



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 13, 2002

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Weather Splits State

Field conditions varied throughout Wisconsin. Northern Wisconsin farmers, seeing regular rainfall and cool temperatures, waited for field conditions to improve. Several farmers in southeast Wisconsin were finishing planting with adequate soil moisture. Statewide, farmers commented on the need for warmer temperatures. Last week Wisconsin saw 4.0 days suitable for fieldwork.

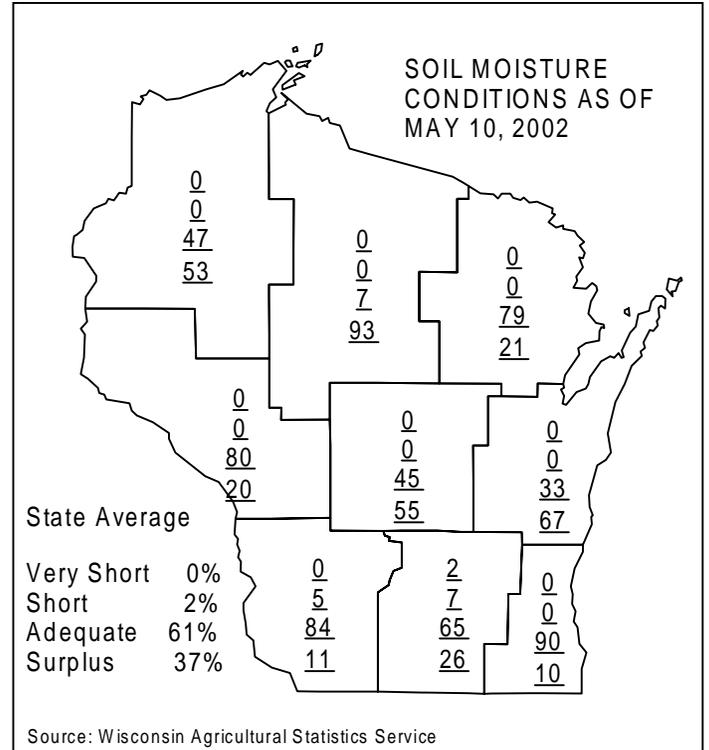
Weather conditions split the state. Southern and west central Wisconsin had adequate soil moisture and soil temperatures suitable for planting. Northern, central, and east central Wisconsin had surplus soil moisture and soil temperatures too cool for planting. For that reason, planting stalled in northern Wisconsin, yet continued comparable to the 5-year average in southern Wisconsin. Overall, this mix in field conditions caused **corn** and **oats** planting averages for the state to be below last year and the 5-year averages. Many northern Wisconsin farmers commented that field activity was slow on all fronts: tillage, planting, and spraying. A common thread in Wisconsin is the standing water; northern Wisconsin reported more widespread areas, while in southern Wisconsin it was limited to low-lying fields.

Corn planting and emergence increased from the north to the south, with southern locations approximately half done with planting. A farmer in Grant County reported that corn planted last week sprouted, while corn planted a month ago has not emerged. A Taylor County reporter noted early-planted corn was rotting prior to emergence. In Lafayette County, one farmer considered replanting corn. A Buffalo County farmer noted a lot of corn was planted last week, yet it was too cold to grow.

Soybean planting progressed in southern Wisconsin, ahead of last year and the 5-year average. The northern two-thirds of the state was well behind last year and the 5-year average.

Winter wheat and **alfalfa** fields were reported as showing signs of excessive moisture in Fond du Lac County. A farmer in Dane County reported alfalfa fields getting close to first cutting. A Shawano County farmer reported small alfalfa plants were starting to rot, with the cool, wet weather. Oats were reported good throughout the state, with progress increasing greatly from north to south. **Rye** in Lafayette County entered boot stage last week, with some lodging associated with the heavy rain.

Portage and Langlade Counties reported **potato** planting continuing or finishing, depending on soil conditions. **Plum** trees started blooming in Sauk County last week. A Bayfield reporter noted **apple** trees were in the silver tip stage. **Peas** were reported looking good in Rock County, while emerging slowly in Brown County. **Cranberry** growers in Wood County reported watching bogs nightly due to cold temperatures.

