



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

August 5, 2002

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Sporadic Rain Not Enough for Southern Regions

After weeks of greedily conserving rain, clouds finally surrendered coveted moisture on northern Wisconsin soil last week. However, in the south, many of the fields have not enjoyed much more than a few tenths of an inch of rain in weeks. Most crops, lucky enough to receive the much-demanded rain, flourished with the recent burst of moisture. Unfortunately, some fields across the state may never recover, regardless of the amount of rain that may fall.

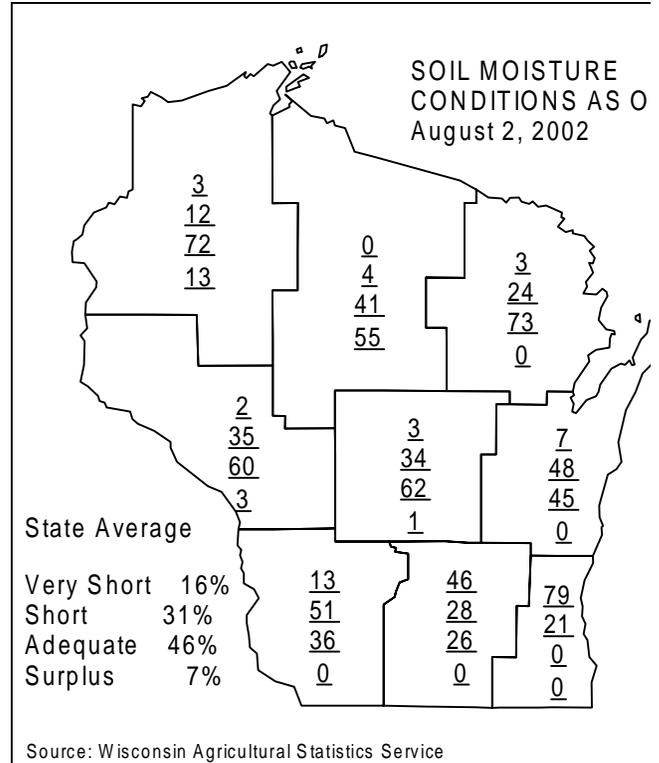
There was an average of 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork last week. The soil moisture averaged 16 percent very short, 31 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus.

Corn and **soybean** conditions varied significantly across the state. In areas that received timely rains, farmers remarked that fields rebounded well after so many weeks without water. Eleven percent of the state's corn is in the dough stage, trailing the five-year average by only 4 percentage points. Dane County corn pollination was variant, depending on the amount of moisture a given field received. Both sweet and field corn in Fond du Lac County displayed poor color last week, due to lack of moisture. The state boasted an average of 39 percent of soybeans setting pods, slightly ahead of the five-year average. However, in both Fond du Lac and Columbia counties, soybean plants in parched fields began aborting blooms.

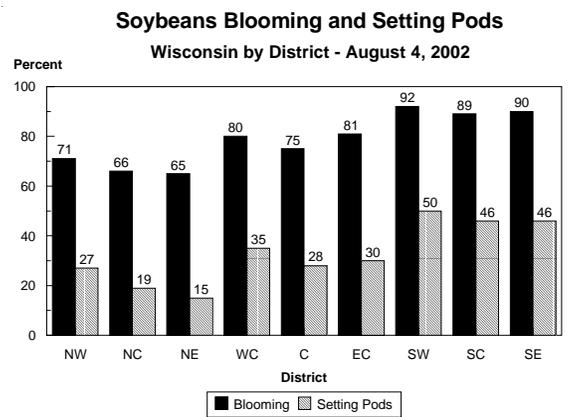
Third cutting **hay** harvest began in earnest last week. The week ended with 14 percent of third crop harvest complete. In the southern part of the state, the dry weather provided ample opportunity to harvest third crop, but it also impacted the yield. Reporters in the north remarked that the rain boosted the regrowth of the third crop, although it has prevented many farmers from continuing their harvest.

The **oat** harvest averaged 41 percent complete by the end of last week. Buffalo County oat straw was short. The week closed with 75 percent of the **winter wheat** harvest finished. Harvest of all small grains in the northern region was stalled, due to the wet weather. Waupaca County saw weedy oat and winter wheat fields last week.

