



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

April 29, 2002

Vol. 02, No. 4

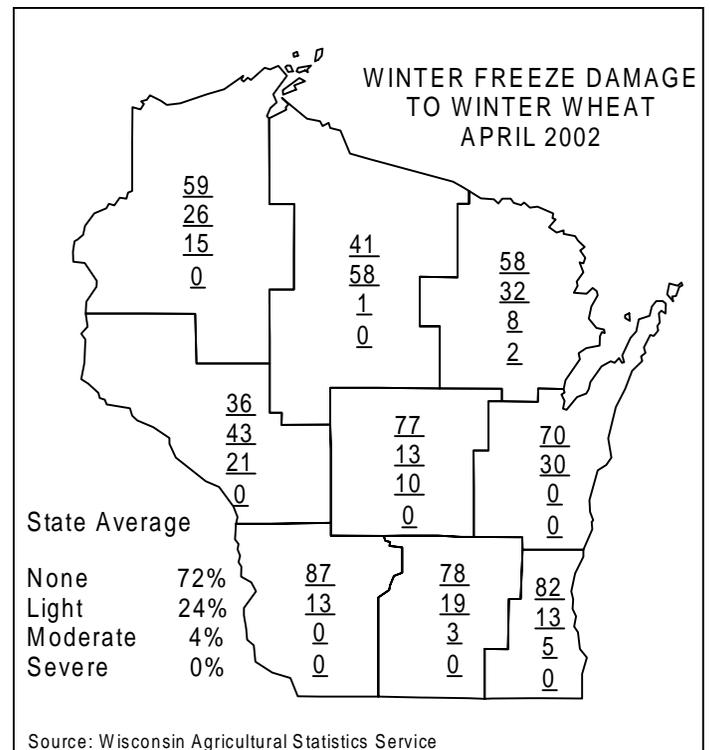
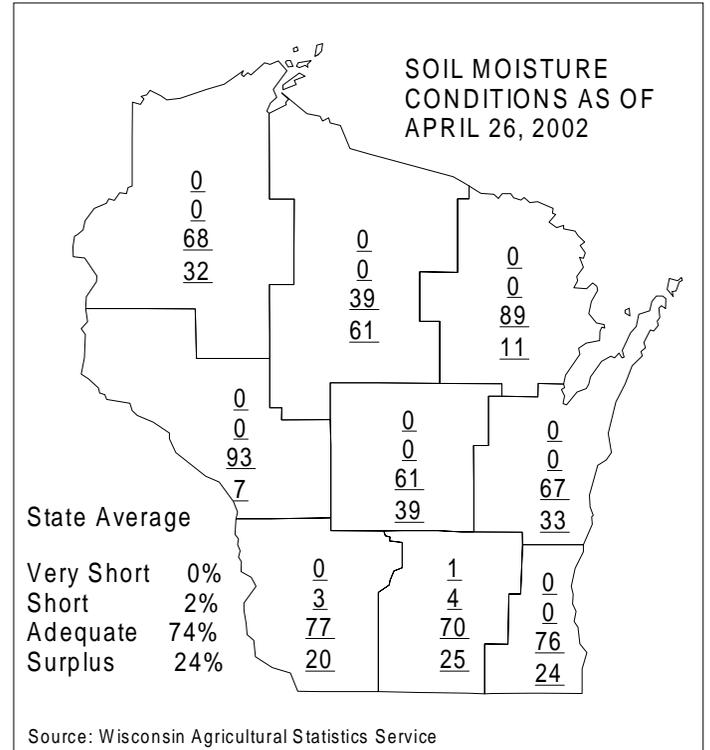
Back to Winter Conditions

After a week of below normal temperatures, a mixture of snow and rain covered Wisconsin over the weekend. Northern Wisconsin received snow accumulation after seeing temperatures in the high eighties the previous week. Statewide, there were 3.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Wet and cold soil conditions caused by the sudden turn in weather last week limited most field activity.

Corn planted reached 8 percent complete, statewide, last week, compared to 10 percent last year, and 9 percent for the 5-year average. Several farmers in southern Wisconsin commented on corn spiking in several locations. A Washington County farmer reported having corn that was 1.5 inches tall. **Oats** planted reached 34 percent complete, ahead of last year's 26 percent, yet behind the 5-year average of 52 percent. Oats emerged reached 10 percent last week. The oats that had already emerged seem to be stalled by the cool temperatures.

Most planting activity is concentrated in the southern districts; farmers are anxious to start planting when the weather improves. Farmers that were able to get into fields continued nitrogen applications, spring tillage, and spreading manure. Several farmers in southern Wisconsin reported spraying herbicides last week, as weather allowed. **Spring tillage** averaged 20 percent complete, slightly behind last year's 22 percent, and behind the 5-year average of 39 percent.

