



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

April 28, 2003

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Spring Planting Accelerates with Favorable Weather

Tractors were running hard across most of Wisconsin during the week ending April 27. Last week saw an average of 4.4 days suitable for fieldwork across the state. Wet fields slowed progress in the northern two-thirds of the state, but producers were putting seed in the ground in the fields that were workable. Southern Wisconsin, with drier field conditions, saw the most activity. Precipitation for the week was mostly below .25 inches. Soil moisture conditions were reported to be 2% very short, 20% short, 63% adequate, and 15% surplus. Moisture levels were adequate for spring planting, but southern producers are worried that it could dry out very quickly without more precipitation. Temperatures for the week were 2-5 degrees colder than normal. Very little frost was reported and temperatures were favorable for fieldwork, statewide. Pastures were slow to green up. Pasture field conditions were reported as 6% very poor, 19% poor, 37% fair, 35% good, and 3% excellent.

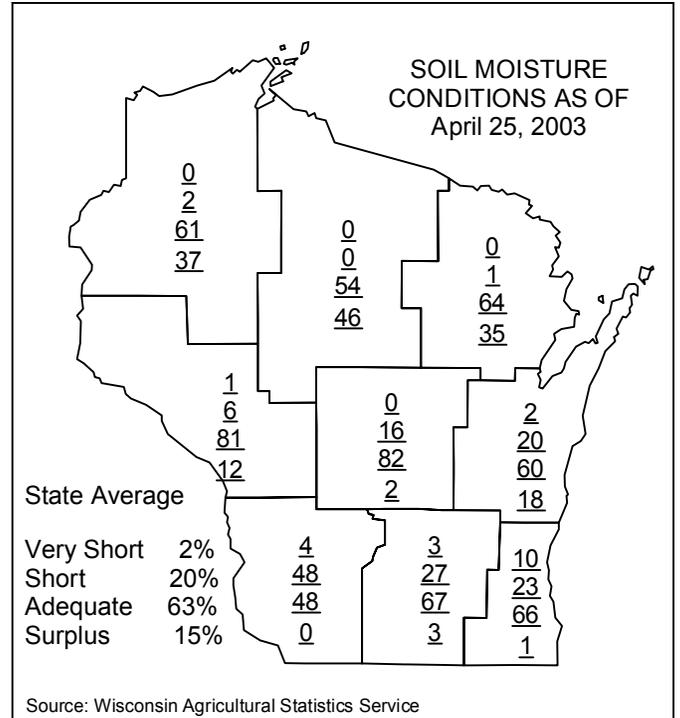
Corn planting has begun in the southern two-thirds of the state and is moving forward rapidly. Corn planted reached 8% complete, compared to 7% last year, and 8% for the 5-year average. Producers are trying to get as much fieldwork completed as possible, in case it turns wet and cold soon.

Winter freeze damage to **winter wheat** was reported as 4% severe, 7% moderate, 26% light and 63% no damage. Some fields that had looked good earlier are now showing signs of damage. Winterkill damage was mostly on exposed locations, hilltops, and poorly drained areas. The amount of damage to the crop has yet to be determined. Planting of **oats** was at 38% completed, ahead of 33% last year, but behind the 5-year average of 46% completed. Early-planted oats have begun to emerge in southern Wisconsin.

Alfalfa was reported as greening up across the state. Most producers feel that the crop came through the winter in better condition than had been expected, after the deep frost levels of last winter. Damage to older stands and late-harvested fields has begun to show in parts of the state. Producers will be keeping a close eye on future growth.

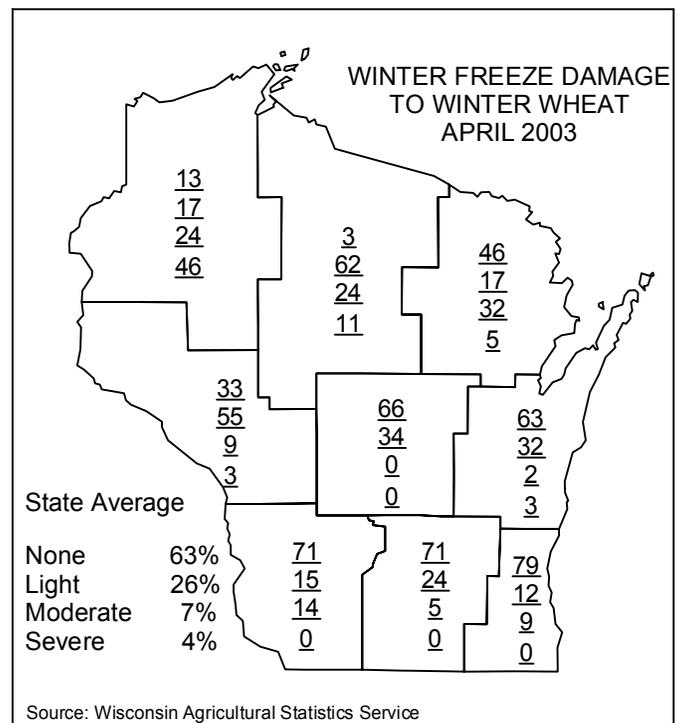
The northern areas of the state saw field activities that included manure spreading, fertilizer application, and **spring tillage** operations, wherever field conditions allowed. **Maple syrup** season has ended in most areas of the state. Lincoln County reported pulling of taps. Most reports were of a below average run, but quality was good, with a high sugar content. Richland County had **cherry** trees in bloom and **apple** trees were reported to be right behind.

