



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

August 20, 2001

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## Rain in Time to Help Crops?

Many areas of the state received a good, soaking rain last week, but reporters are wondering if the rain came in time to help the corn and soybean crops. Some feel that the rains will help, especially the soybean crop. Others feel they came too late to do much good. Reports of crop conditions vary widely, even within the same county. Almost all reporters agree that the date of first frost will be crucial this year, the later the better. While reporters could not agree whether the rain would help the crops, all agreed that the cooler, less humid weather last week was beneficial to the state's livestock. Soil moisture was reported 22% very short, 30% short, 47% adequate, and 1% surplus. There were 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

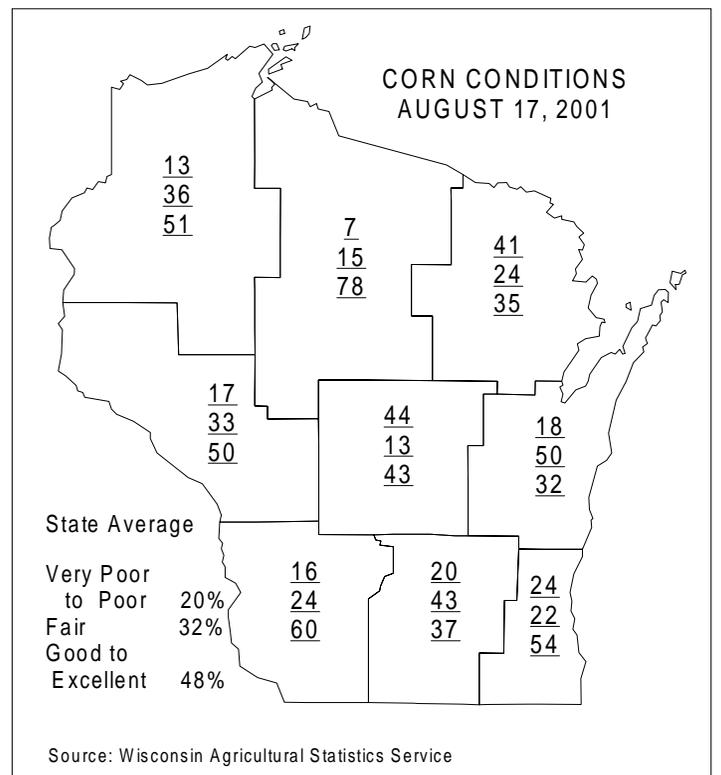
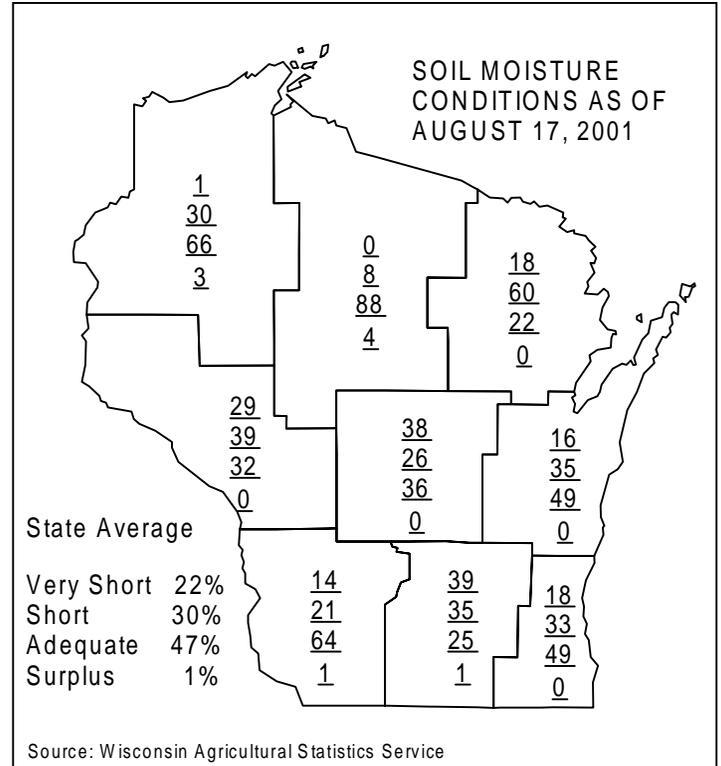
**Corn** silked reached 94% complete last week, compared to 100% last year, and 97% for the 5-year average. Corn in dough stage reached 17% last week, compared to 42% last year, and 46% for the 5-year average. Farmers are reporting that corn silage harvest may start within a week, especially in locations that have not received the recent rains and the plant moisture is already low.

**Soybeans** blooming reached 93% complete last week, slightly above last year's 90%, and 92% for the 5-year average. Soybeans setting pods reached 52% complete this week, compared to 71% last year, and 72% for the 5-year average. Farmers in Wisconsin continued to spray for aphids in soybean fields.

**Oat** harvest reached 73% complete last week, compared to 91% last year, and the 5-year average of 79%. Most reports stated small grain yields ranged from average to slightly above average.

Third cutting **alfalfa** harvest reached 42% complete statewide, compared to 54% last year, and 33% for the 5-year average.

