

# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

April 18, 2005

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## Warm Weather Continues

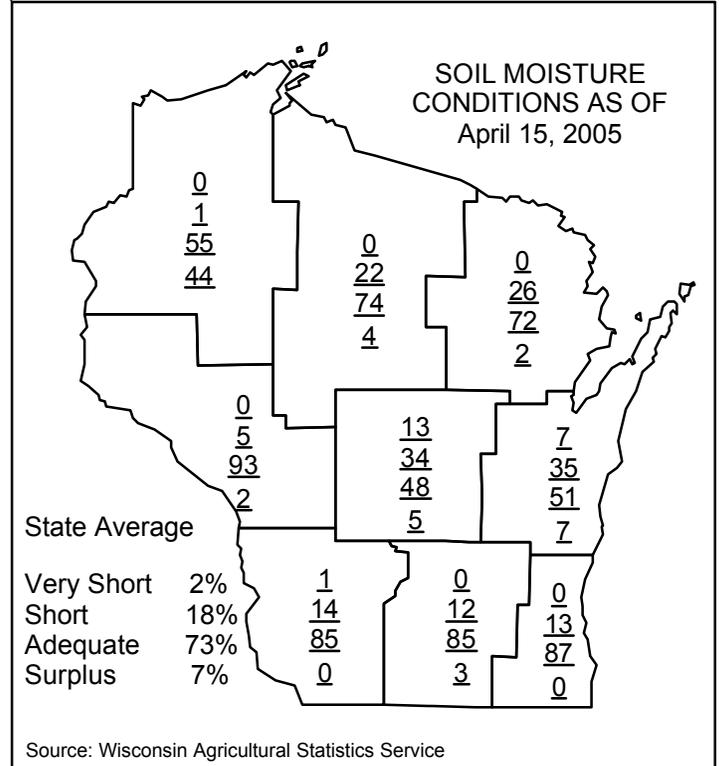
Warm, mild weather continued throughout the week, creating good conditions for spring fieldwork. Temperatures were 4 to 11 degrees higher than normal for this time of year. Low temperatures were reported in the 30s, while high temperatures reached the 80s during the week. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 2 percent very short, 18 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. There was an average of 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

While much of the state is experiencing adequate levels of soil moisture, precipitation is below normal for this time of year. Precipitation since March 1 is 0.79 to 2.98 inches below normal amounts. Rainfall during the past week ranged from 0.22 to 0.73 inches, with the southeast area receiving no rain.

Producers have been busy with fieldwork during the week. **Spring tillage** was reported at 22 percent complete, behind last year's average of 24 percent, but above the 5-year average of 17 percent. **Oats** planted was reported at 31 percent complete, below last year's average of 37 percent, but above the 5-year average of 24 percent.

**Pasture** conditions were rated as 4 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. **Winter wheat** conditions were rated as 5 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Winterkill in **alfalfa** and winter wheat was reported in many areas of the state. Areas that had standing water and ice during the winter seem to be the hardest hit. Producers in the eastern and southern parts of the state are reporting more extensive damage to fields.

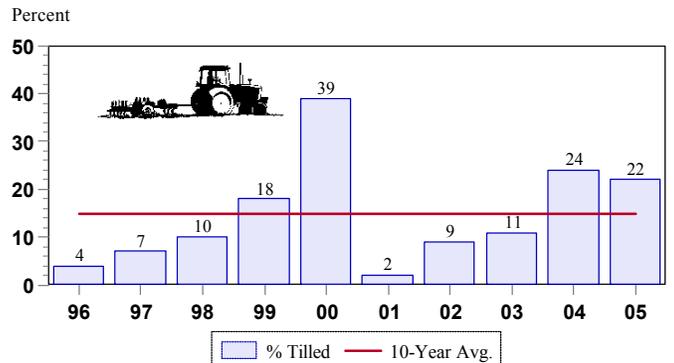
There have been a few reports of **corn** being planted in the southern half of the state. The majority of the **maple syrup** has been harvested. Producers in the northern half of the state are reporting that the season was short with low yields. Good yields were reported in the southwest and eastern areas of the state. **Potatoes** are being planted in the central area of the state.



Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	4	10	37	45	4
Winter Wheat	5	16	43	33	3

## SPRING TILLAGE COMPLETED

Wisconsin State Average  
April 17, 1996-2005



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 17, 2005

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	8	3	10	15	17	40	50	70	38	31	37	24
Spring tillage completed	10	10	21	14	19	26	25	34	31	22	24	17

**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**BARRON-R.C.:** Some fieldwork was done in the southeastern part of the county, the rest of the county is still too wet. All frost should be out of the ground within the next few days. Very few acres of small grains were planted, and there was no corn planted.

**CHIPPEWA-J.M.:** Frost is out of the ground. Grazers are just beginning to use pastures. Limited fieldwork is taking place.

**MARATHON-M.K.:** Hayfields show 60-70 percent winterkill. All of the fields have new seedings too. Very little fieldwork is going on.

**VILAS-L.K.:** Fields drying up very fast. There is no greening up yet. There is not any fieldwork going on yet.

**MARINETTE-S.R.:** Slightly too early to tell with accuracy, but definitely appears to be winterkill on alfalfa and winter wheat.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Frost is just about out of the ground. Farmers starting to think about trying the equipment out for fieldwork.

**BUFFALO-R.S.:** Alfalfa seems to be alright. Fieldwork started on light soils; clay soils still too wet. Very little pasture growth.

**ST. CROIX-K.P.:** Alfalfa looks very good. Oats are being seeded and alfalfa also. There is no winterkill on alfalfa.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** Lots of the alfalfa killed out in some fields. The new seeding from last year looks good. Winter wheat looks pretty good, except where water stood and froze. Ground has been worked up, and oats are being planted.

**WOOD-M.L.:** Lack of rain has left some stubborn frost in the ground. Good progress has been made on spring seeding and small grains. Manure spreading and tillage are also progressing well. Very little winterkill in alfalfa.

**KEWAUNEE-J.B.:** The fields have dried up, and fieldwork is just starting. Too early to tell about winterkill on alfalfa and wheat crops.

**WINNEBAGO-R.H.:** Winter wheat has lots of winterkill due to dry weather last fall and a dry spring. Alfalfa looks the same as wheat. There is no frost left in the ground, except fence rows. Spring fieldwork has been very spotty. Hoping for a nice shower, as the ground is very dry.

**GRANT-G.C.:** The alfalfa in my area is looking very good. Very little signs of winterkill. Frost has been found while trying to dig post holes where heavy grass cover has been on old fence lines. Small grain seeding has been very active. There are no corn planters going yet.

**RICHLAND-S.K.:** Nearly everyone is in the fields. Most of the oats have been planted. There are still some farmers hauling manure to corn ground. Just a lot of fieldwork is being done in preparation for planting corn and soybeans. We have seen some winter injury due to ice sheeting. We will know better as the crop progresses.

**JEFFERSON-B.K.:** Alfalfa winterkill is everywhere, with some being bad and some will still make a crop. Many farmers planting more alfalfa acres and patching in bad spots in fields with annual rye grass or clover. Farmers still assessing the winter damage and getting a plan to cover forage needs. Corn planting still a week away.

**ROCK-S.H.:** A lot of winterkill in alfalfa. Some winterkill in winter wheat, but fields greening up nicely. Planters are starting to roll.

**KENOSHA-J.H.:** Saw one farmer planting corn. I am hearing stories of winterkill from one ag supplier who is selling more alfalfa seed to farmers where alfalfa died out.

**WAUKESHA-D.W.:** Some winterkill was in the low spots of wheat fields. There is no frost left in the ground. Spring tillage is in full swing. It has been dry here, with very little spring rain.

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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 17, 2005**

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 16	Mar. 1 to April 16 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	68	41	80	30	55	11	174	45	0.60	2.53	-0.79	4.42
Green Bay	62	35	70	31	49	6	111	38	0.22	1.55	-1.89	4.48
La Crosse	68	45	80	33	57	10	203	66	0.73	2.67	-1.03	5.35
Madison	68	40	81	33	54	9	183	68	0.31	2.85	-1.16	6.50
Milwaukee	58	38	69	34	48	4	89	n.a.	0.00	1.68	-2.98	6.78

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 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.