Pasture, winter wheat, and alfalfa fields were reported looking good and growing well, with the cool wet spring conditions. A Buffalo County farmer reported temperatures below freezing, but **fruit trees** were not blossoming yet. Central Wisconsin continued to report **potatoes** and **peas** were planted on sandy soils. A Waukesha County farmer reported that some **sweet corn** was planted.



Wisconsin Crop Condition as of April 26, 2002					
Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	2	5	32	48	13
Winter wheat	0	1	10	61	28

Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 28, 2002

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	9	4	8	26	20	18	82	68	86	34	26	52
Oats emerged	1	n.a.	1	5	3	3	28	25	30	10	n.a.	n.a.
Spring tillage	8	5	15	20	12	19	31	25	36	20	22	39

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-J.M.: Snow accumulation on two days this week. Very cold conditions exist.

WASHBURN-R.H.: No fieldwork yet. Three inches of snow Monday morning. Maple syrup season was short, but good. Hayfields greening up.

MARATHON-M.K.: Snow, wind, and rain makes wet fields, poor growing conditions.

ONEIDA-L.O.: Received 4-plus inches of snow last Sunday. Fields still too wet to get into.

FOREST-A.K.: No fieldwork as yet; some manure spreading.

SHAWANO-J.S.: Fieldwork was well underway; but has been held up by snow on Sunday; rains on Tuesday. Alfalfa and winter wheat appear to have come through the winter very well. Alfalfa really starting to take off now.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Friday had 28 degrees, but fruit trees have no blossoming yet. Softwood trees starting to leaf. Had .53 inches rain spread out over the week, so fieldwork was limited to light soil places. Pastures and alfalfa growing well. We are starting to see cattle on the grass.

PIERCE-D.J.: Farmers that could get in the field to apply nitrogen. More farmers are getting oats planted. Had .75 inch rain, and on top of that, more snow. Very cool temperatures.

TREMPEALEAU-J.Z.: Field activity is slow; had snow/rain mix Saturday and Saturday night. Some seeding is getting done. Also some reports of corn planting in southern part of county in lighter soils. Early oats has broken through the ground. Hay seems to have survived winter well, but could use some sunshine and warm weather.

JUNEAU-O.P.: Down by La Valle oats are up; got planted during warm weather (the spring!) that we had. Some alfalfa fields look nice; cool weather helps that. Anhydrous tanks sitting in field waiting to dry out.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Potato planting going on sandy soils. Equipment poised for work on heavy soils, but cold and very wet! Manure hauling going on, but difficult with wet soils.

WOOD-F.M.: Ground still too wet; most of Wood County. Some working in south end on sand and in high parts around Marshfield. Hay slowed by below normal temperatures. Hope May gets better!

BROWN-D.S.: Weekend rains should keep farmers out of the field for the rest of this week.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Too wet to be in the fields. Winter wheat and hayfields look very good. With water standing in the fields; it will be a week or two before tractors are rolling again.

CRAWFORD-V.H.: What a wild spring, 90 degrees one day, 28 degrees two days later.

GRANT-D.W.: Wet weather continues to slow fieldwork. Last fall saw most fields tilled, so the situation isn't critical. Most of the oats are up, and looks fairly good. Some are quite yellow. Alfalfa generally came through the winter in good shape.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: A lot of early-planted oats are now up. Corn planters are rolling now. We do have one report of 200 acres of soybeans planted by one producer.

DANE-D.F.: Alfalfa is about 8 inches tall-looking very good. Winter wheat also looks well. A lot of fieldwork was completed between the rain showers last week. Oats have begun to emerge in many of the fields.

DODGE-J.F.: Too cold for corn planting, after a bit was planted last week. Some small grains got planted. Some anhydrous ammonia applied this week. Alfalfa and winter wheat look like they have wintered well.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Some planting this week. Larger growers started corn. Alfalfa growing well with cool temperatures this week.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Hard to get fieldwork between rains. Some sweet corn planted. Most oats are up. Everybody going full blast Thursday and Friday.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia
State Statistician

Angela Byers-Krantz
Statistician

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 April 28, 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 27	Mar. 1 to April 27 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	49	30	66	26	40	-9	138	111	1.22	5.55	1.15	7.63
Green Bay	49	32	68	28	41	-7	126	92	1.13	4.43	0.09	6.53
La Crosse	52	33	65	28	43	-9	166	143	1.59	5.11	0.15	7.75
Madison	50	34	69	31	42	-7	165	144	0.93	4.95	-0.31	7.75
Milwaukee	48	35	70	26	41	-7	155	n.a.	0.72	5.24	-0.71	8.14

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.