



# Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



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Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Vol. 16, No.5  
Issued May 2, 2016

For the week ending May 1, 2016  
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## Rains Slow Fieldwork

There were 4.0 **days suitable for fieldwork** for the week ending May 1, 2016, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Below normal temperatures and widespread rains slowed fieldwork this week. Reporters noted variable rainfall totals from under half an inch to over three inches. This moisture was welcomed in the southern portions of the state, where soils have been dry. However, continuing muddy conditions and low soil temperatures in the Northern and East-Central districts further delayed planting activities. Many reporters commented that winter wheat and alfalfa put on a burst of growth during this cool, wet week. Planting, tillage, and manure spreading continued where conditions allowed.

Statewide, both surplus and short **topsoil moisture** declined from the previous week, with 0 percent very short, 5 percent short, 77 percent adequate and 18 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was 0 percent very short, 4 percent short, 84 percent adequate and 12 percent surplus.

As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, **spring tillage** was 53 percent complete statewide, 1 day behind last year, but 10 days ahead of the five-year average.

**Corn** planting was 22 percent complete, 2 days behind last year, but 4 days ahead of the five-year average. Corn was starting to emerge in southern parts of the state.

Two percent of the state's expected **soybean** acres have been planted.

Fifty-five percent of the **potato** crop was planted, 2 days behind last year.

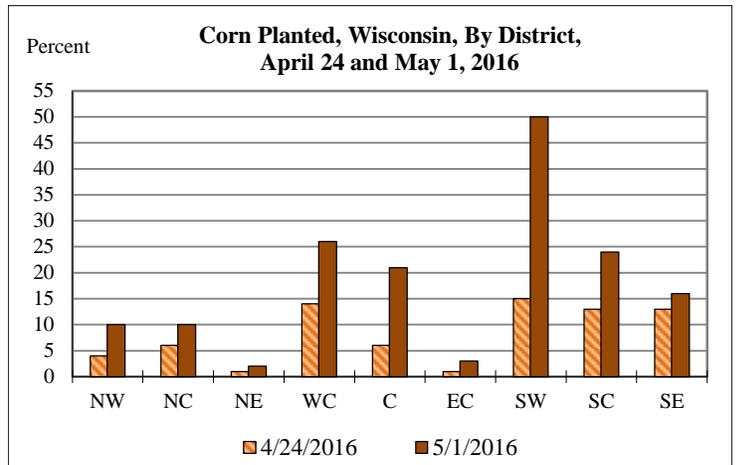
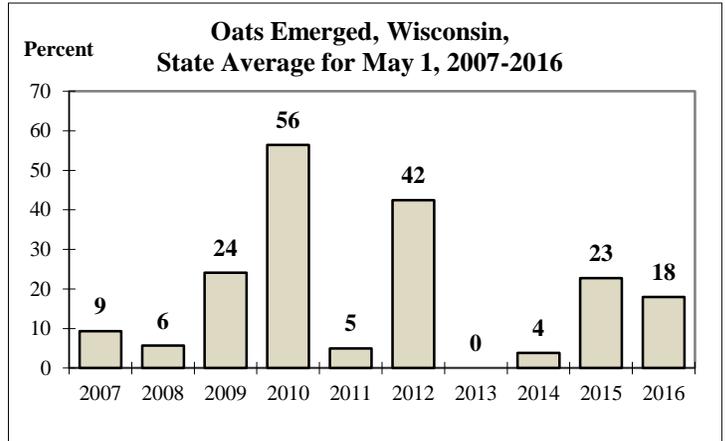
**Oats** planting was reported as 54 percent complete, 3 days behind 2015, but a week ahead of the five-year average. Oats emerged was at 18 percent, 2 days behind 2015, but 3 days ahead of the five-year average.

**Winter wheat** was rated 84 percent in good to excellent condition statewide, two percentage points above the previous week.

**All Hay** condition was reported 80 percent good to excellent.

**Pasture** condition was rated 65 percent good to excellent, compared to 60 percent last week.

There were reports of **fruit trees** blooming from Crawford and Trempealeau Counties.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 1, 2016

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
All Hay.....	1	2	17	60	20
Pasture & Range	1	6	28	54	11
Winter Wheat.....	0	1	15	55	29

