



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 6, 2002

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As the Weather Changes

Mow the yard or shovel the driveway? While southern Wisconsin progressed with spring field activities last week, northern districts waited for spring weather, as a late snowfall melted. Locations in northern Wisconsin continue to be delayed, now waiting for fields to dry out and soil temperatures to increase. Field activities in southern Wisconsin progressed strongly between rainfalls. Last week Wisconsin saw 3.7 day suitable for fieldwork.

Wisconsin, as a whole, is behind last year and the 5-year average for spring planting and tillage. Intermittent cool and wet weather has oats, corn, and soybeans behind schedule for 2002. A week of warm, dry weather will see planting progress at a rapid pace. As farmers wait for that break in the weather, fieldwork continues on a limited basis throughout the state.

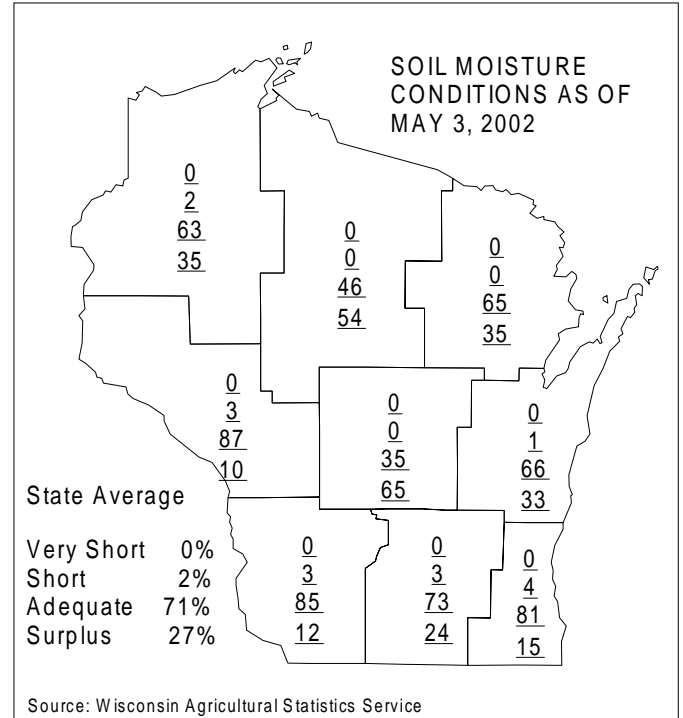
Corn planted reached 19 percent complete, compared to 26 percent last year, and 32 percent for the 5-year average. Southern Wisconsin farmers reported corn emerged in scattered locations. A Green County farmer reported that most of the corn is planted, with many farmers now planting **soybeans**.

Alfalfa and **winter wheat** fields were reported growing slowly with cool temperatures, yet in good condition. Several farmers commented on the potential of corn planting and first crop alfalfa harvest to occur at the same time this year. A Fond du Lac County farmer reported applying nitrogen to winter wheat last week.

A Grant County farmer reported **pastures** in poor condition. Pasture conditions were rated 80 percent fair-to-good, statewide. **Oats** planted reached 43 percent complete, behind last year's 52 percent and the 5-year average of 78 percent. Oats emerged reached 16 percent, compared to 28 percent for the 5-year average.

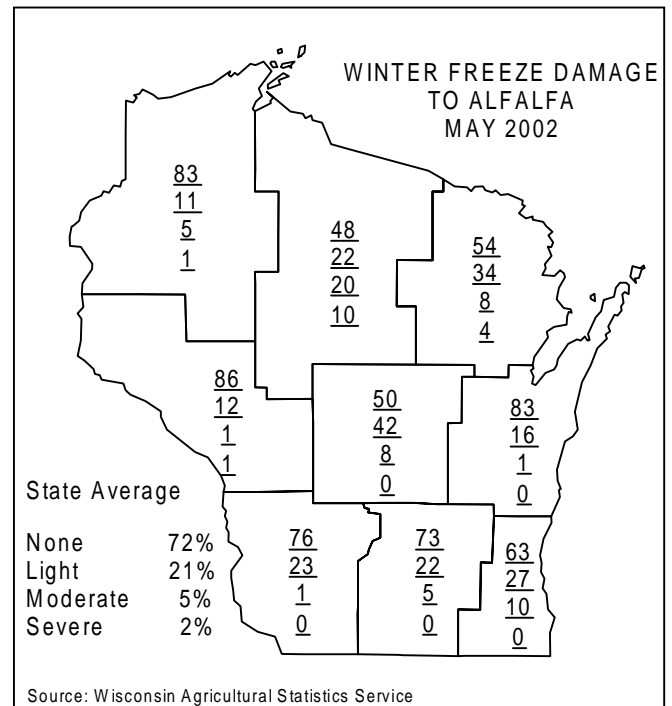
Spring tillage reached 35 percent complete last week, behind last year's 51 percent and 5-year average of 64 percent.

