



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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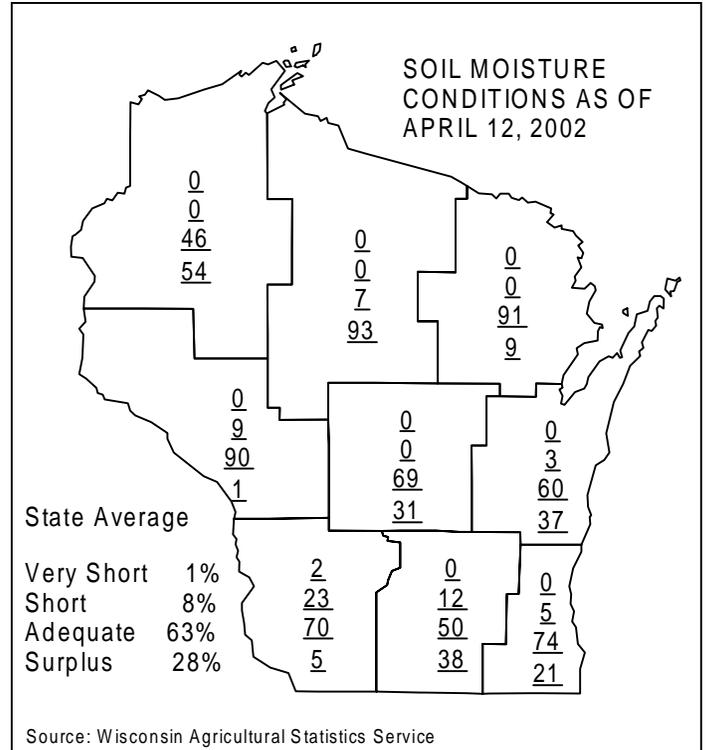
## Field Activity Paused by Weather

**Alfalfa** seeding, manure spreading, and equipment maintenance continue to be the main activities for many farms in Wisconsin. Heavy rainfalls, statewide, resulted in an average of 2.0 days suitable for field-work. The soil moisture was reported 1% very short, 8% short, 63% adequate, and 28% surplus. The northern two-thirds of the state saw snow-covered fields and ponds on bare ground. Southern Wisconsin farmers reported spring rains, and warmer temperatures were "greening up" **winter wheat** and alfalfa fields.

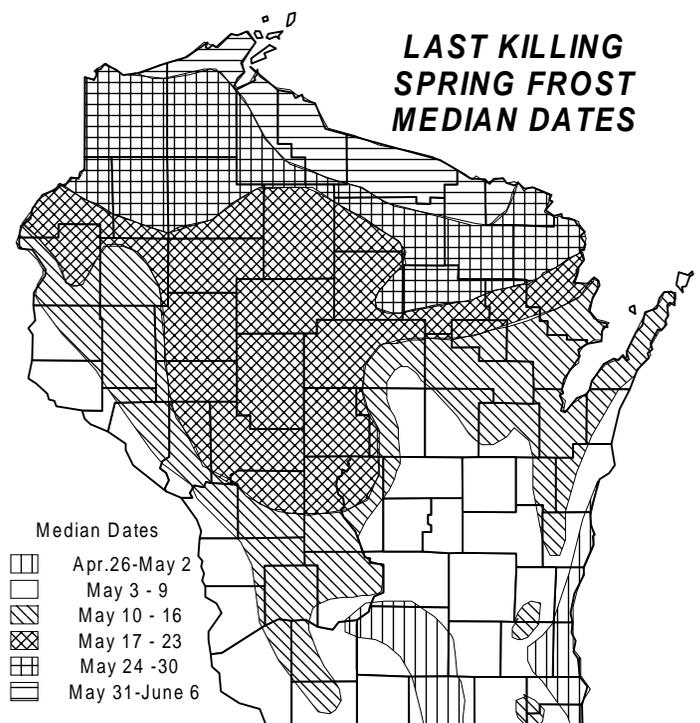
Planting activity was concentrated, with the southern districts contributing to most of the oat planting, with a state average of 6% complete. The same was true for **spring tillage**, with the state average reaching 5% last week. Farmers are waiting for field conditions to improve to begin fieldwork. Fields with lightweight soils will be the first to see activity as the temperatures increase, and soil dries out.

With fields of winter wheat starting to show growth throughout the state, conditions were rated 72% good-to-excellent. **Pasture** conditions were rated 35% good-to-excellent.