## Wisconsin Crop Progress as of May 1, 2016

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent									Percent			
Corn Planted.....	10	10	2	26	21	3	50	24	16	22	10	31	12
Oats Planted.....	51	20	36	65	63	27	82	76	58	54	37	70	39
Oats Emerged.....	8	1	1	25	24	3	40	24	18	18	4	23	15
Potatoes Planted.....	16	3	2	69	68	n.a.	76	81	n.a.	55	30	65	n.a.
Spring Tillage.....	43	27	24	67	57	31	81	66	39	53	37	56	29

n.a.=not available

## Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of May 1, 2016

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	2.8	2.8	3.9	3.1	5.0	4.4	4.9	4.7	2.4	4.0	4.9	6.7
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Short.....	1	0	3	4	9	0	16	8	0	5	7	26
Adequate.....	74	67	61	86	79	80	77	77	71	77	71	68
Surplus.....	25	33	36	10	11	20	7	15	29	18	21	3
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Short.....	0	0	0	1	6	0	12	6	0	4	4	25
Adequate.....	90	96	61	88	86	79	83	80	88	84	78	69
Surplus.....	10	4	39	11	8	21	4	14	12	12	18	2

# Wisconsin Crop Progress

## Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

**BARRON-T.B.:** Rain curtailed field operations that had been going full speed the week before. Little or no planting. Some tillage operations. Manure hauling continued. Overwintering crops (wheat, rye, hay and alfalfa) grew well this week. Precipitation slowed planting but moved crops forward.

**CHIPPEWA-T.P.:** A little over 1.7 inches of rain (along with some sleet) fell this week, bringing planting progress to a halt. Most small grains are planted and large cash crop farms have some corn planted. Spring manure applications are wrapping up. Alfalfa is 10 to 14 inches tall in most fields. Dandelions, yellow rocket and shepherd's purse are flowering in older or poorer stands of alfalfa.

**ASHLAND/IRON-C.B.:** Heavy rains on Sunday and Monday resulted in no field activity for most of the week. Starting to dry out now.

**LANGLADE-A.K.:** Continued unseasonable cool temps and limited sunshine.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Ground temperatures are very cold yet. Most fields have water standing in places. A few fields that are tiled very well were being worked the last couple of days with some alfalfa and oats being planted. Winter wheat and alfalfa looking quite good at this time.

**LA CROSSE-I.H.:** Overcast weather this week prevented some corn from being planted. It didn't rain hard, just enough to get the soil muddy.

**ST CROIX-D.K.:** Cool wet week, not much field work. Alfalfa is really starting to grow. Looks like an early, excellent crop.

**JUNEAU-J.W.:** There was a lot of progress made in corn planting last week until the rain come over the weekend. Things were getting dry so the rain was welcome. It was a steady rain and soaked in pretty well. We need the temperature to warm up and things will really take off. Forage crops are looking good and growing very well in the damp and cool weather.

**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** Cold weather has kept soil temperatures below desirable levels for planting most crops. Alfalfa is also slow due to the cool weather. Winter wheat looks good.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** Even though other areas have been planting at a rapid pace the last few weeks, this area has been slow to get in the fields. Not much rain has fallen lately, so the ground is drying. But temperatures have been cool, with highs only in the 40s. Temperatures should be in the 50s and 60s to warm the ground to the point where any seed planted will germinate in a short period of time. A lot of manure has been applied in this area in anticipation of corn being planted. Some scattered reports of oats, alfalfa and corn being planted have been heard, but producers are not quite ready to hit the spring work hard yet. This coming week promises warmer temperatures and mainly dry conditions, so the tillage and planting will really get going. The cooler and wetter weather has allowed some good growth of the alfalfa and winter wheat. For the most part, these two crops came through the winter in good shape and they are looking more than acceptable now. Fertilizing of the winter wheat continues at this time.

**VERNON-K.L.:** Farmers hauling manure, planting small grains and corn. The week has been cold, with little sun shining forth. The county received 0.7 inch of rain on Saturday, which was needed. Small grains emerging and looking good. Some farmers indicating that they will start planting soybeans this week.

**DODGE-R.J.:** Temperatures were cooler than average, but good progress was made for spring tillage and planting.

**OZAUKEE/WASHINGTON-G.S.:** Cool and wet weather most of the week prevented producers from making any progress in the fields.

### Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 1, 2016

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. 30	Mar. 1 to Apr. 30 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	55	40	61	36	47	-3	208	126	1.73	7.21	+2.44	8.59	+1.99
Green Bay	51	38	56	31	44	-5	116	103	0.19	5.33	+0.70	7.81	+0.96
La Crosse	59	44	79	39	51	-2	262	160	0.75	5.68	+0.33	7.85	+0.31
Madison	57	40	77	36	49	-1	200	160	1.09	8.07	+2.43	10.31	+2.13
Milwaukee	54	40	78	37	47	-2	140	n.a.	0.61	6.15	-0.19	8.46	-1.37

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. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more 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/>