



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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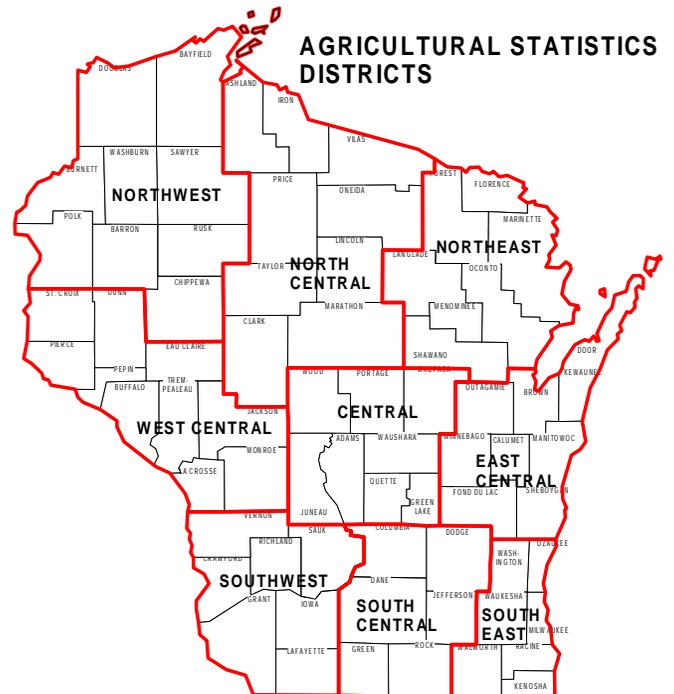
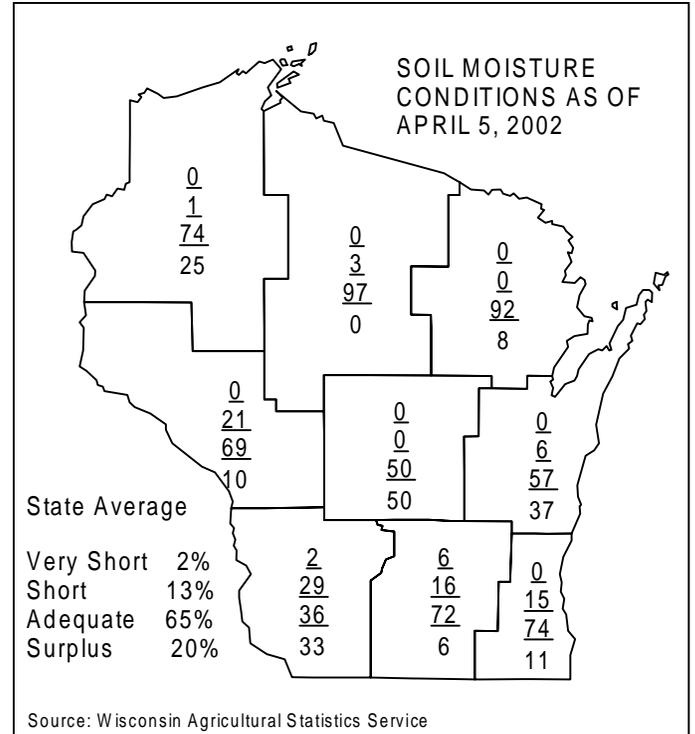
Another Slow Start

Much like last year, Wisconsin's 2002 growing season is starting very slowly; temperatures were about 10 degrees below normal across the state. For the week ending April 7, there was an average of 1.0 days suitable for fieldwork across the state. The soil moisture was reported 2% very short, 13% short, 65% adequate, and 20% surplus. The short and very short soil moisture was reported mainly in the southern part of the state.

The northern third of the state is still snow covered. Many reports stated that the ground is still frozen. There were a few reports of manure hauling, but the main agriculture activity in this area is maple sap. Reports from the central part of the state were encouraging; they are expecting an equal or better maple yield, compared to last year. Reports from the north were not so encouraging, with the days not warming up, the maple sap is not running well.