The **potato** crop in Vilas County improved with the rain, but Barron County reported the crop ailing because of the heat. An excellent **blueberry** crop in Bayfield County was harvested last week. Waushara and Sauk county predict a good early **apple** crop.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 2, 2002					
Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	10	18	30	36	6
Corn	5	14	31	35	15
Soybean	3	11	29	44	13
Oat	1	4	33	52	10



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 4, 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 silked	62	61	61	79	77	76	87	82	82	77	63	81
Corn in dough stage	4	5	3	8	10	11	16	15	13	11	3	15
Soybeans blooming	71	66	65	80	75	81	92	89	90	84	64	78
Soybeans setting pods	27	19	15	35	28	30	50	46	46	39	14	38
Oats harvested	12	17	10	37	42	37	76	76	70	41	29	45
Winter wheat harvested	45	52	50	64	70	65	93	92	93	75	71	77
Second cutting hay	73	70	77	84	84	85	90	94	94	83	85	85
Third cutting hay	7	3	5	15	9	13	23	25	19	14	9	13

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Corn looks good and is tasseling. With all the recent rains, the oat fields are getting grassy. Second crop hay is beginning to grow back.

POLK-C.S.: Oats and wheat yields are average. Corn and soybeans look very good. Spraying for leafhoppers in alfalfa fields. Very little problem with aphids in soybeans.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Second and third crop hay is of excellent quality, but less than normal quantity. Corn and soybeans are making good progress. Small grains have not been harvested yet, but barley will be ready to harvest shortly.

VILAS-L.K.: Some farmers are done with first crop hay, others not even half done. Rain every day for the last week. Potatoes doing great with all the rain, but problems with spraying and hilling. Oats looking real good.

OCONTO-K.H.: Third crop hay harvest is starting. Yields look to be good compared to drought-shortened second crop hay: quality, also, is reported to be very good. Some wind damage reported to small grains and corn.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Corn appears to be moving along very well, with indications of 16-18 rows on each cob. Wheat yields should be very good in this area this year.

MONROE-W.D.: Most second crop hay is being harvested, yields are light. Corn and soybeans look great after the rains. Some oats harvested, but no yields yet. New seedings look exceptionally good after the oats.

PEPIN-H.R.: Second crop hay was very good. Some yields were small because of wet conditions. Third crop has had lots of bugs. Most fields cut early needed spraying. Very little third crop hay cut in this area. Rains have helped corn and soybeans. Some corn on light soil was still hurt by heat. Grain yields average.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: The second crop alfalfa has excellent quality, but poor yield. Third crop alfalfa is starting to grow. Corn looks better now, but a lot of it tasseled out on kind of short stalks and a lot of bottom leaves dried up.

WOOD-F.M.: Second crop hay short on quality and tonnage, due to dry conditions and late first hay crop. Some spotty rain

last week helped third hay crop to come back slowly. Corn tasseled good, but needs more moisture for pollenation. Oat harvest starting with lodging in some areas. Yields affected by wet conditions in June.

BROWN-D.S.: Even with recent rains totaling 2.0 inches, much of the late-planted corn is going to have a hard time making grain. Wheat yields are from 65-80 bushels per acre.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Quality of second crop hay was good, but quantity was down. Corn, soybeans, barley, oats, and late-planted vegetables look good after rain. Winter wheat yields are good, but once in awhile, you get smaller kernels.

IOWA-S.M.: Crops are still dry, but improving. Most corn is silking, and soybeans are setting pods. Some soybean mites are showing up; aphids are still very few in numbers.

DANE-D.R.: Hot, dry weather, with no rain, is showing in corn crop and soybean blooming. Alfalfa yields are low.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: Third crop alfalfa about 3 inches tall and starting to blossom. Fair amounts of corn and some soybeans are beyond help, even if we get rain.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Corn is stressed. Soybeans seem to stand the heat and dry weather a lot better than the corn.

WASHINGTON-L.K.: Corn is burning up from the bottom and is losing its canopy in most places, making the situation twice as bad. Corn is definitely doing bad. Have not seen corn this bad in many years. Soybeans are standing still. We do not have the aphids at this point. The wheat is almost done. Combining has been excellent. Yields have been from 60-85 bushels per acre. Test weights have been from 56-62 pounds.



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

Alexandra Erbes
Student Intern

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 4, 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 August 3	Mar. 1 to Aug. 3 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	87	61	95	53	74	2	1783	1596	2.00	10.11	1.47	21.97
Green Bay	85	62	90	54	74	4	1601	1472	0.69	6.83	-0.35	16.84
La Crosse	88	64	96	55	76	2	1975	1787	1.94	11.02	2.42	20.77
Madison	87	62	93	54	75	3	1788	1739	0.25	5.76	-2.58	16.63
Milwaukee	87	70	95	59	79	7	1772	n.a.	0.10	5.49	-2.03	16.05

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.