Fruit trees in Rusk County were reported dormant last week, while a Columbia County farmer reported fruit trees leafing out. A Waushara County farmer reported **potato** planting going well, with the majority planted.



Wisconsin Crop Condition as of May 3, 2002

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	3	27	56	13
Winter wheat	0	1	9	53	37



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 5, 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
Corn planted	7	1	3	16	5	4	31	30	16	19	26	32
Oats planted	15	13	18	39	43	20	88	82	91	43	52	78
Oats emerged	4	2	5	10	12	4	40	37	45	16	n.a.	28
Spring tillage	22	17	30	41	25	37	47	40	50	35	51	64

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-R.C.: For much of Barron County there has been little in the way of fieldwork. Cool, wet weather has continued to halt the progress of farmers. One alfalfa field I saw looked alright in terms of populations and early sprouts.

RUSK-G.P.: No field activity this week. Had six-plus inches of snow on Saturday and Sunday. Melting snow made fields wet.

Need warm and dry weather to get crops in. Fruit trees are still mainly dormant. Even hard to tell how much was seeded last fall.

ASHLAND-A.R.: Mixed weather rain, snow showers, wind, and frosty nights. Fields too wet; no activity.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Very few fields have been worked and planted. Rain almost every day and cold temperatures have prevented tillage efforts. Planting will be difficult, if it doesn't dry up.

LANGLADE-A.M.: Spring tillage has started, but most fields still too wet. A small amount of oats have been planted. Apple tree buds have pink tips.

OCONTO-K.H.: Cool temperatures, precipitation, and wet conditions continue to hamper field operations. Limited to small grain and hay seeding on higher ground so far. Apples and all deciduous trees slow in leafing out.

DUNN-S.S.: Has been a busy week for farmers here, with most everyone in the fields. For the most part, oats are all in and even some corn. Heard of one farmer who had beans already in. Pasture and hayfields have really not taken off like they would have with warmer weather.

EAU CLAIRE-M.H.: Weather variations are really taking their toll. Two snowfalls of over 5 inches in one week have added moisture, but slowed down tillage and planting progress. Alfalfa fields show little damage.

WAUPACA-G.K.: Light, sandy soil is working up quite well. Water and mud present on most low ground and heavier soils. Weather and soil too cold for good germination. Some trees are slow to show buds.

WAUSHARA-J.J.: Not much oats planted. What is planted is nearly complete. Potato planting is going well, with estimate of 80 percent complete. Alfalfa looks very good. Cool weather is slowing growth. One area farmer started corn planting Tuesday.

BROWN-K.N.: Spring tillage started Friday. Some corn may start going in on Saturday or Sunday. New seeding started today and oats with new seeding as well.

SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: Waiting for soils to dry so that growers can get back in the fields.

GRANT-R.R.: There are few days good for fieldwork. Generally, it is too wet. Most of the oats have emerged, but are yellow and grow very little.

IOWA-K.V.: Farmers will attempt to go back in the fields when they dry out. Fertilizer is almost spread. Alfalfa looks excellent.

SAUK-D.H.: Sprayed alfalfa for the second time; they are going to bloom soon.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: The rain started just as the land is fit to work. Some corn has been in the ground over two weeks now. Fruit trees are leafing out.

DODGE-L.P.: Some wheat fields that were in low lands have a poor stand. Many fields are too wet to do anything.

JEFFERSON-C.B.: Corn planters began rolling Wednesday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, a lot of acres getting covered. No-tilling began late Thursday with borderline soil conditions. Winter wheat is about done tillering, need to get 2,4-D on, if needed, before it begins jointing phase. Oats in alfalfa seedings are emerging. Rains keep coming just as soil conditions reach optimum planting conditions.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Winter wheat looks wonderful.

RACINE-L.F.: Farmers are continuing to get the crops in despite the cold weather. Hoping for warmer temperatures in the coming days. Seeds that are in are still looking good.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Rain on Saturday stopped tillage. No fieldwork until Wednesday. Corn planted in April froze, was one and a half inches tall, is starting to grow back. All other corn is growing slowly. Alfalfa is doing well, no reseeding.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 5, 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 May 4	Mar. 1 to May 4 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	57	32	66	24	44	-8	168	155	0.01	6.22	1.04	8.30
Green Bay	54	36	66	32	45	-6	146	125	0.92	5.42	0.50	7.51
La Crosse	59	37	72	30	48	-7	201	190	0.25	5.57	-0.23	8.21
Madison	57	37	68	29	47	-5	196	189	0.64	5.59	-0.42	8.39
Milwaukee	54	38	62	31	46	-5	175	n.a.	0.55	5.85	-0.95	8.75

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.