



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

July 22, 2002

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Wisconsin Fields Thirst for Rain

The story hasn't changed in weeks: Wisconsin's soils desperately need rain. Fields in the southern half of the state thirsted the most last week, and farmers in those areas remarked that no amount of rain will save some fields. Although the dry weather is conducive to hay harvest, it contributed to crop stress across the state.

Because of the lack of rain, there was an average of 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork last week in Wisconsin. Soil moisture in the state was rated at 25 percent very short, 43 percent short, and 32 percent adequate.

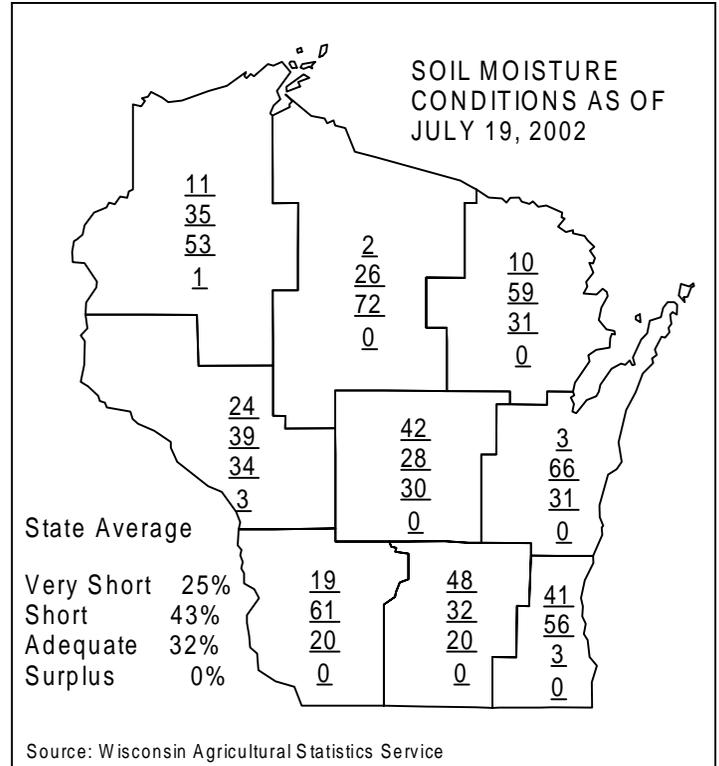
In the driest areas of the state, **corn** and **soybeans** suffered from moisture stress. A Lafayette farmer reported that yield potentials drop daily as the dry weather continues. In the south, corn leaves rolled up during the heat of the day in an effort to conserve moisture. The bottom third of leaves turned brown on thin soils in Grant County corn fields last week. Corn was 11 percent silked across the state, and farmers called for more rain to aid the pollination process.

Potato leafhopper damage to **alfalfa** fields was reported throughout Wisconsin last week. The dry weather provided excellent conditions for harvesting second crop, bringing the state average to 62 percent complete. Although quality of second crop remained good, the lack of moisture contributed to poor yields in some areas.

Winter wheat harvest continued last week throughout the state, with yields ranging up to 80 bushels per acre. In Dunn County, small grain yields are predicted to be affected by the heat and lack of moisture. Grant County winter wheat yields were poor where the wheat lodged before heading out.

Barley ripened last week in Lincoln County. **Rye** harvest was underway in Waushara County. Sheboygan County noted red rust in **oat** fields. Oat harvest averaged 3 percent complete in the state last week.

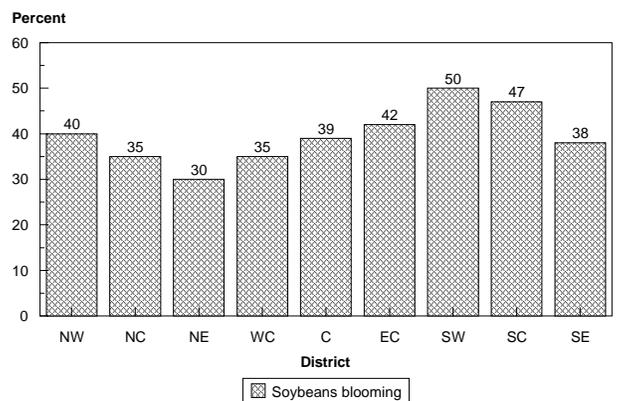
Snap bean and **potato** harvest began in Portage County last week. Waushara County started **cucumber** harvest. Across Waushara County, farmers reported an average of a 5 percent loss on the potato crop, due to the heavy rains at the end of June. **Pea** yields fell short of expectations, and **cherry** harvest will begin soon in Door County. While farmers in Lincoln County are anticipating a small **apple** crop, Chippewa County reported the crop in good condition. The hot weather may impact the total fruit set of the **cranberry** crop in Wood County.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 19, 2002

