



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

April 20, 2009

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Looking for Some Rain

Another week with little to no precipitation across the state has farmers looking for a soaking rain. Across the reporting stations, precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Green Bay, to 0.15 inches in Milwaukee. Average temperatures last week were 1 to 6 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 55 to 67 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 32 to 38 degrees. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 9 percent very short, 29 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

<http://www.noaa.gov/>
<http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
<http://www.cocorahs.org/>
<http://www.weather.gov/>

The dry conditions allowed planting of **oats** to continue across the state, with oats planted reported as 35 percent complete. This is above both last year's 2 percent and the five-year average of 25 percent complete.

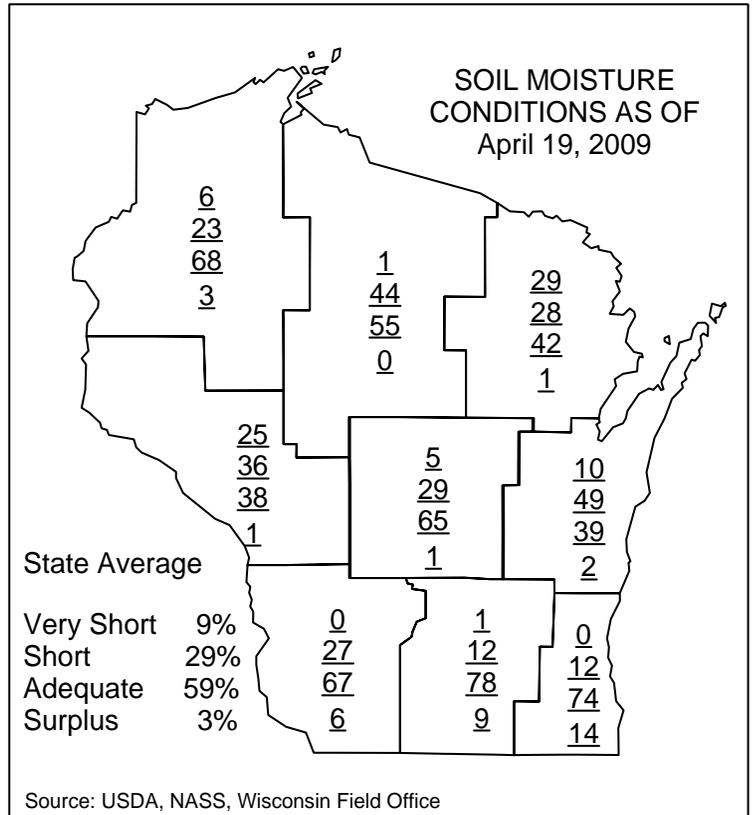
There were reports of **alfalfa** and **winter wheat** beginning to green up in some areas, but rain was still needed. Until there is more moisture, it is too early for many growers to tell the amount of winterkill on either crop.

There were a few reports of farmers beginning to plant **corn**, but most are waiting for the soil to get warmer. Farmers are hoping for warmer temperatures and some rain to warm up the soil. Some are getting fields prepared with the hopes of planting in the coming week.

Spring tillage was reported as 21 percent complete. There were some reports of frost still in the ground, particularly in shaded areas and slopes that faced north.

Manure hauling continued last week with some having emptied their pits. Fertilizer was being spread on wheat and pastures. There was also some nitrogen application reported.

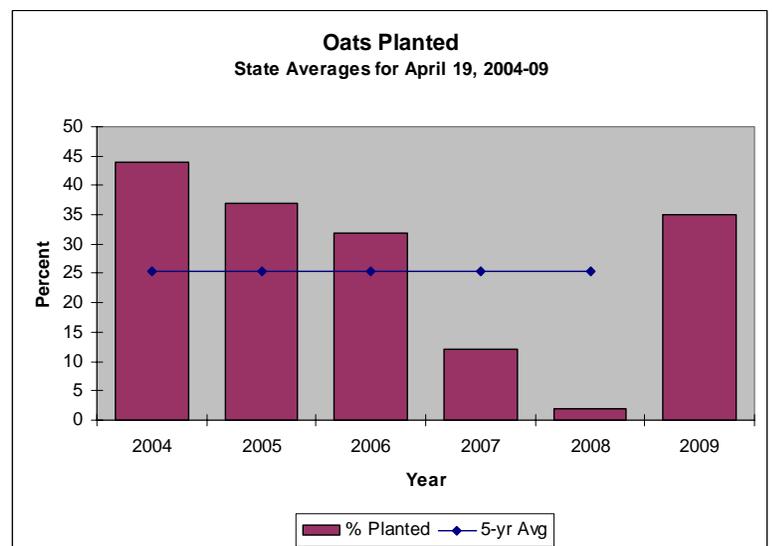
Potato and **pea** planting were reported as getting underway in the central part of the state.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 19, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	2	9	32	45	12
Pasture	13	30	36	18	3

