



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

July 8, 2002

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Dry, Hot Weather Continues in Southern Wisconsin

Last week, the majority of Wisconsin's farmers called for rain. Many regions received little or no rain, which provided appropriate conditions for hay harvest but began to stress many crops. Last week was the second week that fields in the southern districts have been dry, and the intense heat had farmers observing daytime moisture stress. Heavier soils in counties that received heavy rain in recent weeks had adequate to surplus soil moisture, while sandy fields were in need of water. There were isolated rainstorms in Washburn and Grant counties last week, some which created erosion and flooding.

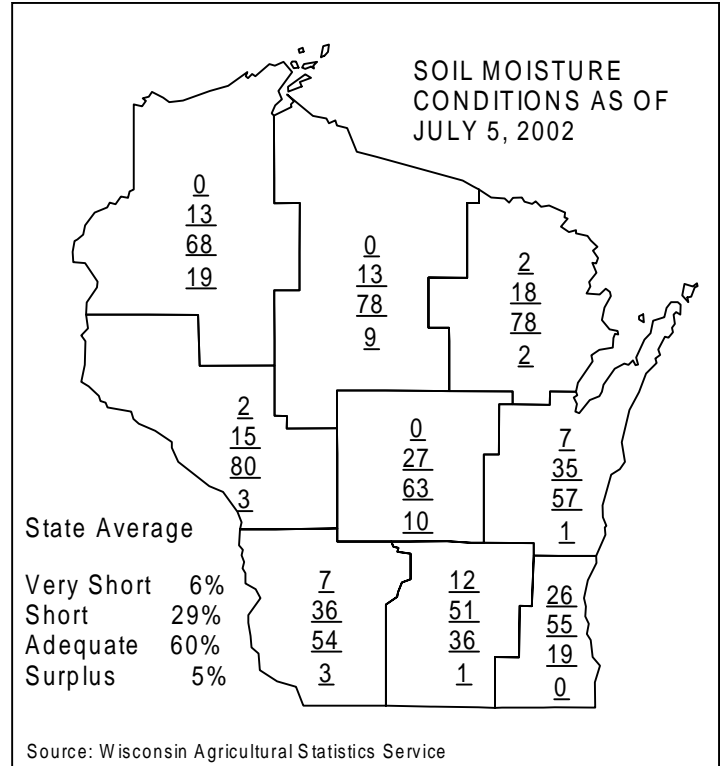
Last week, there was an average of 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork in the state. The soil moisture was rated 6 percent very short, 29 percent short, 60 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus.

The hot weather continued to bolster **corn** and **soybean** growth last week. Many corn fields in northern districts that growers didn't feel would reach knee-high by the 4th actually surpassed 24 inches due to the warm weather. Corn fields in the northern part of the state suffered from excess weeds, whose growth was also aided by the weather. Yellowing corn in low-lying areas was spotted in Taylor, Pepin, and Juneau counties last week. Corn fields in southern districts exhibited stress due to lack of topsoil moisture. Many southern district farmers reported corn leaves rolling during hot days last week.

Hay/alfalfa harvest progressed due to drier weather conditions last week. Pepin County second crop alfalfa was good in quality; however, across the state, farmers remarked that yield was down. **Pastures** in Iowa County turned brown last week due to lack of moisture.

Oat fields were affected by the heat and dryness in Jefferson and Lafayette counties last week, while small grain growth in Wood County slowed due to wet soils. Taylor and Dane County farmers noted that oat stalks appeared short. Across the state, **winter wheat** was nearing maturity. Pierce County began **barley** and oat harvest for forage last week.

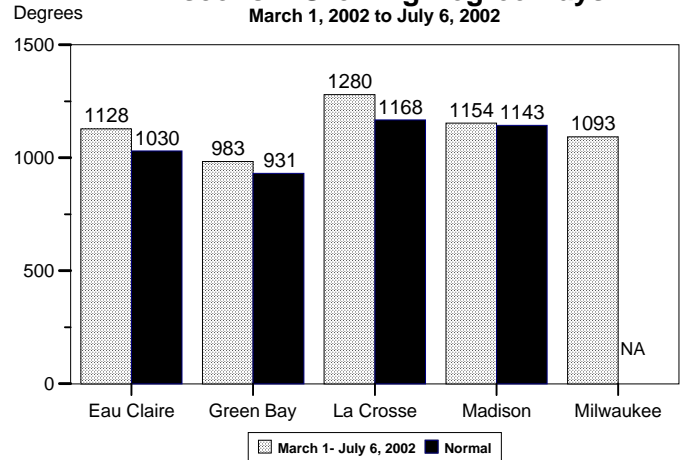
Snap bean harvest will begin soon in Oconto County, with an average looking crop predicted. **Pea** harvest was underway last week in Dane, Columbia, and Portage counties. The **cranberry** crop in Wood County was affected by the past few week's rainstorms, with some producers worried that they may lose an entire crop. Early **sweet corn** tasseled in Jefferson, Rock, and Walworth counties last week.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 5, 2002