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	10	23	33	31	3
Corn	5	11	31	42	11
Soybean	4	11	30	44	11
Oat	2	9	25	53	11

Soybeans Blooming Wisconsin by District - July 21, 2002



Wisconsin Crop Progress, July 21, 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	57	53	54	63	58	59	71	64	66	62	54	66
Corn silked	5	2	3	10	8	11	19	15	10	11	8	25
Soybeans blooming	40	35	30	35	39	42	50	47	38	42	16	32
Oats headed	84	84	87	93	96	93	99	98	99	93	93	99
Winter wheat harvested	5	11	5	7	9	9	38	38	35	20	21	35
Second cutting hay	47	45	48	59	67	68	73	77	75	62	61	61

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-J.M.: Strawberry harvest is finished with very high yields. Excellent hay drying weather resulted in most hay being harvested last week.

POLK-C.S.: Corn and soybeans heading into the critical periods. Touch-up spraying of corn and soybeans for weed escapes. Leafhoppers in alfalfa fields, caused severe damage.

MARATHON-M.K.: Corn looks great. Second crop hay does not have a big yield, but a good yield.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Hot weather enabled the corn to grow, but high winds in some areas have flattened fields of corn and oats. Second crop hay is maturing quickly. No small grains have been harvested to date.

FOREST-A.K.: First crop hay 90 percent complete. Other crops need rain.

SHAWANO-B.R.: It was a beautiful week for baling second crop hay, with many farmers baling more than originally planned. Leafhoppers are increasing, causing problems.

PEPIN-H.R.: Lots of good second crop hay being baled. Lots of corn rolling leaves on higher soils. Corn and soybeans are looking good, getting rid of lots of yellow spots in fields. Lots of bugs in alfalfa fields. Some winter wheat harvested this week. Very heavy straw, plus good quality grains.

ST. CROIX-L.M.: Wheat harvest will be soon. Corn has improved dramatically in the last two weeks. Leafhoppers are bad. Considerable amount of spraying has been done.

WAUSHARA-J.J.: Feast or famine, went from very wet to very dry. Most crops in the irrigated areas have recovered nicely. Beans and cucumber harvests are underway, with respectable yields. Potato fields vary from very good to fair. Rye harvest underway. No oats yet.

WOOD-T.P.: Many fields have corn 12 to 60 inches in the same field. Nitrogen loss is very apparent. Soybeans have snapped out of most stress and are showing good color. Second cutting hay is slow to respond with the hot weather. Strawberry harvest is coming to an end. Commercial plantings of snap beans, cucumbers, and peppers look good. Cranberry acreage is responding well to the heat.

DOOR-M.F.: Pea yields are falling short of what was expected. Cherry harvest to begin this week.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Winter wheat yields 60-80 bushels per acre range. Lots of straw. Moisture of grain is still very high-for as dry as the soil is. Corn starting to show drought stress on rocky ground and hills.

GRANT-E.B.: Corn is 6 feet tall-curls up during the day and the bottom 1/3 of the leaves have turned brown on the thin soils.

Where the wheat lodged before heading, the yield was very poor.

IOWA-K.V.: Corn starting to tassel, soybeans are flowering; need rain very soon. Pastures are turning brown, third crop alfalfa is not growing very much. Soybean aphids are starting to show up in different fields; no one is spraying yet.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Corn is rolling up and some firing on bottom leaves. Soybeans are a little better off. Oats may not have the bushel weight as expected, due to hot, dry winds. Weeds are still coming in these bad conditions. Winter wheat close to harvest. Oats will not be far behind. Much second crop hay made-ideal conditions, but alfalfa was short. Bugs bad in alfalfa.

JEFFERSON-M.H.: Soil conditions are probably the driest in the state. Corn plants are beginning to remain wilted throughout the night. Hay stands about eight inches tall and fully flowered.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Second crop hay is short and of very good quality. Corn and soybeans are both showing extreme heat stress.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Corn is curling early in the day. Winter wheat harvest done; 85 bushels and down; 60-plus test weight. Lots of spraying for leafhoppers.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Most second crop hay was shorter, with good quality. Corn is just beginning to tassel.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 21, 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 20	Mar. 1 to July 20 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	87	65	93	60	76	4	1465	1322	0.16	7.56	0.81	19.42
Green Bay	84	62	91	56	73	3	1287	1210	0.08	5.34	-0.28	15.34
La Crosse	88	66	92	58	77	3	1631	1489	0.29	7.64	0.88	17.39
Madison	87	61	90	54	74	2	1465	1450	0.43	4.13	-2.42	15.00
Milwaukee	84	66	90	55	75	3	1412	n.a.	0.12	4.19	-1.62	14.75

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.