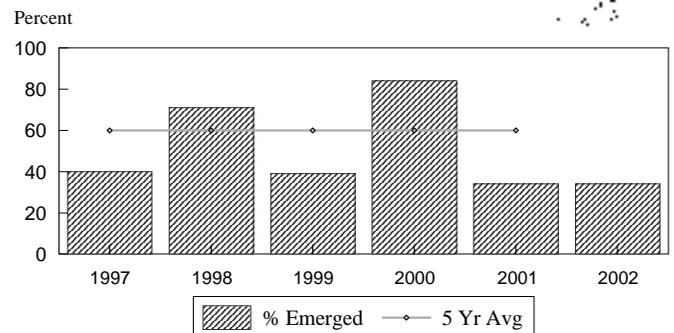


Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 10, 2002

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	3	5	22	54	16
Winter wheat	0	1	8	59	32
Oat	0	4	26	61	9

OATS EMERGED

Wisconsin
May 12, 1997-2002



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 12, 2002

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
Corn planted	19	7	16	33	21	20	57	56	42	35	43	60
Soybeans planted	n.a.	n.a.	2	2	2	6	29	25	24	20	14	20
Oats planted	39	36	45	67	70	47	96	92	98	65	78	92
Oats emerged	15	13	16	30	33	25	61	58	66	34	34	60
Spring tillage	33	27	49	53	37	45	66	59	69	50	66	79

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Spring fieldwork is progressing slowly. Hope we get some moisture later in the growing season when we need it. Alfalfa is hardly growing.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Spring tillage has continued on light soils. Heavy rains have brought everything to a standstill. Oats that have emerged look good. Alfalfa looks good, but has slowed in growth due to cold weather.

ASHLAND-G.M.: Fields are extremely wet. No pasturing done yet due to wet ground. No crops in as of yet.

MARATHON-M.K.: Fields are still very wet. Hayfields are slow and are in poor shape. We have not planted any crops yet. We have 1,000 acres of corn to plant and seeding to do; but it is going to be late.

ONEIDA-L.O.: Producers are spreading manure and fertilizer on fields. Some fieldwork beginning as the fields dry out.

PRICE-M.K.: Extremely wet and cold weather has precluded almost all fieldwork.

SHAWANO-J.S.: Farmers just trying to get crops in between rain showers. Little, if any, corn emerged yet.

BUFFALO-R.S.: In spite of rain, a lot of corn was planted. It's too cold to grow yet. Looking at the size of oak leaves, our weather is three weeks behind normal. Probably headed for a late, wet spring, followed by a dry, hot summer.

PEPIN-R.W.: Soils are very wet. No planting progress all week due to cold temperatures and frequent rains.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Most producers are waiting for soil temperatures to warm up. Ground is working up nice and moisture conditions are excellent. Need some warm, sunny days to get pastures and oats growing well.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Potato planting nearing completion. Oats just starting to emerge. Need some warm weather to get things going. Recent rains have slowed planting.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Alfalfa is growing slow due to a couple of mornings of hard frost. Some corn and soybeans are being planted. Lots of potatoes have been planted.

BROWN-O.G.: Frequent rains continue to delay all spring work.

FOND DU LAC-R.L.P.: Planted some soybeans, but still lots of wet spots. Winter wheat is starting to show signs of excessive moisture problems. Some hayfields also showing moisture problems.

MANITOWOC-D.S.: Slow on all fronts. Three days no rain, but then one to two days of rain. Storm cell on Monday eve dumped 2.50 inches in a half an hour. Major washing of open fields.

Alfalfa best of three crops: alfalfa, corn, and oats.

GRANT-L.F.: Monday and Tuesday most everyone was plowing, chiseling, or doing some sort of fieldwork. Lots of corn and soybeans planted. Oats are mostly all planted and lots of them are up now so you can row it. Oats are on the yellowish side. Have not seen any corn up yet. Fruit trees, especially pear trees, are loaded with blossoms. Pastures where cattle were left grazing early are in very poor condition. Hayfields look good, except for the dandelions. Ground is working up really nice. Seeing a lot of no-till planting in soybean stubble.

DANE-D.R.: Farmers are cramming a lot of work into the days with no rain. Persistent rains make tillage and planting difficult. Reports of alfalfa 8-10 inches tall.

DODGE-G.R.: Low-lying fields once again have standing water. Many oat fields are emerged and look good. Fruit trees blossoming. Corn fields that are planted are not up yet. Alfalfa fields look great.

ROCK-C.H.: Great time of year. Tractors rolling, earth being turned over and smells great. New crops coming up.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Most farmers are done planting corn. Soybeans are being planted. Hay and winter wheat look good. A little rain Thursday morning, but not enough to stop fieldwork.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Nice work week. Corn going in at a rapid rate.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 12, 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 May 11	Mar. 1 to May 11 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	59	40	69	35	49	-6	207	213	0.69	8.68	2.74	10.76
Green Bay	56	42	62	37	49	-5	172	176	0.82	6.24	0.77	8.34
La Crosse	66	46	81	42	56	-2	264	256	0.34	6.42	-0.13	9.06
Madison	64	46	78	43	55	0	257	254	1.16	6.79	0.07	9.58
Milwaukee	61	46	75	41	53	0	217	n.a.	0.94	6.77	-0.75	9.67

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.