



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

April 12, 2004

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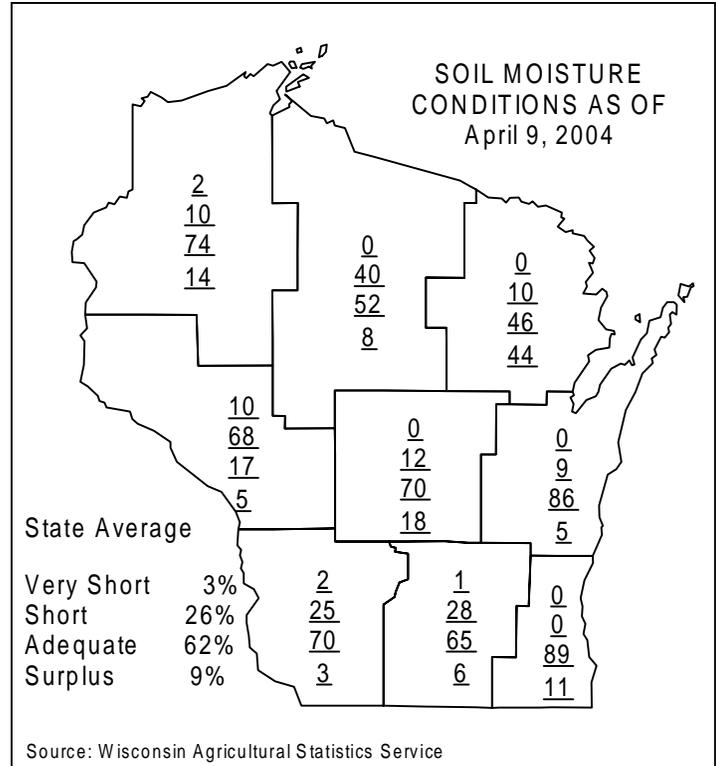
Spring Activities Underway

Wisconsin saw a wide variety of weather conditions for the past week. Freezing temperatures at night were common, statewide. Temperatures ranged from the high 60's to low 70's to lows in the 20's. Temperatures for the week averaged about 2 degrees warmer than normal. Total precipitation for the season remained about .5 inches above normal, although only trace amounts of rain were reported in many areas last week. Soil moisture conditions were reported to be 3% very short, 26% short, 62% adequate, and 9% surplus. For the week ending April 11, there was an average of 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork across the state.

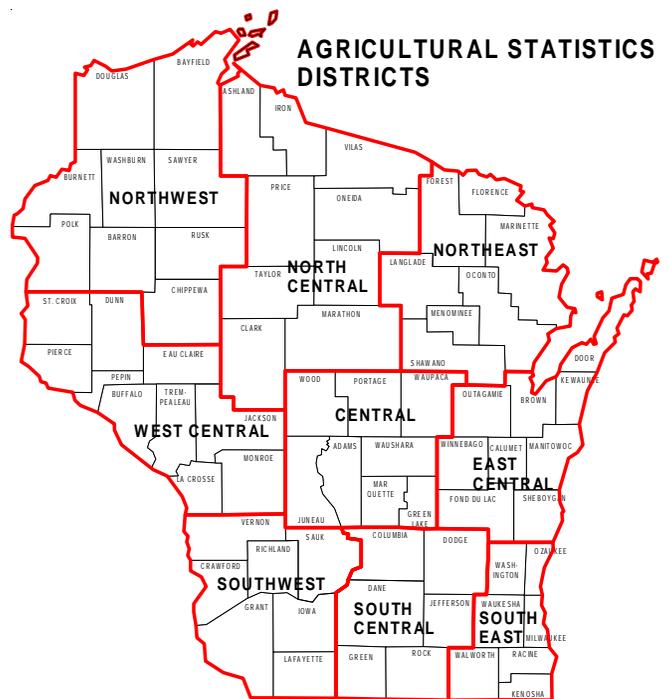
Spring tillage has just begun in many parts of Wisconsin. Spring tillage was reported at 10% complete, compared to 5% last year and the 5-year average of 10%. Early activities included manure spreading, fertilizer application, alfalfa and oat seeding, and equipment maintenance. Northern areas of the state report frost still in the ground. As the frost leaves, there will undoubtedly be a flurry of activity in the next couple of weeks. Most farmers are waiting for warmer temperatures and continued dry conditions to begin planting on most soils. Sowing of **oats** was reported at 19% completed statewide, compared to 4% last year and 11% for the 5-year average.