**Potato** harvest is underway; a couple reports were not optimistic about yields, although a Wood County reporter felt potato yield would be fairly good in his area. Washington County reported **sweet corn** being harvested. Corn borers have been a problem in Southeastern Wisconsin.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 17, 2001					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	11	25	33	29	2
Corn	7	13	32	38	10
Soybean	5	9	33	41	12

## Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 19, 2001

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 silked	90	85	85	95	93	90	96	98	99	94	100	97
Corn in dough stage	10	10	7	15	14	11	21	24	22	17	42	46
Soybeans blooming	90	86	93	90	91	89	95	94	97	93	90	92
Soybeans setting pods	45	40	49	53	56	52	57	45	60	52	71	72
Oats harvested for grain	60	70	58	73	76	74	83	79	85	73	91	79
3rd crop hay harvested	33	38	38	43	40	46	48	40	45	42	54	33

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

**BARRON-R.C.:** Corn yields, based on site visits, will be lower than last year. Wheat yields are slightly lower than a year ago.

**CHIPPEWA-T.P.:** Some rain fell this week to help with the dry soil conditions. Potato leafhoppers are winding down. Some soybean fields are severely stunted due to soybean aphid feeding.

**WASHBURN-R.H.:** Some of the best corn I have ever had. Over 10 feet tall with good ear set, and silk is brown. Some bear and crow damage. Small grains are weedy. Need more rain for corn, pastures, and hay.

**PRICE-A.B.:** Second crop hay made. Another farmer gave the hired man a field, so he cut it, so that there is no more hay to cut. We will think about the oats; it could be cut now, but it may take another week.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Both corn and beans suffering from lack of moisture. Parts of county did receive some welcomed rain late in the week. Small grain yields have been reported as being very good.

**BUFFALO-R.S.:** Got an inch of rain this week, the first for August. Most third crop hay harvested, short, but good quality. We're thirty-five days from normal frost. Corn and beans will need more than thirty-five days yet.

**JACKSON-J.W.:** Still no rain, it is very dry. Lots of corn is beyond help, even if we get rain. Soybeans seem to fair a little better.

**PEPIN-W.P.:** Oat yields varied. Light test weight. Third crop hay varied due to lack of rain and insects. Need rain to ripen corn and soybeans.

**WAUPACA-G.K.:** About 0.50-0.75 of an inch of rain this past week has helped a little. Many acres of corn are beyond help. Most soybeans look pretty good. Some second crop hay was fairly heavy. Third crop hay is rather short, but good quality. Grain is a little light because of dryness. Straw is rather short.

**WOOD-F.M.:** Received 1.50 inches of rain Thursday, which will help bring third crop hay back, which is very short. Corn is also coming along, but varies from silking to starting to tassel. Need a very late frost.

**FOND DU LAC-B.P.:** Had 0.40 inch of rain this week; still very dry. Third crop hay yields are low. Lots of insect damage may impact quality.

**SHEBOYGAN-E.P.:** Small grain yields good. Heat hurts the corn. Soybeans look better after the dry weather. Hay is making a recovery.

**GRANT-J.G.:** Third crop hay short due to lack of moisture. Soybeans setting pods that aren't filling real well. Corn kernels seem smaller than normal, and tips haven't filled like other years.

**IOWA-S.M.:** Corn and soybeans are making some recovery from the heat and dry weather. Some fields have poor pollination. Corn yields will be down.

**LAFAYETTE-L.W.:** Small grain yields are variable, but have some reports of excellent yields. Third crop hay is yielding better than second crop, but the quality may be lower.

**COLUMBIA-J.J.:** Oats crop was very good. Corn and soybeans are very uneven. You can tell on sweet corn that pollination is very uneven.

**JEFFERSON-B.K.:** One-half inch of rain Thursday allowed corn and beans to uncurl for now. We still need a soaker, even alfalfa is going dormant on the hills. Yields are reduced, how much is unknown. Fall seeding alfalfa has begun. Pastures are brown.

**WASHINGTON-R.B.:** Rained 0.8 inch on Thursday. Corn shows corn borers, in some fields, 8 out of 10 planted. Lack of rain is making corn dry down faster than normal; could start chopping last week of August. Soybeans need rain to fill pods; if it doesn't, pods could abort. Aphids are in beans that are short and are a problem; spraying is going on. The last wheat combining was done, found deer manure in grain. Going to start third cutting; all flowered, reports from others-very little quantity.

**WAUKESHA-D.W.:** We finally got an all day soaker. Corn and bean yields will be less because of lack of rain.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 19, 2001**

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. 18	Mar. 1 to Aug. 18 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	77	55	87	48	66	-3	2055	1877	1.43	13.14	2.46	26.37
Green Bay	77	55	84	49	66	-2	1966	1742	2.14	8.45	0.00	19.67
La Crosse	79	56	89	52	67	-4	2237	2100	1.33	6.72	-3.16	19.71
Madison	75	56	82	50	65	-4	2117	2041	0.71	13.21	3.85	24.68
Milwaukee	76	61	84	57	69	-1	2054	n.a.	1.77	9.55	0.79	22.94

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 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.