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



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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	7	15	21	38	24	12	75	55	52	35	2	25
Spring tillage completed	7	12	34	31	19	10	34	25	20	21	2	16

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

WASHBURN-P.H.: Checked alfalfa for winterkill and roots appear healthy so far. Fields harvested late are very slow in starting to grow. Frost is still in areas with heavy residue and heavier soils. Spring tillage is going well as there are few wet areas. First planting was done last week.

CLARK-R.H.: We need some moisture. We have had some warmer temperatures this week and things are getting greener. Winter wheat stands are thinner than I thought a week ago need to check fields next 10 days to be sure stands are adequate. Manure is being hauled and small grains are being planted. There is fieldwork being done that did not get finished last fall like baling bean straw and corn stalks.

MARATHON-G.M.: Still too early to tell about winterkill in alfalfa. Manure spreading is going on. Fields are being plowed. Spring work is in full swing.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Both alfalfa and winter wheat are showing evidence of winterkill, but the condition seems to be worse in the wheat than in the alfalfa. There is little or no frost in the ground. There has been some corn planting activities, but it has been limited to the growers with big acreage to plant or growers with sandy soil. Spring tillage has been progressing quickly and large clouds of dust generated from tillage activities were common late in the week. Many growers have commented on the dry conditions, observing that fields normally too wet to get into this time of year are being worked up now.

PEPIN-H.R.: Winter wheat looks pretty good. Alfalfa is not showing much green yet but on south slopes it looks good. Oat planting is in full swing. Topsoil is dry, making good planting conditions. Lots of manure hauling is going on. Maple syrup season was very good in this area, very high sugar content.

WOOD-J.M.: Alfalfa is slow, need a good soaking rain to tell for sure if there is any damage. A lot of ground is being worked across the county, even in the typically wet areas which usually get worked last. No difference between high ground and some of the lower ground. Some small grains have been planted, no corn yet. Need rain and warm temperatures!

BROWN-M.H.: Alfalfa and winter wheat appear to have wintered pretty well. The last couple of warm days have really helped get fieldwork going.

DOOR-J.M.: Some oats have been planted. Maple syrup season was quite good.

IOWA-S.M.: Alfalfa looks ok. Winter wheat does not look very good; need heat and rain. Oat planting is almost done. Corn planters are hooked up and ready to go. Looks like an early spring.

DANE-C.B.: Winter wheat still struggling, areas that are exposed to wind without tree protection were killed due to freezing temperatures in early April. Alfalfa is still struggling with colder than normal night time temperatures. Corn planters ready to plant by middle of this coming week. Soil is working up beautifully, cold soil temperatures are the only thing holding planting off.

GREEN-M.M.: Farmers made a lot of progress in the fields this week with dry weather and warmer temperatures. Majority of small grains and alfalfa fields are planted. A few are starting on corn. Some damage on winter wheat.

ROCK-C.O.: Winter wheat is just not coming along like it should. Very little corn planted, but warm weather this week should help to get things going. Manure spreaders going night and day.

WALWORTH-E.M.: Winterkill seems to be minor. Nitrogen application is the only activity going on.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: It is too soon to tell about winterkill in the alfalfa and winter wheat. It still gets pretty cold at night. The frost is gone. On higher ground some fieldwork is being done. Low fields are still too wet.



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 April 19, 2009

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. 18	Mar. 1 to Apr. 18 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	66	33	73	25	50	6	92	56	0.06	1.17	-2.27	2.27	-3.00
Green Bay	61	32	75	24	46	3	62	48	0.00	2.59	-1.00	4.80	-1.05
La Crosse	67	38	75	30	53	6	126	79	0.03	1.21	-2.69	2.92	-3.16
Madison	62	32	71	27	47	2	106	83	0.02	6.34	2.12	8.79	2.03
Milwaukee	55	36	74	32	45	1	83	n.a.	0.15	3.92	-0.91	7.25	-1.08

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.