



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

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Rain Arrives Too Late for Some Crops

There were a few rain showers in several counties across Wisconsin this past week, but they were not enough to ease the stress the crops were showing. Cooler temperatures slowed the deterioration of some crops. However, stress to corn and soybeans continued to be a problem, and there were reports of alfalfa and pastures no longer growing. Low yields are expected for soybeans and corn in some areas of the state, while in other areas yields were reported to be average to slightly above average. Reports from several areas of the state showed concern for the looming threat of frost.

Average high temperatures ranged from 76 to 78 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 53 to 61 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.22 inches in La Crosse to 2.22 inches in Milwaukee. Soil moisture conditions were at 25 percent very short, 48 percent short, 27 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

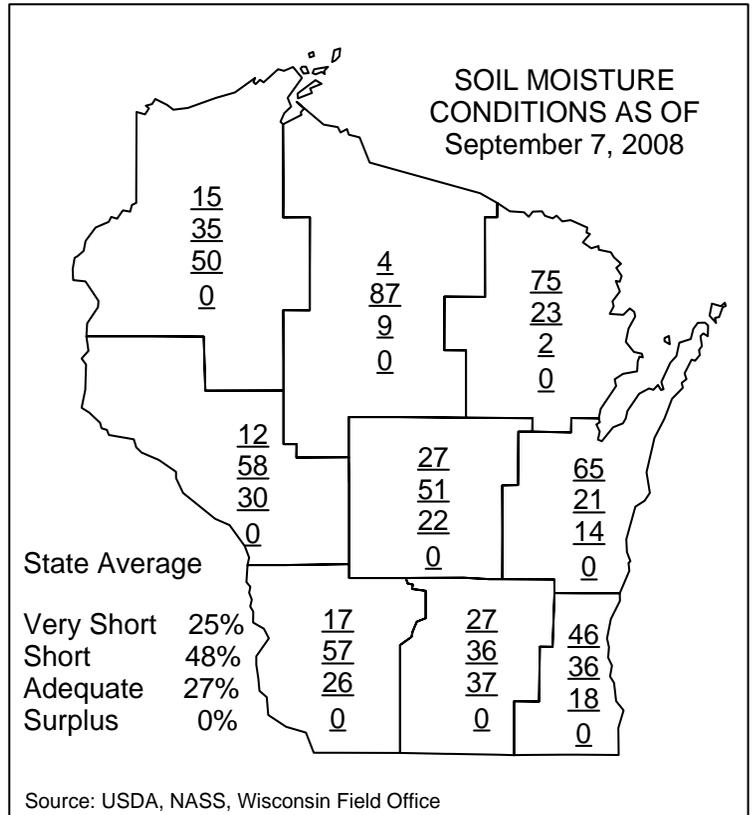
Corn in dough stage was 76 percent complete, 16 percent below last year's average of 92 percent and 8 percent below the 5-year average. Corn in dent was at 31 percent complete; 36 percentage points below last year's average of 67 percent. Corn reaching maturity was at 5 percent complete. Crop condition was reported as 6 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Corn silage harvested was reported at 6 percent complete.

Soybeans conditions were reported as 5 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Soybeans setting pods was 100 percent complete with 27 percent having turned color and 5 percent that have dropped leaves.

Third crop **hay** harvest was 86 percent complete, with fourth crop harvest at 22 percent complete. Due to the lack of heat this summer, farmers are hoping for an extended growing season.

Pasture conditions continued to decline with reports at 16 percent very poor, 27 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 23 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

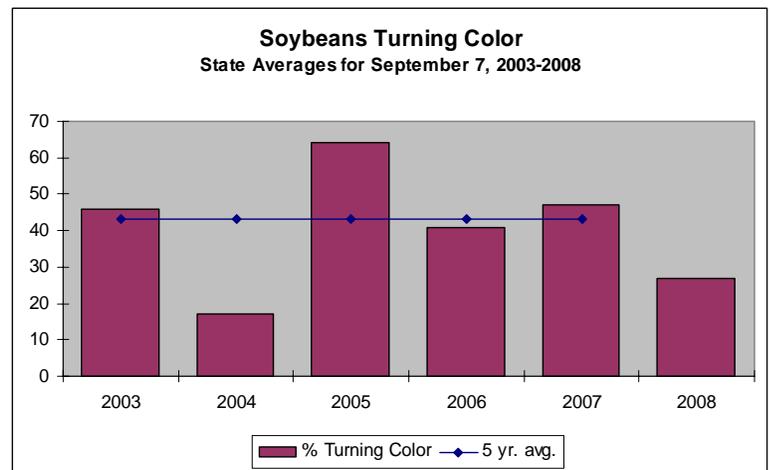
The **apple** crop looks to be very good this year. The **cranberry** crop was reported as good with near normal yields expected, although harvest may be later than normal. **Snap bean** and **sweet corn** harvest was moving rapidly with good yields. **Potato** harvest continued in central Wisconsin, also with good yields. **Pumpkin** cutting should start soon.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 7, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	6	12	35	39	8
Soybean	5	11	36	40	8
Pasture	16	27	33	23	1