Scattered locations in the southern part of the state have started spring tillage. The main field activities in this area were manure spreading and fertilizer application, but there were a few reports of oats being planted in the southwest part of the state.

There were some positive reports on the condition of the alfalfa and winter wheat fields in the southern part of the state. Although they are looking good where they are not still snow covered, most reporters agree that it is still too early to assess the extent of the winter kill damage for these crops.



Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Everything is still covered with snow.
CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Snow is on the ground and the soils are still frozen.
RUSK-G.P.: No activity yet. Fields are still mostly snow covered. Snow and periods of rain have left ice on the hayfields. Still too early to assess the damage. Maple syrup season is alright so far.
ASHLAND-A.R.: Fields are all still resting under a heavy cover of snow. Have not seen any maple syrup activity as of yet.
CLARK_C.B.: Ground frozen well enough to haul big hales of hay without cutting it.
ONEIDA-P.L.: Frost still in the ground. Snow cover is still visible in most fields. The maple sap is not running well, as it is still too cold at night and not warm enough during the days. If it warms up this next week, maybe the sap will run. Looks like a late spring. More than average fieldwork was done last fall, so that should help with the spring fieldwork. Snow is melting slowly and soaking in, so it should set up for a good soil moisture situation for spring planting.
FOREST-A.K.: We have about twelve inches of snow on frozen ground. Maple syrup is on and off.
SHAWANO-B.R.: No one in field yet, as there is still considerable frost in ground.
BUFFALO-R.S.: There is still about 70 percent snow cover here yet, not much frost.
PEPIN-T.M.: Three to six inches of snow cover remaining. Some manure spreading being done. Early season maple syrup was high quality.
JUNEAU-R.C.: Some manure hauling and some spreading has been done. Preparing machinery is about all that is taking place. Still have three inches of snow on the ground.
WAUSHARA-L.K.: No field activity yet. Alfalfa that was cut the last part of August and September doesn't look too good now. Won't know how it survives until we get some warm weather.
BROWN-C.F.: We received some wet, heavy snow on Monday. Some field fertilizing going on the winter wheat and some rye. Some manure application is being done. Some silos are getting low on feed. Getting equipment ready for fieldwork.

DOOR-M.F.: Some growers are delaying the application of nitrogen this spring, due to very good growth that occurred last fall. Maple syrup producers speak of increased production over last year, with quality being very good. Weather permitting, we expect peas to begin being planted by the end of next week.
GRANT-L.F.: There are not any fields being planted as of yet. There is no frost in the ground. Hay and winter wheat fields are brown, can't tell if much damage is done yet. Manure spreading is being done.
SAUK-C.N.: Flurries/snow most of week with cold temperatures. Did see some ground being plowed. Haven't heard of much activity to date.
DANE-J.K.: Unable to get in the field as of yet. Still have some frost. Winter wheat looks fair, although it turned brown. Alfalfa is hard to tell yet, but looks alright.
GREEN-M.M.: Winter wheat looked to have survived the winter well. Alfalfa started growing and new shoots show some damage due to frost. Will be able to tell survival rate better this week. Fieldwork is behind last year, and only about 5-10 percent of the oats are planted.
JEFFERSON-J.M.: Last week fertilizer was spread. We had some snow in the last two days, so ground is frozen again. Winter wheat looks alright so far.
WALWORTH-E.P.: Wheat came through in excellent condition. Alfalfa looks good. If weather permits, seeding and planting will be done next week.
WASHINGTON-R.B.: Hay fields are 1/2-1" grown. Wheat is starting to green up.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 7, 2002

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 6	Mar. 1 to April 6 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	36	21	46	13	28	-11	3	9	0.30	3.17	0.79	5.25
Green Bay	38	25	46	22	31	-8	2	10	0.18	2.26	-0.30	4.36
La Crosse	39	25	50	20	32	-10	12	23	0.38	1.90	-0.70	4.54
Madison	39	24	47	19	32	-9	14	23	0.35	1.98	-0.93	4.78
Milwaukee	39	28	45	25	33	-8	12	n.a.	0.38	2.10	-1.23	5.00

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.