



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

September 24, 2001

Vol. 01, No. 26

Will Crops Reach Maturity Before Frost?

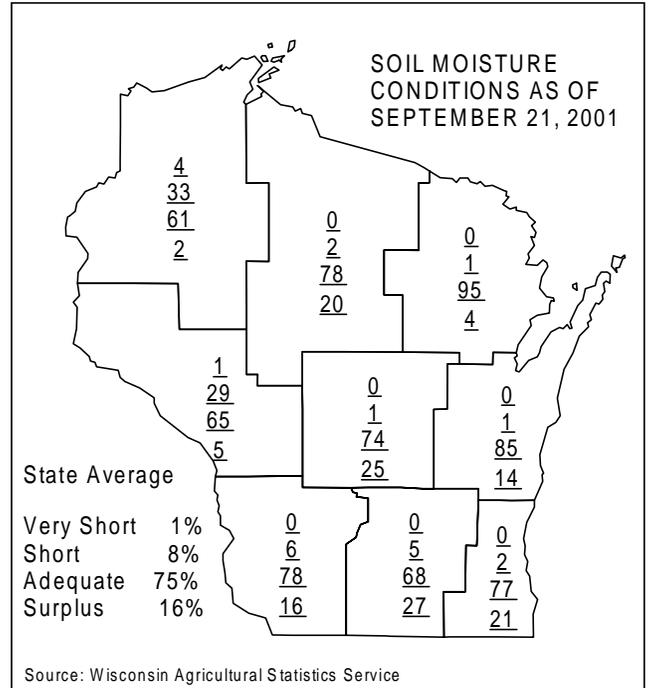
As corn and soybeans approach maturity, frost continues to be a concern. The change in weather has slowed field activities and crop progress. Farmers statewide commented that a stretch of warm, dry weather is needed for crops to reach maturity. Soil moisture was reported 1% very short, 8% short, 75% adequate, and 16% surplus. There were 4.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn in dough stage reached 90% last week, compared to 100% last year, and 96% for the 5-year average. Corn in dent stage reached 60% last week, compared to 90% last year, and 85% for the 5-year average. Corn maturity reached 20% complete last week, compared to 46% last year, and 44% for the 5-year average. Corn harvested for silage reached 27% complete last week, compared to 44% last year, and 47% for the 5-year average. Chippewa and Pepin counties reported corn plant moisture between 65-70 percent, while Grant County moisture levels were between 50-60 percent. Silage yields were reported as light to normal, statewide.

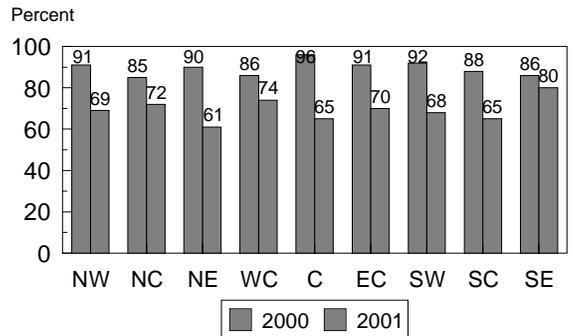
Soybeans leaves turned reached 70% complete last week, compared to 87% last year, and 91% for the 5-year average. Soybeans dropping leaves reached 31% complete last week, compared to 52% last year, and 55% for the 5-year average. A Racine County reporter noted soybean moisture at 17-18 percent last week, before the rain increased that range.

Third cutting **alfalfa** harvest reached 89% complete last week, same as the 5-year average, but behind 100% last year. Fourth cutting alfalfa harvest reached 32% complete this year, slightly behind last year's 39%. A Fond Du Lac County farmer is still cutting second crop hay, a situation seen scattered throughout the state. Farmers cutting fourth crop report quality and quantity better than third crop.

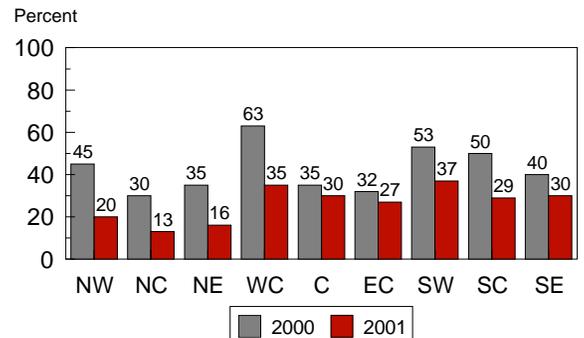
Pumpkin and **squash** harvest began in Portage County last week. **Sweet corn**, **snap bean**, and **potato** harvest was slowed last week due to weather. **Red beet** harvest neared completion in east central Wisconsin last week. A Grant County farmer reported **winter wheat** up and covering the ground. **Apple** harvest started throughout the state. A Bayfield County farmer reported **trefoil** seed harvested last week.



