



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

April 30, 2001 - 3 p.m.

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Planting Under Way with Warm Weekend Weather

Late week warm weather allowed many Wisconsin farmers to finally begin fieldwork. Over the weekend, many southern farmers were busy with manure hauling, fertilizer spreading, spring tillage, and planting, quite a change from earlier in the month. Northern Wisconsin was still too wet after early week rains added to the already wet soils. Last week the state wide average for fieldwork was 4.7 days suitable. Soil moisture was 2% short, 76% adequate, and 22% surplus.

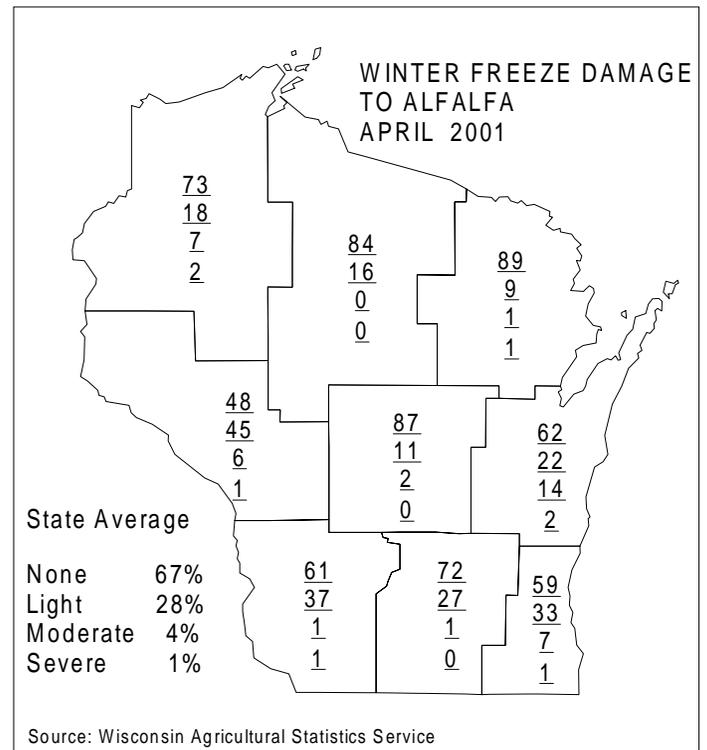
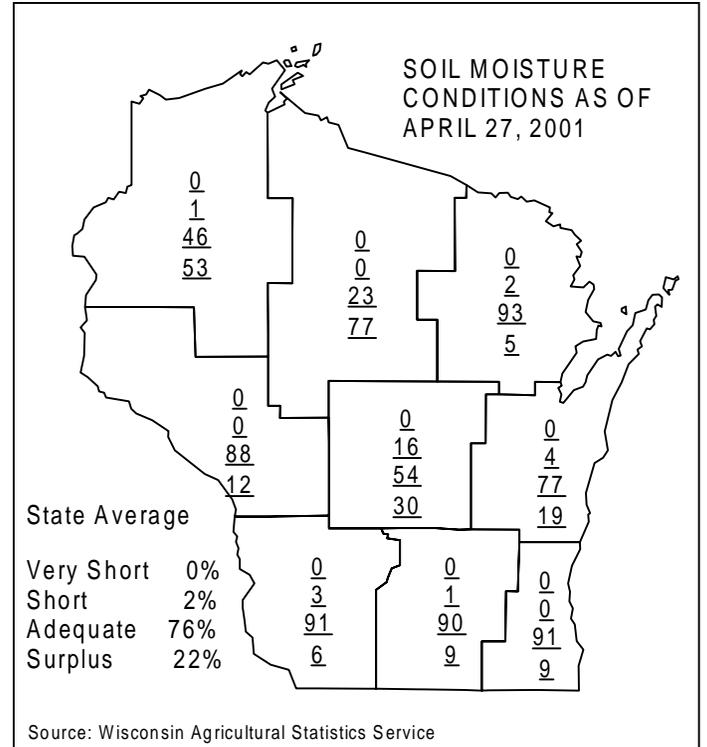
Corn planting started with earnest last week. The state averaged 11% of the corn acreage planted last week, behind last years 17%, and slightly above the 5-year average of 10%. **Oat** planting reached 29% complete last week, well behind last years 78%, and the 5-year average of 55% .

Spring tillage averaged 25% complete last week, behind last years 63%, and the 5-year average of 41%. Progress is behind last year's average due to the cool, wet April field conditions. Several northern Wisconsin locations reported heavy soils too wet for fieldwork, while southern Wisconsin reported more favorable soil conditions.

Alfalfa, winter wheat, and rye continue to be reported looking good. Winter freeze damage to the alfalfa crop was rated as 67% none, 28% light, 4% moderate, and 1% severe in Wisconsin. Alfalfa and grass mixes are growing slower as a result of the cool April temperatures.

