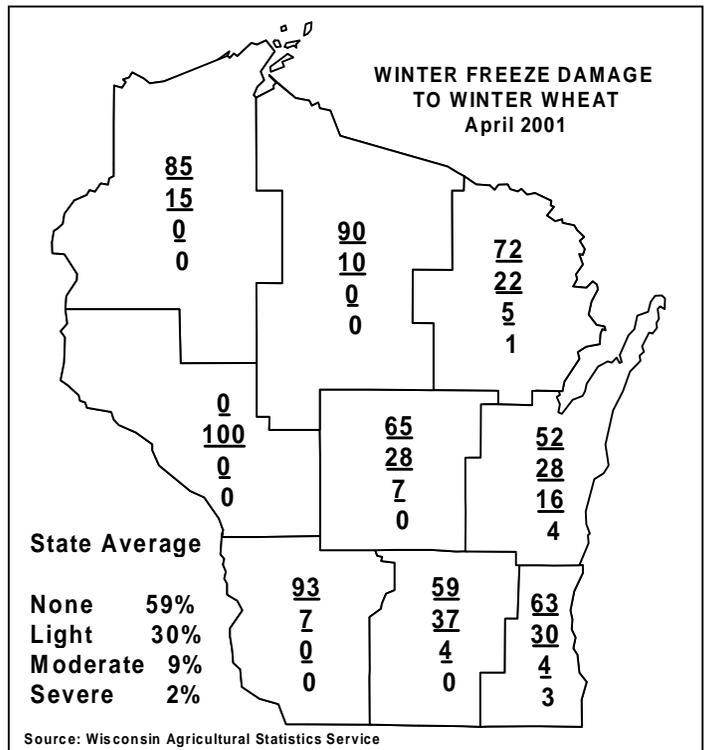
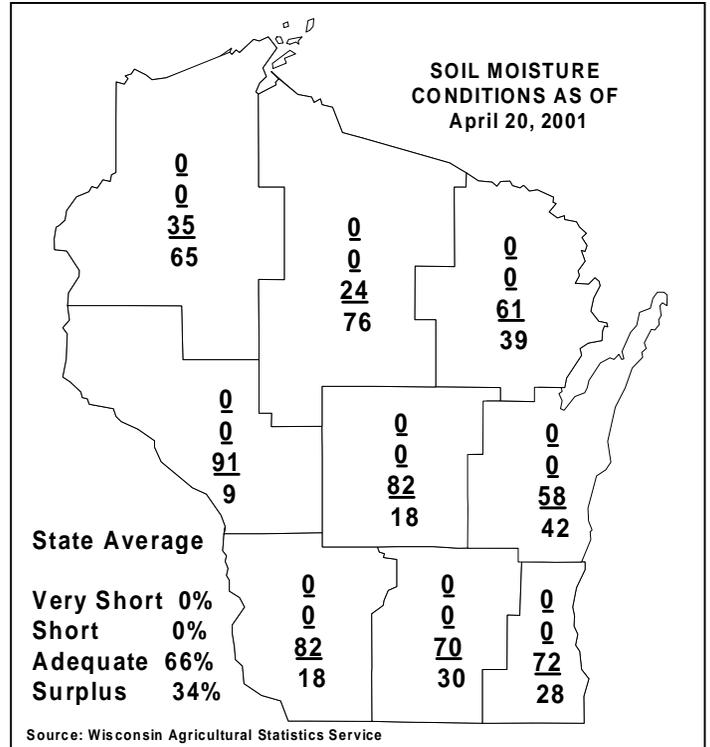
Fieldwork Started, Then Stopped Again

Early last week farmers were able to start fieldwork. While reports of fieldwork seemed to be spread across most of the state, these reports also stated that almost all fieldwork was limited to high ground and sandy soils. There were also plenty of reports of areas where fieldwork has yet to start this year. This is especially true in the northern part of the state. At the end of the week, a widespread band of showers moved across the state, bringing fieldwork to a virtual standstill state-wide. A Grant County reporter mentioned that flooding was a problem in many fields along the tributaries of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. After a promising start to the week, the late rains limited fieldwork to 2.5 days suitable. Soil moisture was 66% adequate, and 34% surplus.

Alfalfa, winter wheat, and rye have benefitted from the wet spring weather and continued to green up. Winter freeze damage to the winter wheat crop was rated as 59% none, 30% light, 9% moderate and 2% severe in Wisconsin. **Oats** reached 8% planted state-wide last week.

