



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

August 19, 2002

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Rain Returns to Wisconsin

Just as the farmer ordered, Wisconsin fields drank a healthy dose of rainwater last week. In many areas across the state, rain stalled the harvest of small grains and hay. Crops in the northern regions continued to thrive with the ample moisture. However, for some fields in the south, the rain may have been wasted on crops that will never recover. Thankfully, most southern fields improved with the much-needed water.

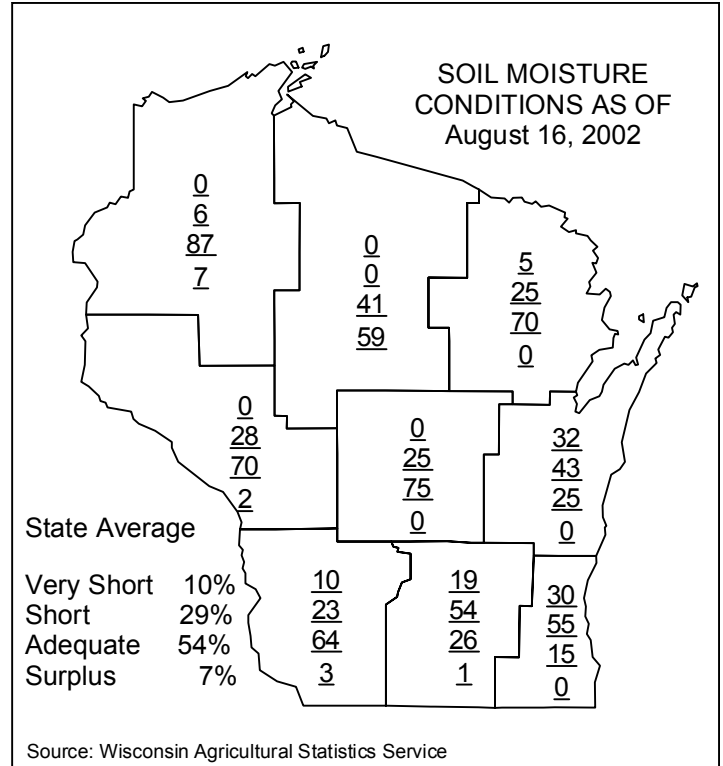
There were 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin last week. The soil moisture was estimated at 10 percent very short, 29 percent short, 54 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus.

Across the state, **corn** and **soybean** conditions improved with the increased soil moisture. While the rain helped many corn and soybean fields, some farmers in the southern regions remarked that fields showed moisture stress despite the rainfall. Corn rootworm populations soared throughout the state, causing lodging in some corn fields. Smut appeared in many Rusk County corn fields last week as well. By the end of the week, 95 percent of corn had silked, 45 percent of corn was in the dough stage, and 7 percent of corn was in the dent stage. Soybean aphid populations dropped in Columbia County last week. Wisconsin averaged 86 percent of soybeans setting pods, which is 14 percentage points higher than the five-year average.

The progress of **hay** harvest varied across the state last week. In many areas, the harvest slowed because of the rain. Regardless, 46 percent of third crop hay harvest was complete last week; this represents a 9 percentage point increase from the five-year average. Leafhopper damage dwindled last week as the populations declined. In the southern regions, third crop production was limited due to the lack of moisture. These areas called for additional rain to aid the regrowth of the fourth crop.

Throughout the state, farmers reported variable small grain yields. Small grain harvest neared completion in most parts of Wisconsin. **Oat** harvest was 87 percent complete last week, 6 percentage points ahead of the five-year average. **Winter wheat** harvest closed the week at 96 percent complete, lagging one percentage point behind the five-year average.

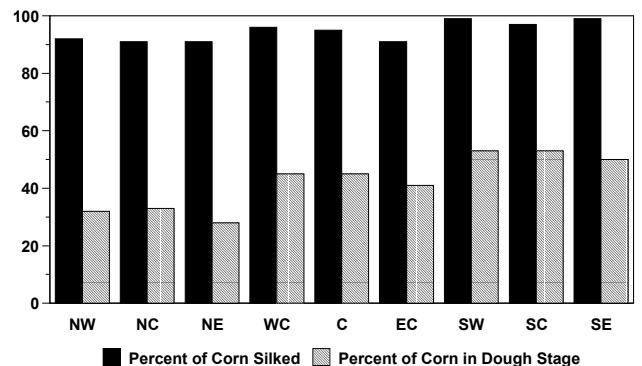
Snap bean harvest was underway in Door County. **Tobacco** harvest progressed in Dane County. The Grant and Rusk County **tomato** crop has experienced a problem with blight.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 16, 2002