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 7, 2008

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 dough	65	75	73	76	77	73	85	78	91	76	92	84
Corn dent	30	10	42	30	43	30	27	35	44	31	67	53
Corn harvested for silage	4	1	18	3	5	7	6	6	12	6	19	14
Soybeans turning color	25	29	40	17	48	37	47	23	18	27	47	43
Soybeans dropping leaves	3	5	6	1	18	9	9	5	3	5	10	10
Third cutting hay	86	70	96	91	86	87	97	97	86	86	83	81
Fourth cutting hay	10	15	41	34	27	17	42	39	9	22	17	14

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

WASHBURN-K.S.: Corn and soybean crop conditions have a lot of variation due to lack of rain. Some areas are experiencing moderate drought stress conditions, and crops are not looking very good. Where rain has fallen and the soil is heavier, the corn and soybeans look average to slightly above average. Third crop hay for the most part is down in yield due to lack of moisture. Some areas have had good quality and yields. Due to lack of heat units, farmers are hoping for an extended growing season.

FLORENCE-R.O.: There is very little or no second crop hay. Corn is from knee high to four feet high in wet places and no cobs to speak of. Oat yield was 20-25 bushels per acre. We are very dry.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Our area has been under a severe drought and the crops on the well drained soils are showing extreme stress. Fortunately, the first, second, and early cut third crop hay were very good. The recent cuttings of alfalfa hay have been short or nonexistent.

PEPIN-H.R.: Corn is showing some signs of ripening on the heavy soils, but on lighter soils they are chopping most of it for silage. Soybeans on lighter soils are going backwards. They are dropping most of their leaves. Hay is easy to make but not a very heavy crop.

TREMPEALEAU-J.Z.: Corn and soybeans are moisture stressed. Most corn is in early dent stage. There are also some delays in harvesting hay because of a short crop.

PORTAGE-J.W.: It is dry, we need rain. Snapbean and sweet corn harvest is moving rapidly with good yields. Potato harvest also continues with good yields

WAUSHARA-L.K.: It has been very dry. Corn and soybeans are maturing from the drought with reduced yields. Third crop hay has excellent quality but not good yield.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Cooler temperatures have allowed the deterioration of the plants to slow down. Some precipitation fell this week, but it was not nearly enough to alleviate the drought conditions that exist. In our area, the most notable example of the dry weather is in the hay. Third crop hay harvest is wrapping up and fourth crop harvest is continuing, but the crop has not grown much at all in the past couple of weeks. Those harvesting alfalfa have been struggling to see any respectable yields. It is a good thing that first and second

crops were as good as they were. If producers had to rely on third and fourth crops to see them through the year, there would not be enough feed. Not too much corn has been chopped for silage yet, as most of it is still too green. However, corn on lighter soils has been coming off due to the dry conditions. Soybeans and corn for grain are maturing. Corn is drying down and soybean leaves are starting to drop.

GRANT-E.B.: Direct seeded alfalfa and pastures, and some corn and soybeans will benefit from the rain we had on Thursday. Fourth crop hay is very light and very little has been made. Many farmers are remembering the severe winterkill last spring. The kernels are not ready, but plant moisture is ready for silage.

COLUMBIA-J.J.: The only soybeans turning color are those that have been damaged by the dry conditions. Corn crop is very uneven in maturity. The 1.0 inch of rain last night is the first significant moisture in over a month.

DANE -D.F.: The rain last week was too late for most of the corn and soybean fields. Silage harvest has begun. Fields are very uneven in moisture making harvest more challenging.

DODGE-G.R.: A prolonged period of dry weather has seriously affected all crops. An all day soaking rain on Thursday was welcomed, but probably only helped alfalfa and maybe some soybeans. Corn fields have many dried areas. Some corn was taken off as silage around our area. Soybean fields also have yellow patches here and there. Third crop alfalfa was short.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Rain will help with test weights of grain. My guess is yields will be down 25 percent.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

Robert J. Battaglia
Director

Craig Christianson
Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 7, 2008

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 Sept. 6	Mar. 1 to Sept. 6 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	76	53	88	43	65	1	2179	2199	0.27	0.27	-0.63	25.14	0.97
Green Bay	77	55	90	53	66	3	2222	2063	0.52	0.52	-0.24	23.66	2.73
La Crosse	78	57	93	49	67	0	2439	2470	0.22	0.22	-0.56	29.79	5.58
Madison	78	58	92	54	68	3	2348	2405	0.87	0.87	0.10	38.13	13.69
Milwaukee	78	61	89	58	70	3	2272	n.a.	2.22	2.22	1.45	35.20	10.42

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. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.