Pasture condition was rated as 4% very poor, 5% poor, 24% fair, 65% good, and 2% excellent. Adequate moisture and warm temperatures have helped conditions improve quickly. **Winter wheat** is greening up across the state and generally looks good. **Alfalfa** across the state looks to be in fairly good condition, with little evidence of winterkill.

The **maple syrup** harvest is winding down in northern Wisconsin and nearing completion in the south, as trees are beginning to bud out. The maple syrup season was generally reported as good to very good for both quality and quantity of sap.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 9, 2004					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	4	5	24	65	2
Winter wheat	1	2	14	53	30



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	0	1	0	17	9	6	40	26	30	19	4	11
Spring tillage completed	2	4	1	13	17	10	12	12	7	10	5	10	

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-R.C.: There is very little activity at this point. There are reports of frost still in the ground in most parts of the county. One farmer planted a field of oats and peas on Monday. Maple sap reports are mixed, with most indicating a lighter than normal run.

ONEIDA-P.L.: Some frost still in the ground. Snow is still going slowly and soaking in nicely. This is helping the available moisture levels, as they were low going into winter. We had nice snow cover this year, so I do not anticipate too much winterkill. The maple sap ran really good and still is running. We should see good quality and quantity this year.

OCONTO-K.H.: Have not yet seen any significant field activity, although warm temperatures, sunshine, and winds of the previous week accelerated drying. Winter wheat fields appear green and healthy, although, not much growth has started yet.

SHAWANO-T.A.: Only a few fields are open for work, that mainly being manure hauling. Very little tillage so far. We are very optimistic that the alfalfa made it through the winter better than last year.

BUFFALO-R.S.: The only thing that is green is the rye and winter wheat. Small grains are being planted. Manure hauling is also going on.

PEPIN-H.R.: There is not any winterkill showing yet. Some green just starting to show on alfalfa plants. Winter wheat looks very good. Fields drying off very fast. Some tillage going on lighter soils and some grain planted this week. Maple syrup mostly done, but has been very good season; very good quality.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Both alfalfa and winter wheat look great. Winter wheat is very green and alfalfa off to a good start. Frost seems to be out of the ground in most places. Some tillage on lighter soils is going on. Maple syrup season best in years.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: It looks like alfalfa and winter wheat came through the winter without any winterkill. Frost is all out of the ground. Saw some disking being done and some early vegetables being planted.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Alfalfa and winter wheat have come through the winter in very good shape due to good snow cover.

GRANT-L.F.: Winter wheat and rye are starting to green up. Alfalfa is also greening up. Fields are still very brown. Too early to report on winter wheat, but fields are spotty. Some farmers are chisel plowing. There is no frost. Getting ready to plant oats. The ground on sandy soil is being worked, but the ground is still cold. Maple syrup season was very good in our area, lots of sap. Just starting most fieldwork.

DANE-C.B.: Fieldwork began this week. Many seeding alfalfa and/or oats. High ground dust is flying as spring tillage begins for this season. Corn planters are getting maintenance done to them this week in hopes of planting next week. Now is the time to check winter wheat and alfalfa fields.

GREEN-F.Z.: Farming looks to be normal as of now. Some oats and/or barley is sowed. Hay is growing.

JEFFERSON-M.H.: Fieldwork is beginning. Some small grains and alfalfa were planted this week. Planted a four-acre alfalfa research plot on Saturday. Winter wheat is looking excellent, and alfalfa plants are greening up. Little signs of winterkill. Co-ops appear to be busy spreading dry fertilizer on fields.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: There is no winterkill. Oats are being planted on high ground. Maple syrup run was very good.

WAUKESHA-A.S.: Alfalfa and winter wheat look good.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 11, 2004

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 11	Mar. 1 to April 11 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	56	29	68	23	43	2	55	20	0.01	2.74	-0.02	5.68
Green Bay	53	32	66	24	42	1	41	19	0.30	3.96	1.05	6.82
La Crosse	60	33	70	26	47	2	104	39	0.00	3.38	0.31	5.63
Madison	57	32	72	24	44	1	83	42	0.05	3.66	0.31	5.72
Milwaukee	50	34	68	29	42	0	72	n.a.	0.06	4.05	0.20	6.58

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.