Maple Sap season is ending with most taps sealing over. Comments continued to be mixed on syrup yields.

Potato and pea planting got started last week before being shut down by rain. Producers are anxious to get back out into the fields to continue planting. There were several reports that the digging of **horseradish** roots started last week before the rains stopped progress.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 20, 2001					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	6	15	24	47	8

Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 22, 2001

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	1	0	4	1	11	6	21	8	15	8	61	29
Spring tillage	5	2	4	3	17	7	18	6	17	8	44	22

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON -C.P.: A few corn stalks were disked over, and a little manure was spread. Then it started to rain and all action ceased.

BAYFIELD-J.M.: Fields are too wet to work. No tillage done yet.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Rain is still keeping equipment out of the fields. Broadleaf weeds in hayfields have broken dormancy and are greening up.

CLARK-R.W.: Some Amish had started plowing until it rained again. One farmer planted 14 acres of no-till corn on Thursday just to see if he could; he didn't get stuck, and said it worked pretty well.

MARATHON-K.B.: Some producers have been spreading manure. Some have been top dressing alfalfa fields. It is too wet to do much else.

ONEIDA-L.O.: Still too wet to get into the fields.

LANGLADE-K.W.: Late spring; no fieldwork as yet. Some farmers hauling manure.

MARINETTE-S.R.: Just starting fieldwork activity. Temperatures and moisture combining to keep work at a minimum.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Western end of the county is able to do a little fieldwork; east end still waiting, and it will be a few days yet.

EAU CLAIRE-M.P.: Saw first tillage occurring on Thursday. It rained Thursday night. Producers are ready for spring, but spring is not ready. Alfalfa and pastures are starting to green.

PEPIN-H.R.: Some potatoes being planted. Starting to dig horseradish roots also. Hayfields are greening up. Doesn't look like winterkill will be a problem. Very poor sap season. Some tillage in sandy soils.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Remains cool. Need a warm rain to start growth.

PORTAGE-T.C.: Potato planting started mid-week. Many fields still too wet to be worked.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Peas being planted, and the potato growers are starting to plant potatoes. Hayfields look good, but didn't grow much the past few days; it has been too cool.

BROWN-K.J.: Very little activity in the fields. Some people trying to work on sandy ground. Hay and winter wheat seems to be looking good and greening up. Producers are getting anxious to get going.

DOOR-M.F.: Our first peas of the season will go in this week. We are still very wet, and only the highest and lightest-soiled fields are going at this time. Fruit growers have noticed above average mouse damage to the young tree trunks. Alfalfa has come through the winter in great shape.

KEWAUNEE-C.L.: Still too cold.

WINNEBAGO-J.K.: Reports of some tillage on the hills. Not much activity on the majority of farms with clay soils.

GRANT-J.G.: Oats and corn are getting planted at the same time. Ground is working up great. Rain on Thursday night slowed things down. Bottom ground near rivers and creeks is flooding.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: Plenty wet now.

RICHLAND-B.W.: Just too cold and too wet for any kind of activity.

DANE-D.R.: Fieldwork on hold until the weather changes.

JEFFERSON-B.K.: Oats going in fast. Corn planting will crank up shortly, if weather is right.

ROCK-D.M.: Very little fieldwork done yet this spring, due to wet field conditions

RACINE-L.F.: Things are moving slow around here. After driving across the state this past week, we are far behind other southern areas of the state.

WASHINGTON-L.K.: Cold and snow flurries over the weekend of the 14th. Winter wheat and alfalfa may have been hurt a little; it has gotten a lighter green color here later in the week. Some fieldwork has started; little planting, though. A little fertilizer being spread. Some soybeans that were not harvested last fall are being cut; they were dry, but a little discolored. Another .5 inch of rain by noon on Friday.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: No fieldwork being done.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rfsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia State Statistician	Angela Byers-Krantz Statistician
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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 22, 2001

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. 21	Mar. 1 to Apr. 21 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	56	34	71	24	45	-1	65	75	0.98	5.57	2.00	7.17
Green Bay	57	36	77	26	46	1	75	65	0.30	3.80	0.12	6.25
La Crosse	60	38	81	29	49	0	102	100	0.48	4.97	1.03	7.15
Madison	58	37	74	27	48	2	109	104	1.18	3.58	-0.53	7.21
Milwaukee	57	37	80	28	47	2	90	n.a.	1.13	3.89	-1.22	8.48

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 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.