



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

September 16, 2002

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Weather Remains Warm with Drier Conditions

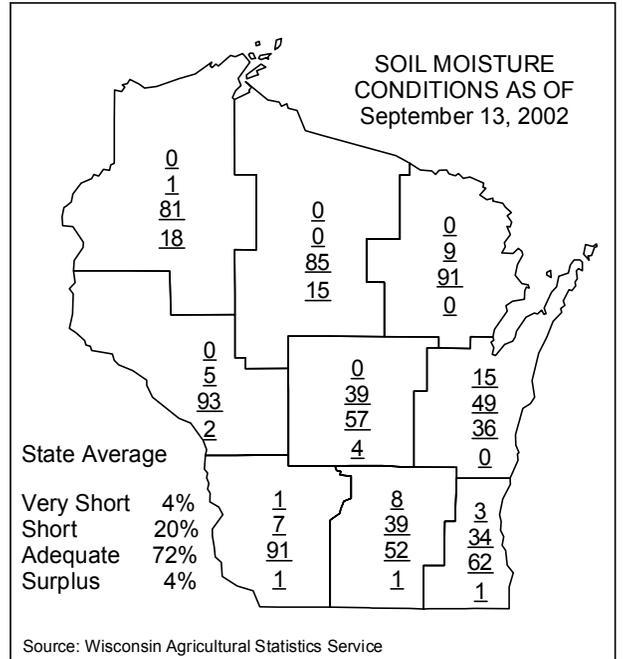
Wisconsin again experienced a warmer than normal week. Temperatures were mostly 5 to 7 degrees above normal throughout the state. Rainfall was negligible to light across the state; amounts were reported to be under .5 inch for the week in most areas. The dry weather shortened soil moisture ratings in the south and southeast, where rain is needed and helped to dry out surplus ratings in the north and northwest. The continued warm weather has helped to advance crop ratings for corn and soybeans, which experienced a cool, wet spring. The growing degree days total is above the normal across the state. The good weather advanced early fall harvest of hay, and especially corn silage. Soybeans advanced rapidly with the unseasonably warm weather and corn hastened towards maturity. Normal first frost date is near for the northern tier of Wisconsin, but should not be of serious concern for most crops.

There were an average of 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin last week. The soil moisture was estimated at 4 percent very short, 20 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus.

The **corn** crop was helped by the warm weather. The past week was good for harvesting of corn silage. The dry weather has brought corn plant moisture levels down rapidly. Dodge County reported 68 percent moisture at a local field day. Denting progress increased rapidly with the good weather. Pepin County and Grant County both reported very good corn for grain. Some corn in the southeast showed rootworm problems, and ears showed poor development due to dry conditions at pollination. Seed corn companies began harvest in parts of the state. The **soybean** crop moved rapidly forward with the warm weather also. Soybeans turning color advanced from 54 percent last week to 80 percent this week. Barron County reported that this could be the best bean crop ever, locally. Harvest could begin soon in early planted/early mature beans in Columbia County.

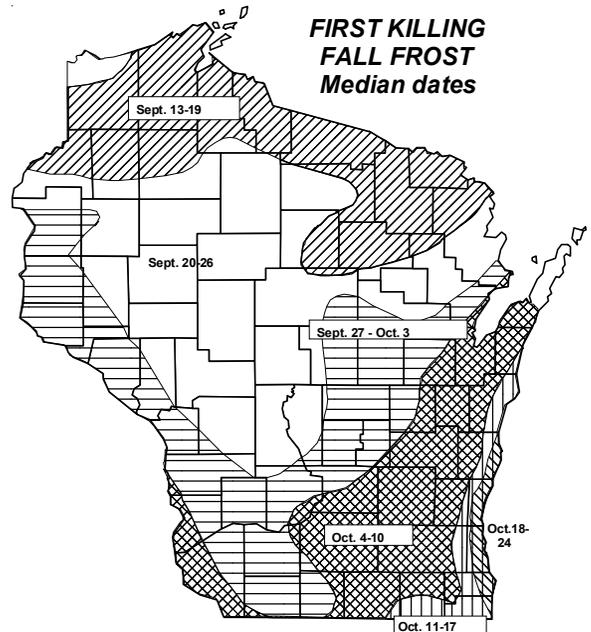
Third crop **hay** harvest wound down in the southern areas. Fourth crop hay was considered to be of good quality and normal quantity in many areas, where harvested. Northern Wisconsin was still too wet in some areas for much harvest progress.