Planting of **peas** has begun in areas that have canning factories. Waukesha County had a report of some **sweet corn** being planted.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 25, 2003

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	6	19	37	35	3
Winter wheat	4	5	26	59	6



Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 27, 2003

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
Spring tillage completed	12	5	12	19	23	16	44	30	38	24	19	33
Oats planted	15	12	8	18	26	18	69	62	75	38	33	46
Corn planted	0	0	1	3	1	4	16	10	9	8	7	8

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Too early to detect any winter crop damage. Frost is still in the ground, and no signs of fieldwork.

WASHBURN-K.S.: Some alfalfa winterkill is showing up. In general, alfalfa came through the winter much better than expected. Fieldwork is in full swing. There are some places where the frost is not out. Oats are being seeded. Corn and soybean ground is being worked.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Very little sign of winterkill. Alfalfa not showing much growth. Wheat and rye also very slow. Heavy rains this week stopped fieldwork. Some manure was spread.

ONEIDA-P.L.: The frost is coming out nicely with the warm weather and the rain. Manure is being spread. Grass, rye, and wheat are greening up.

OCONTO-K.H.: Manure spreading going on. Some tillage and a few instances of planting small grains and seedings. A field or two of corn is being planted. High, light ground dry enough to be worked, but the great majority just starting to dry enough to get out on it.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Some oats being planted on the light soils in the county. There are a few farmers hauling out manure.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Alfalfa and wheat look good here. Oats that were planted a week ago sprouted, but has not emerged. Fieldwork has finally started, and seeding small grains also. Still no usable pasture.

DUNN-J.F.: Oat planting underway on the loamy sands, as well as some corn. The alfalfa seems to be in good shape, despite the bitter cold and lack of snow.

PEPIN-H.R.: Alfalfa is greening up with little or no signs of winterkill. Potatoes are getting started. Some corn was planted the last couple of days. Maple syrup done, just an average or below average season. Some oats planted, but none up yet.

GREEN LAKE-D.S.: Currently there is little, if any, evidence of winterkill in alfalfa or winter wheat.

WAUPACA-L.B.: Finally getting dry enough to get on the land. Some oats going in. One farmer started planting corn.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Winter wheat seems to have very little winterkill. Most alfalfa looks good, only a few fields showing

some winterkill. Peas and potatoes are being planted. Some plowing and disking taking place.

BROWN-D.S.: Farmers still have to be selective on which fields are fit to work. Planting should proceed as weather permits from this point.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Alfalfa and winter wheat looking good at this time, not much winterkill. No crops emerging yet. Starting to see spring tillage now, ground works up very well.

CRAWFORD-D.W.: Very little winterkill. Hauling manure and seeding oats. Some corn was planted.

IOWA-S.M.: Some of the winter wheat is showing winterkill. The alfalfa looks excellent. Corn planting has started. Fields are dry, and soil is working up very nicely.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Direct-planted about 400 acres of corn into soybean stubble and some last years' corn fields. Soil moisture ranges from perfect to almost too wet. Soil structure very friable. Soil cold, but it is time to plant. Winter rye is really starting to grow.

DODGE-L.P.: Wheat looks like it is coming along. We have a few just starting to plant oats and getting ready to plant corn.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: Alfalfa and winter wheat look good. Only winterkill seems to be in low spots where ice stood for a period of time. Small grains emerging. Corn planting is just starting.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Some corn being planted.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Corn planting started Thursday in earnest. A lot of corn planted today. Flooding in some low spots in some fields.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 27, 2003

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. 26	Mar. 1 to Apr. 26 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	59	35	71	28	47	-2	185	104	0.16	5.56	1.25	6.52
Green Bay	53	34	62	29	44	-4	105	87	0.18	4.10	-0.17	5.25
La Crosse	60	38	70	29	49	-3	197	135	0.07	4.52	-0.34	5.61
Madison	58	36	69	30	47	-2	170	136	0.13	2.85	-2.33	3.71
Milwaukee	50	37	66	30	43	-5	123	n.a.	0.10	3.07	-2.83	3.86

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.