**Potato** planting started in the Central Sands early last week. **Maple syrup** season continues to be unpredictable with less than ideal weather conditions. Farmers reported fruit progress as: **apple** tree pruning neared completion last week, with reports of good winter survival; **grapes** showed some winter injury, with strong buds; **cranberry** plantings were anticipated to show growth tip injury due to inadequate ice and snow cover.



Wisconsin Crop Condition as of April 12, 2002					
Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	17	18	30	31	4
Winter wheat	1	2	25	59	13



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

**BARRON-R.C.:** Weekend rains have removed any frost that may have been in the ground. A couple of farmers attempted to haul manure, which proved to be disastrous. Maple sap is a mixed bag, some did well and others did poorly.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Spring has begun in the last couple of days. Warmer temperatures have finished the maple syrup in the area. Sugar content and quality were high. Hay fields are just starting to show signs of growth. Still too early to tell if there is any damage done.

**LINCOLN-F.O.:** Still frost in the ground. No field activity except manure hauling. Fields are very wet. No pasture growth. Hay fields are still dormant. Too early to see crop condition.

**PRICE-M.P.:** Maple syrup flow was not good, too cold. Lots of snow on fields yet.

**OCONTO-D.T.:** Frost still in ground. Maple syrup done now, some people said it was very good, while others said it was bad. Winter wheat still all brown.

**SHAWANO-J.S.:** Still some frost in the ground, and it's too wet to do fieldwork.

**DUNN-S.S.:** Have not seen one piece of machinery in the fields as of yet. Rain this past Thursday has taken most frost out and fields too soft right now. Not even any manure hauling as yet. Maple syrup season too poor they say. Most farmers getting sort of anxious right now.

**PIERCE-D.J.:** Have seen one person in the field doing plowing and discing. Manure is being hauled.

**ST CROIX-L.M.:** No fieldwork yet but fields expected to dry this week with unseasonably warm temperatures. We could be in the field on the lighter ground by next week.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Some tillage on sandy soil types. Few starting to plant potatoes on sandy soils.

**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** It's too cold for fieldwork. Winter wheat and rye look good. It's too early to determine condition of alfalfa.

**WOOD-T.P.:** Fieldwork at a stand still. On sandy soils potato planting commenced early in the week. Maple syrup tapping going well for some, and poor for others. Expect trees to move fast now and sap season to end next week. Hay fields are still slow to color and will need more warm days to give us an indication of condition. Some heaving has occurred and likely will thin some stands, especially those on wet heavy soils. Planting

intentions seem to be about the same as last spring with perhaps a few more acres of corn than soybeans. Apple tree pruning about done with good winter survival. Grape pruning showed some injury, but buds look strong. Cranberry plantings show good spring color but anticipate some tip injury due to lack of adequate ice and snow cover much of the winter on some beds.

**FOND DU LAC-E.A.:** No fieldwork being done in this area; too wet. Hay and winter wheat starting to green up.

**SHEBOYGAN-E.P.:** More than average fieldwork was done last fall so there will be less this spring. Very little sunshine now, no one in the field yet. Alfalfa that was cut late doesn't look good now. Wheat is starting to green up.

**IOWA-S.M.:** Farmers are just starting to get seed and machinery ready for oat planting.

**LAFAYETTE-L.W.:** Alfalfa appears alright, but there still is very little growth to get a good measure of survivorship.

**COLUMBIA-J.J.:** No fieldwork yet, even on lighter soil. Some lime and manure hauling. It's been a good year for brush cutting.

**DODGE-L.P.:** Not any fieldwork started yet. Water is standing in some fields. Syrup season wasn't too bad. Wheat fields starting to green up.

**WASHINGTON-L.K.:** The recent warm weather has helped dry up the fields. Wheat has come through the winter pretty well and has greened up nicely. A lot of fertilizer has been spread on the wheat, but there is a lot left to do. Pastures are slow to green up. No one has really been in the field yet, but a lot of equipment is hooked up and ready to go.

**WAUKESHA- D.W.:** Wheat looks good. Grass is getting green fast. All fieldwork has stopped.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 14, 2002**

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 April 13	Mar. 1 to April 13 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	58	35	69	26	47	5	34	28	1.48	3.93	0.89	6.01
Green Bay	56	38	68	32	47	5	30	25	0.60	2.87	-0.31	4.97
La Crosse	60	40	68	31	50	4	48	47	1.53	3.06	-0.34	5.70
Madison	59	40	73	32	49	5	49	51	1.57	3.54	-0.14	6.34
Milwaukee	54	39	72	34	47	4	36	n.a.	1.88	3.99	-0.21	6.89

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.