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	6	16	38	33	7
Corn	5	13	31	38	13
Soybean	4	9	25	48	14

Percentage of Corn Silked and in Dough Stage Wisconsin by District - August 18, 2002



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 18, 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	92	91	91	96	95	91	99	97	99	95	93	98
Corn in dough stage	32	33	28	45	45	41	53	53	50	45	15	44
Soybeans setting pods	77	72	74	83	83	81	92	92	91	86	50	72
Oats harvested	74	72	74	90	91	88	98	98	97	87	70	81
Winter wheat harvested	82	87	86	96	97	96	99	99	99	96	100	97
Third cutting hay	28	24	28	48	40	50	61	68	66	46	40	37

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Third cutting alfalfa is of good quality, but below normal yields. Corn and soybeans look excellent. There aren't any major pest problems right now. A nice week of weather.

BAYFIELD-J.M.: Oats have relatively low yields; wheat yields were high. Good quality second crop hay has been harvested, but low yields. Corn crop looks excellent.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Leafhopper populations are decreasing quickly. Corn rootworm populations in corn following corn are at the highest levels I have seen in years.

PRICE-M.P.: Second crop hay is being made in between showers. Third crop growing well. Apple trees have very few apples on them locally.

VILAS-L.K.: First crop hay still being made. Potato crop looks good.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Received some much-needed rain this past week. The generally excellent weather is moving crops along at a good pace. Corn and beans will have respectable yields if this continues for the next few weeks.

EAU CLAIRE-R.S.: Second crop hay quality down because of weather during time it should have been made. Third crop looks real good. Corn has made up a lot of ground last month with all the heat and humid weather.

TREMPEALEAU-J.Z.: Generally, crops look good in this area. Third crop hay was good to excellent, and soybeans keep getting better, generally. Lodged corn and early season dryness leaves corn more variable.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Third crop hay is yielding good with needed rain showers. Small grains are yielding below normal. Warm weather promoting late weed growth. Corn has recovered.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Good quality third crop hay being made, but low yield. Lots of grasshoppers. Corn and soybeans look better after a few showers of rain. Lots of sweet corn being harvested by the big growers.

WOOD-F.M.: Spotty rains this last week was great for corn and beans, but hard to harvest anything. Crops look great for this time of year. Cranberry reports indicate that it should be a good crop.

BROWN-D.S.: Crops are in a holding pattern with minimal soil moisture. The potential exists for some average crops, but 3-4 inches will be needed by early September.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Third crop hay is good quality, but short. Corn and beans look very good, but need rain.

GRANT-R.R.: Third crop hay is good, but there are weeds coming in some fields. Most corn looks very good quality and quantity. The rain has been missing this area recently.

IOWA-S.M.: Corn and soybeans need rain to continue to mature. Some soybean plants have only one and two beans per pod. Alfalfa regrowth is very slow. Insect damage has slowed in the alfalfa and soybean fields.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Crops in dire need of rain. Corn still curling during the day. Some soybeans are showing yellowing of leaves. Many blossoms dropped because of dry weather. Now we get the sunshine along with high winds to dry things that much more. Oat yields are average; bushel weight is good. Winter wheat yields are all over the board 50-80 bushels per acre and bushel weight in the 50's; could be worse.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: Finally got some moisture; 1.7 inches early this week. Should help the beans. Will help some corn, but much of corn crop beyond help. Third crop very short. If it keeps raining, will hope for fourth crop.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Some fields of corn will press to make 50 bushels. Corn on corn is in bad shape. Will finish making hay next week. Oats all done. Rained Saturday 0.7 inches in my area.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Fourth cutting growing good, 8-10 inches tall. Soybeans are growing and putting pods on plants; some spots are yellow and that could be spider mites. Wheat is done, oats are done too. Some straw to be baled. Corn is looking better after 1 inch of rain. Some corn is just starting to silk, which may be a problem at harvest. Raccoons are especially destructive this year. Still need rain.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 18, 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 Aug. 17	Mar. 1 to Aug. 17 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	81	58	92	52	69	-1	2067	1859	1.85	12.62	2.02	24.48
Green Bay	81	60	90	55	71	3	1869	1725	1.94	9.07	0.27	19.08
La Crosse	80	61	92	55	71	-1	2270	2080	0.83	12.04	1.48	21.79
Madison	82	62	92	57	72	2	2072	2021	1.32	7.72	-2.57	18.59
Milwaukee	85	66	92	62	76	5	2092	n.a.	2.93	8.65	-0.55	19.22

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.