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	9	26	51	13
Corn	3	5	24	47	21
Winter wheat	0	2	13	54	31
Soybean	1	4	24	52	19
Oat	3	5	21	55	16

Wisconsin Growing Degree Days



Wisconsin Crop Progress, July 7, 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
Average height of corn	28	23	26	35	32	33	43	42	42	36	30	40
Oats headed	32	30	43	71	82	68	96	91	92	68	65	89
First cutting hay	81	84	86	91	89	92	96	97	96	90	91	96
Second cutting hay	3	3	6	12	18	20	28	38	32	17	15	21

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-J.M.: Corn and soybean improvements due to spraying and fertilizer application. Sandy areas could use a shower, heavier soil areas still have adequate to slightly surplus moisture.

PRICE-A.B.: Corn is doing good; 1 to 4 feet tall. Alfalfa is starting to blossom.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Drier weather aided hay harvesting tremendously. Some oats are headed out, but stalks are short. Corn varies greatly in growth. Many fields are uneven and yellow.

FOREST-A.K.: Haying in full swing.

OCONTO-K.H.: Hot, humid weather earlier in the week really helped the corn and soybeans take off. Both crops look very good, except for low areas. Quite a few corn fields by July 4th were over knee high. Winter wheat has begun turning color. Second crop hay harvest is beginning in earnest, although many growers just finished the last of first crop a week ago.

PIERCE-D.J.: Some barley and oats for forage are being harvested.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Warm weather and moisture have really set crops off. Have had an excellent weed control in corn.

JUNEAU-R.C.: Corn is in good condition, except for low, wet areas. Soybeans are looking good where weed control is working. Oats are showing some weed problems. Some excellent second crop hay made the last few days.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Corn is growing about two inches a day, but needs rain now. The irrigators are pumping water every day now on their potatoes and sweet corn. First crop hay is about all harvested and second crop is just about ready to cut where the first crop was harvested early.

MANITOWOC-D.S.: Corn, second crop alfalfa, and oats showing very little stress. Where corn was planted through low spots, there is some yellowing. Quantity and quality average for first crop hay. Second crop hay looking good and ready to cut. With heat and moisture corn has caught up and surpassed past years' growth.

SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: The general crop condition is good, at least compared with recent years. Soybeans are off to a good start. Some corn acres are beginning to show moisture stress with recent high temperatures. Not serious at this point, but will need rain soon.

GRANT-L.F.: Corn is really growing and has a very nice color. Soybeans are looking much better. Winter wheat and some barley have already turned color. Most first crop hay is made and lots of second crop hay is being made; very good quality. Yield is down some on second crop hay. Potatoes, peas, soybeans, and tomatoes are setting fruit.

IOWA-K.V.: Corn and soybeans are starting to hurt from the dry weather. Some soybeans are almost dead from the 90-degree weather. Pastures are starting to turn brown. Winter wheat has turned almost yellow.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Corn and soybeans started slow due to cold temperatures earlier. I think they are caught up to normal now, and still have 99 to 100 percent of original yield potential.

JEFFERSON-B.K.: Crops have progressed tremendously, but are now suffering moisture stress. An incredible week for making second crop hay. Test weight of wheat and oats will likely be affected by dryness. Wheat harvest less than ten days away. Early sweet corn tasseled.

ROCK-C.O.: Corn leaves are rolling, and much longer will result in a shortage of grain. Most were pleased with second crop, but bugs are really bad (weevil). Some sweet corn is tasseling.

WALWORTH-A.A.: The crops are starting to show heat stress. Winter wheat turning fast.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Corn is very heat stressed, it is curling and turning white. Some 12 to 63 inches tall. Weed spray is non-working, so weeds are starting to grow. Soybeans are looking good, some are heat stressed and turning white. Alfalfa has got bugs, lots of bugs. Cut second crop hay, looks good. Winter wheat is turning fast, some fields are all but yellow. Wheat may yield very good. Could start next week late. Need rain.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 7, 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 July 6	Mar. 1 to July 6 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	88	67	95	53	78	8	1128	1030	0.26	7.10	2.07	18.96
Green Bay	86	66	93	55	76	7	983	931	0.51	5.20	1.11	15.19
La Crosse	88	69	94	61	79	6	1280	1168	0.88	7.29	2.47	17.04
Madison	88	68	93	56	78	7	1154	1143	0.00	3.70	-1.10	14.56
Milwaukee	87	69	95	61	78	7	1093	n.a.	0.00	3.13	-1.15	13.70

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.