Soybean Leaves Turning By District, Sept. 24, 2000 vs. Sept. 23, 2001



Corn Silage Harvested in Wisconsin By District, Sept. 24, 2000 vs. Sept. 23, 2001



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 21, 2001					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	2	8	32	52	6
Corn	3	7	31	43	16
Soybean	2	5	24	51	18

Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 23, 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 in dough stage	90	86	69	90	86	80	93	95	99	90	100	96
Corn in dent stage	47	50	43	51	60	55	66	73	75	60	90	85
Corn mature	10	14	5	19	16	16	22	27	30	20	46	44
Corn hvstd. for silage	20	13	16	35	30	27	37	29	30	27	44	47
Soybean leaves turning	69	72	61	74	65	70	68	65	80	70	87	91
Soybean dropping leaves	27	29	23	38	25	27	39	23	42	31	52	55
3rd crop hay harvested	86	90	83	90	86	89	93	89	92	89	100	89
4th crop hay harvested	33	35	28	32	31	32	30	32	26	32	39	n.a.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-J.M.: Corn silage is being harvested with very high quality and yields. Apples and pumpkins are ripe.

BURNETT-J.D.: Starting to see corn silage harvested. Fall crop plowing underway.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Corn silage harvest slowed with rains over the weekend. Corn maturity is at many different stages. Silage yields seem normal. Apple yields are above normal.

MARATHON-M.K.: Not a lot of corn chopped yet. Fourth crop hay looks great. Lots of tons of great feed. We need it for the pasture part.

ONEIDA-P.L.: Potato harvest is in full swing. Quantity and quality appear to be good. Weather conditions are excellent for harvesting. We have not had a county-wide killing frost. We have had frost in low areas of the county on two occasions. Farmers' market will be closing in a couple of weeks. Great participation for vegetable crops was experienced throughout the season. Many comments on quality produce, except for the sweet corn. Apples are being harvested, appear to have a good crop; however, the forest tent caterpillar did have a negative effect in parts of the county.

OCONTO-D.T.: Corn silage harvesting going strong. Hay cutting done for this year. Some soybean fields look excellent, others not good at all. Winter wheat has a very good start. No fourth cutting of hay.

DUNN-S.S.: Weather this past week made for very little of any type of fieldwork. Most crops could use some more heat, sun, and rain. Some corn silage yet to be made. Most getting ready for fall harvesting.

TREMPEALEAU-J.Z.: Whole plant moisture of corn silage is still around 70 percent. The quality of corn silage is going to be lower this year. Farmers are chopping fields with little or no grain.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Corn moisture is still 30 percent or higher in most fields, on sandy non- irrigated ground silage yields are 5-7 tons per acre, on better ground it is 10-12 tons per acre. Beans are short and will have trouble making 35 bushel per acre.

WAUSHARA-A.S.: Corn silage in full swing. Potatoes very wet in some fields, but harvest will be fast and furious, weather permitting. Sweet corn and green beans done.

BROWN-D.S.: This upcoming week should be the week that sees the combines and choppers start hitting the field. Corn silage and beans are getting close.

FOND DU LAC-V.F.: Apple quality is excellent. One farmer still

doing second crop hay, everyone else is at fourth crop hay or done. Sweet corn harvest in full swing. A couple loads of red beets go by every day.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Only a few farmers filling silos. Most third crop hay done. Fourth crop hay being chopped. Late oats just combined, a little higher in weight-not too bad. New seeding very good on it. Some beets in ground yet, but most out. Last of canning beets taken.

CRAWFORD-V.H.: After such a long dry spell, the large amount of rain has really slowed stuff up.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: Good quantity of fourth crop hay, but it is difficult to get up. One report of soybean combining and corn combining in western side of the county. Need a stretch of dry, warm weather to get the combines going in earnest.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Soybeans are coming around nicely. Have not seen anyone putting up corn silage. The little rains have been needed. Getting ready for corn harvest. Some high moisture corn taken off and winter wheat planted.

DODGE-G.R.: Corn harvest for silage underway. Yields are good, with moisture in the mid 60's to low 70's. Many fields need time to mature adequately before ripe enough for grain. Third crop alfalfa hay not yet completed. Fourth crop regrowth looks good. Soybean fields have all turned from lush green to full yellow. Leaves on plants beginning to drop.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: We received 2 inches of rain since last report. No dry hay this week. Hard to get corn silage off.

RACINE-L.F.: Soybean moisture was at 17-18 percent, but recent rains have raised it up the past few days. Probably should get started the last week in September. Corn is at 30-40 percent moisture. Corn silage had good grain in it. We do need the rains to stop for awhile.

WAUKESHA-DW: Need a very late frost for the late-planted corn to mature.



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This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 23, 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 Sept. 22	Mar. 1 to Sept. 22 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	68	51	71	46	59	1	2,596	2,368	1.07	2.31	-0.69	30.30
Green Bay	68	52	74	43	60	2	2,477	2,232	0.28	1.89	-0.73	22.55
La Crosse	67	53	71	50	60	-1	2,798	2,666	1.08	5.46	2.56	27.91
Madison	67	51	72	45	59	0	2,641	2,614	0.93	3.51	0.93	31.13
Milwaukee	68	55	74	50	61	0	2,638	n.a.	0.87	3.16	0.60	28.72

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.