



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

August 15, 2005

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More Rain Needed

The amount and timing of rainfall has been less than desired for most areas this season, especially eastern counties, which are suffering the worst from lack of moisture. Precipitation for the week was very spotty, but helpful in the areas where it did fall. Recovering crops look great, but still need more rain. Green Bay was the most fortunate having received 1.39 inches of rain, while La Crosse saw 1.07 inches. Eau Claire, Madison, and Milwaukee all reported less than half an inch. Aphids, spider mites, leafhoppers, armyworms, and weeds have been very active. Temperatures for the week were slightly higher than normal. Low temperatures were reported at 53, and high temperatures reached 95. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 27 percent very short, 42 percent short, and 31 percent adequate. With scattered showers throughout the state, there was an average of 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn conditions were rated as 7 percent very poor, 18 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Silking is almost complete at 98 percent, surpassing last year's 77 percent, and the 5-year average of 89 percent. At 36 percent, corn in dough stage is also ahead of normal, compared to last year's 13 percent, and the 5-year average of 21 percent. In some areas, corn on light to moderate soil has experienced poor pollination and ear development, as well as potential yield loss.

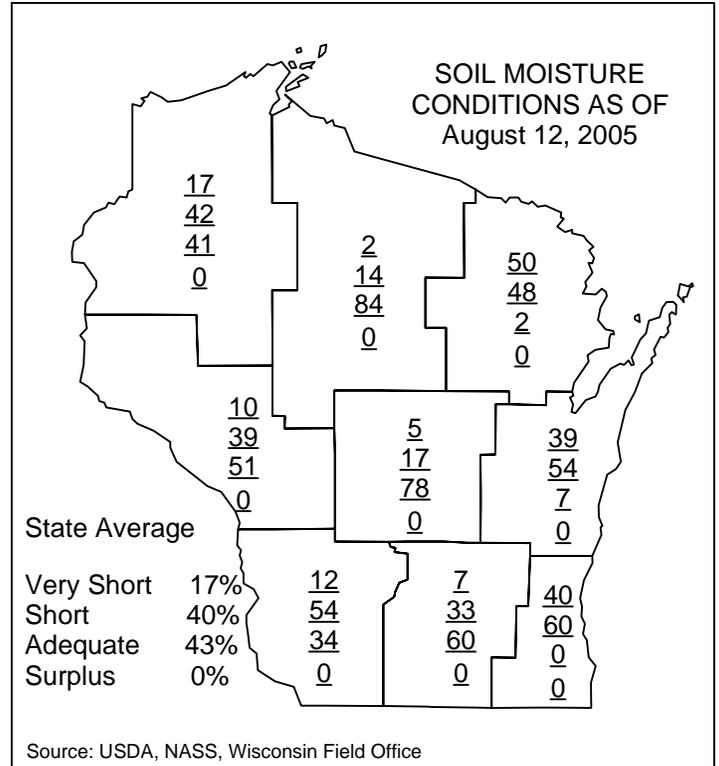
Soybean conditions were reported as 6 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Blooming was reported at 97 complete, ahead of last year's 77 percent, and the 5-year average of 90 percent. At 84 percent, soybeans continue to set pods ahead of schedule, compared to 54 percent last year, and the 5-year average of 62 percent.

Oat harvest for grain continues to be ahead of schedule at 90 percent, well ahead of last year's 50 percent, and the 5-year average of 64 percent. **Winter wheat** harvest completion is in sight at 97 percent, surpassing last year's 75 percent, and the 5-year average of 86 percent.

Second cutting **hay** is wrapping up, at 97 percent complete, ahead of last year's 83 percent, and the 5-year average of 88 percent. Third crop was reported at 34 percent complete, compared to last year's 17 percent, and the 5-year average of 30 percent. The Southwest district is leading the way, already at 68 percent complete. Hay cutting throughout the state is progressing nicely, but is short due to lack of moisture.

Pasture conditions were rated as 15 percent very poor, 30 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 23 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

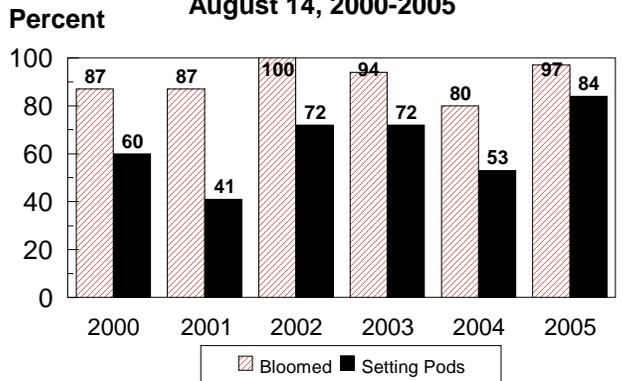
Canning crops were reported with mixed quality. Potatoes, snapbeans, and sweet corn are looking great, while pea harvest left a lot to be desired in many areas. **Fruit trees** are showing nice fruit, but some is smaller than normal.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 12, 2005					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	7	18	31	35	9
Soybeans	6	13	38	36	7
Pasture	15	30	29	23	3