Central Wisconsin planting activity is focused on **potato** acreage, with **pea** planting coming to an end.

Nitrogen supplies continue to be adequate for the state. Reports indicated nitrogen fertilizer supplies were 95% of the normal across the state. This is compared to 85% of the normal supplies available reported in early April.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 27, 2001					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	3	3	40	46	8

Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 29, 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
Oats planted	16	n.a.	20	12	28	19	52	48	64	29	78	55
Corn planted	6	n.a.	3	4	n.a.	10	20	14	6	11	17	10
Spring tillage	23	7	21	12	28	19	33	38	32	25	63	41
Percent of normal nitrogen supply	90	100	90	95	90	90	95	95	90	95	n.a.	n.a.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: No fieldwork has started yet; everything is flooded. Had some snow on Monday.

BURNETT-K.S.: Wettest April on record has been keeping farmers out of the fields.

CHIPPEWA-J.J.: Last weekend's rains continue to prevent fieldwork on heavy ground. On Wednesday, those on sandy soil were able to work. Expect corn to be planted this weekend by those able to go.

ASHLAND-A.R.: Excessive rains Sunday and Monday. Fields are very wet. Having heavy frosts at night. No field activity yet. Poor maple syrup season.

CLARK-G.S.: Very little field activity. Some manure being hauled. Some Amish able to do a little with horses. Soils are just starting to dry out at the surface.

VILAS-L.K.: Hauling manure on sod. Starting to dry up; don't need any rain for two weeks. Had 4.8 inches of rain so far this month.

FOREST-A.K.: Maple sap season was short. Started fieldwork in between showers.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Alfalfa fields finally coming alive and are looking very good. Still very little tillage is being done yet.

DUNN-S.S.: Very little fieldwork as of yet; maybe a field here and there on light soil. Some manure hauling, but that also is limited. Everything is greening up and looks good. Plan to put my cows to pasture first of next week. Able to get fertilizer on the pasture last week before all the rain. Have seen a few fields of potatoes planted.

PEPIN-R.W.: Fields are drying out enough now, so some farmers are starting tillage. Corn planting may start this weekend.

TREMPEALEAU-H.T.: Finally saw a few people doing fieldwork; still quite wet.

JUNEAU-R.C.: Wednesday saw fieldwork going on. Corn is being planted on higher ground. Fertilizer is going on. Hayfields look great. Warm weather has finally come.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: A week without rain. Temperatures have been going up. Some oats sowed on high ground. Hay and winter grain seemed to have survived the winter well.

WOOD-T.P.: Fieldwork activity is improving with the warm drying weather. Many soils in central part of county still too wet

to work. Pea acreage is in and most activity is on potatoes at this time. Fall plowed fields that are drying are being worked first. Expect most corn planting activity to commence shortly now, as field conditions permit. Cranberry beds show little winter damage as a result of deeper snow cover.

BROWN-D.S.: Farmers are just getting started, but poised to hit it hard with forecasted warm temperatures.

FOND DU LAC-M.K.: Fieldwork has begun with a stretch of good weather. Alfalfa and winter wheat look good. Expect a lot of planting to occur over the weekend.

SHEBOYGAN-T.J.: Soil condition is too wet for spring tillage. Alfalfa and wheat greening up nicely.

CRAWFORD-D.W.: First fieldwork started this week. Lots of manure to haul. Very little spring tillage.

GRANT-E.B.: Planted first corn on Thursday. Alfalfa and wheat are now starting to grow and look good, but behind normal.

IOWA-R.G.: Fieldwork started in earnest this week

COLUMBIA-J.J.: Finally able to start fieldwork. Already have a bumper crop of ticks.

DODGE-G.R.: Fieldwork beginning in earnest, with primary and secondary tillage being completed. Fertilizer spreading and manure injecting on-going. Alfalfa and wheat greening up.

JEFFERSON-R.W.: Dust is flying in most fields that are being tilled. Other fields are too wet with standing water. Wind early in the week helped dry fields. Some corn being planted.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Corn planting started Thursday. Winter wheat looks good. Alfalfa fields waving in the wind. Some wheat 8.0 inches high. Low spots in some fields wet.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Just getting dry enough. A few water holes. Chopping stalks for bedding.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 29, 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 Apr. 28	Mar. 1 to Apr. 28 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	69	39	80	32	54	5	132	118	0.70	6.27	1.95	7.87
Green Bay	64	39	75	36	52	4	127	98	0.33	4.13	-0.12	6.58
La Crosse	72	46	79	38	59	7	152	135	0.27	5.31	0.85	7.49
Madison	69	43	78	37	56	7	175	151	0.07	3.65	-1.15	7.28
Milwaukee	62	43	77	40	53	5	135	n.a.	0.05	3.94	-2.02	8.53

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.