Tobacco harvest was winding down across the tobacco-producing areas. **Apple** harvest was progressing around the state. **Sweet corn** and **vegetables** for canning companies are nearing completion. **Pumpkins** were reported to be good in Barron County. **Potato** harvest progressed in Waushara County, despite the warmer weather.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 13, 2002

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	2	9	25	56	8
Corn	4	11	21	44	20
Soybean	3	7	22	47	21



Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 15, 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 in dough stage	89	91	84	96	94	90	99	97	99	94	80	92
Corn in dent stage	63	60	59	72	74	70	84	81	88	74	44	72
Corn mature	6	2	2	11	15	10	25	20	28	15	8	22
Corn hvstd. for silage	8	4	7	25	20	21	31	36	30	24	13	26
Soybean turning color	65	64	59	75	68	68	84	87	88	80	38	71
Soybean dropping leaves	13	13	11	25	25	30	39	34	43	31	12	29
Third cutting hay	80	76	88	91	87	94	94	95	99	89	83	85
Fourth cutting hay	17	20	20	26	30	24	41	45	40	28	20	n.a.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-J.M.: Good quality second crop hay has been harvested. Corn crop looks excellent.

BURNETT-R.B.: Corn looks good. Fields have lots of wet spots.

POLK-C.S.: Good production of third and fourth crop hay; weather finally cooperating to allow farmers to put some up dry. Corn and soybeans maturing nicely-expecting good yields.

PRICE-M.P.: Fields are still very wet after last week's rain. Had beautiful, large potatoes which we dug; a few are rotting.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Quantity and quality of third crop was very good. Corn silage just starting; denting will move quickly with continued warm temperatures. There is not a poor field of soybeans to be seen. Potato harvest and conditions in full swing.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Corn and hay silage on piles and bags. Good harvesting and crop dry down weather. Lots of insects in fields.

PEPIN-H.R.: Some fourth crop hay being harvested. Recent rains have made good growth in the hayfields. Corn silage going full bore; drying down very fast. Should be some good corn for grain in this area. Soybeans have lots of pods, really turning colors.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Back to normal temperatures this week; corn silage starting to be put in silos.

WAUPACA-G.K.: Most of third and fourth crop hay has excellent quality, just a little short. Most corn and soybeans are standing very good, with good color. Many beans are 3-3 1/2 inches tall. Very little weeds in soybean fields.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Corn all dented during the past week of hot weather, and a good share of it is mature. Soybeans are turning colors fast and dropping leaves. Not much hay being made now.

DOOR-M.F.: Winter wheat planting is in full swing, with over 20 percent planted. Corn silage testing from 219 samples from the county indicate that average moisture is 68.3 percent as of Thursday. Harvest has begun to speed up on corn silage.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Quality of third crop hay is very good, but quantity down; some fourth crop is being made.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Corn grain yields will be lower than expected due to hot and dry weather during pollination. Some farmers are still making second crop hay, which was very short.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: Quantity of fourth crop hay is above average. Seed corn companies are starting to harvest seed corn; reporting that yields are better than they expected. However, the seed corn

fields are in the part of the county that received timely rains and where the soils are better.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: The soybeans have weeds and are getting worse. Some early-planted, early mature, soybeans are close to harvest. Some fields with oats or winter wheat crops are already worked up to keep the weeds down. Seed corn companies have, or are about, to start harvesting seed corn.

DANE-J.K.: Third crop hay was short, but excellent quality. We need one more shower to make an excellent fourth crop hay. Soybeans have a lot of holes in them, probably due to grasshoppers. We finished our full-time or special corn silage; it was the poorest corn I have seen in 48 years. Yields of 3.5 tons on early variety and 4.5 tons on late, a lot of smut also. A lot of farmers got fields opened and custom-filled, especially bags; it goes in real fast that way. Winter wheat will be next. Some very late sweet corn being picked and looks very good, maybe 10 ton per acre.

DODGE-G.R.: Very hot weather pushed along maturity of corn and soybeans; extended height of alfalfa. County forage council sampling of corn silage samples at local field day averaged 68 percent. Third crop alfalfa being harvested. Some fields as good as second cutting and without the effects of bugs. Soybeans changing dramatically in color.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: Ground getting pretty dry again. Fair yield for fourth crop hay. Corn silage only running about 10 tons per acre. Soybeans rapidly turning color, a lot of them are short.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Corn will be spotty. Alfalfa is looking good.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Fourth crop hay is short and thin, but much better than third crop hay. Corn appraisal for 0 to 50 bushels per acre. Soybeans are very thin.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 15, 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 Sept. 14	Mar. 1 to Sept. 14 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	80	56	92	50	68	7	2622	2289	0.45	4.83	2.84	32.75
Green Bay	79	53	88	48	66	6	2342	2152	0.17	1.11	-0.49	21.98
La Crosse	80	59	94	52	69	5	2860	2574	0.36	1.76	-0.01	24.45
Madison	80	54	90	47	67	5	2588	2511	0.15	0.94	-0.73	20.61
Milwaukee	80	59	90	53	70	5	2639	n.a.	0.02	1.38	-0.32	21.99

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.