Soybeans Bloomed & Setting Pods

Yearly Averages
August 14, 2000-2005



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 harvested for grain	89	82	89	92	95	84	98	99	92	90	50	64
Corn silked	98	98	91	97	95	95	100	99	100	98	77	89
Corn dough	23	30	16	24	18	43	48	52	35	36	13	21
Soybeans bloomed	100	100	97	93	100	95	100	97	100	97	80	90
Soybeans setting pods	95	90	79	70	79	71	97	85	96	84	54	62
Second cutting hay	93	92	99	97	99	99	99	99	100	97	88	95
Third cutting hay	22	18	24	30	21	30	68	41	54	34	17	30
Winter wheat harvested	94	99	90	91	100	96	99	100	100	97	75	86

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BURNETT-R.B.: All crops in need of rain. Corn and soybeans are of no value. Lots of farmers that have cows are cutting anything that they will eat.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Some corn on sandy soils had no or poor pollination due to moisture stress.

POLK-C.S.: Corn and soybeans need more moisture to preserve crop pollination yields. Continued lack of rain will cause further damage to crop yields. Hay and alfalfa pastures are showing stress. Spraying for Leafhoppers in alfalfa and a few Aphids in some soybeans. Oats, wheat, and barley are in the bin.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Corn and soybeans are badly in need of rain. Hay and pastures show very little growth. Oat yields are good, but with low test weights. Rye kernels are small.

FOREST-A.K.: Second crop hay was short. Corn picked up after a rain last week.

LANGLADE-K.W.: Still need rain, but the rains we had kept most crops going.

LA CROSSE-S.H.: With moisture this week, third and fourth crop alfalfa are looking good. Corn and soybeans continue to progress. Oat harvest is nearing completion with reports that the grain is there, but a little light in weight.

PEPIN-H.R.: Corn on heavy soil looks very good, with recent rains also helping out. Corn on the light soils is not looking very good as far as ear development. Second crop hay was made and had good quality and quantity. Lots of third crop alfalfa is being made now, but a little short. Small grains pretty much done. Lots of light grain in test weight.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Potatoes, snapbeans, and sweet corn harvest continues with good yields reported. Second crop hay cutting is nearly complete and starting third cut-quality is good and yields are low. Rust and NCLB showing up in sweet corn

WAUSHARA-L.K.: The non-irrigated corn is all the way from a complete failure, to reduced ear size, except on fields with better soil, it is almost a normal crop. Soybeans are about the same. Small grains are all harvested. Hay was a rather poor crop.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Soybeans are burned up on many fields. The drought was worse than 1988. Crops are a failure for this year. Second crop hay was 1/3 of normal. Third crop alfalfa is not even present in most fields. Corn is tall, but lacking grain. No rain in several weeks.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: We got 0.30 inch of rain last night; the first in three weeks which will help all crops, but need more rain. Second hay crop is short, and third crop alfalfa is about the same. Was a good season for combining and getting straw in. Some spraying on soybeans for Aphids.

GRANT-L.F.: Corn and soybeans look very good. Soybeans are setting lots of pods, but the filling of pods is to be watched, as we need rain again. Corn is starting to show ears are filling quite nicely. Rains is also needed again. Third crop alfalfa is nice, but length is shorter than usual. Oats are mostly harvested.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Rain came Thursday night, and it was great. As always, can use more, but are happy with what we got; this will help the soybeans and corn. Oat yields vary greatly, as well as bushel weight. Winter wheat yields are average.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Got a little rain-not enough to help crops. We remain dry-1.5 inches of rain last night. Too late for the corn, but it might help the soybeans.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Hay is very short and new seedings are weedy. Corn pollination looks good, but with lack of rain, ears are only filling out 3/4 of the way. We need rain or the corn will be done. Beetles are everywhere. Soybeans are very tall, but not a lot of pods; need rain to fill pods. Will be chopping corn soon. Wheat is done with average yields 40 bushels per acre. There is very little straw.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 14, 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 Aug. 13	Mar. 1 to Aug. 13 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	83	62	90	54	72	1	2123	1786	0.25	8.91	-1.10	17.13
Green Bay	82	61	91	53	72	3	1950	1656	1.39	6.29	-2.09	14.55
La Crosse	84	65	94	59	74	1	2356	1998	1.07	8.35	-1.59	17.33
Madison	82	62	93	56	72	2	2177	1942	0.40	6.05	-3.70	16.90
Milwaukee	83	68	95	63	75	3	2030	n.a.	0.50	5.48	-3.21	15.33

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.