



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

September 23, 2002

Vol. 02, No. 25

Summer Ends and Autumn Is Set to Step In

Summer finished this past week in a warmer than usual pattern. Average temperatures around the state were 2 to 5 degrees above normal. Growing degree days are still above normal for the year. The state received .5 to 1.5 inches of rain. It was welcomed in some dry areas, but slowed harvest in wet areas of the state. Crop maturity advanced rapidly with the warm weather. Corn and soybeans are much closer to being safe from frost damage, some are already safe. Taylor County reported some light frost.

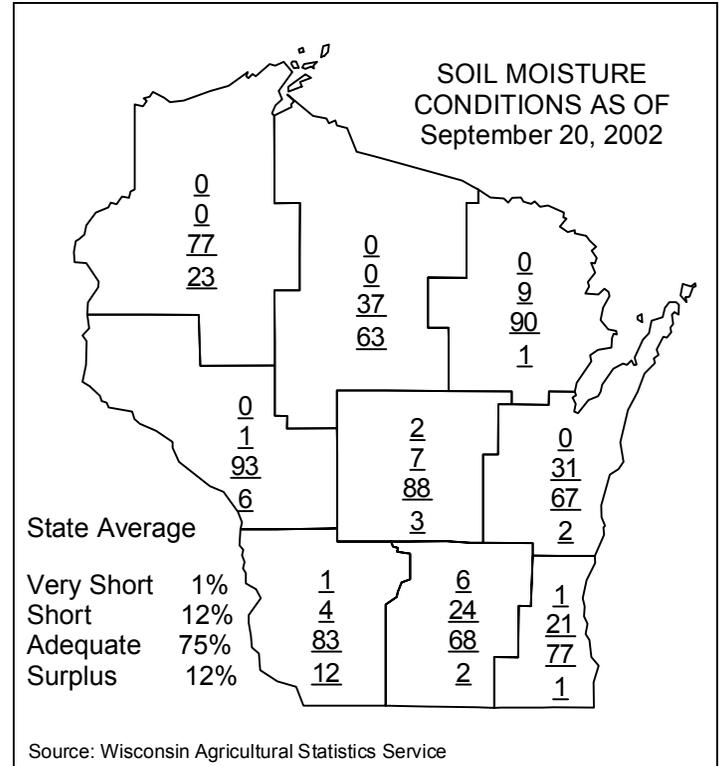
There were an average of 4.7 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin last week. The soil moisture was estimated at 1 percent very short, 12 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. The statewide rains of the past week pushed surplus moisture ratings higher, especially in the north.

Corn around the state advanced toward harvest, aided by the warm weather and added moisture. Corn silage harvest advanced rapidly in dry fields. Yields were reported ranging from 18-26 tons per acre in southwest Wisconsin. Quality appeared to be very good, overall. Corn for grain is drying down rapidly and showing some damage from rootworm. Lodging could be a problem in some areas. Early **soybeans** were harvested in Columbia County and should begin elsewhere with dry weather. Moisture levels were as low as 11 percent. Statewide, soybeans jumped 12 percent higher in leaves turned than last week. Leaves dropped gained 23 percent with the rains of last week. The crop is reported to be above average in Waupaca County and in many areas of the state.

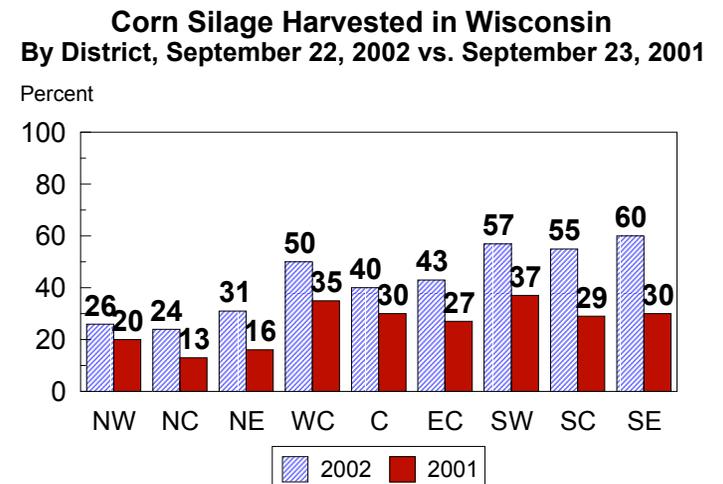
Hay harvesting was slowed due to rains, but is nearly finished for the year. Quantity and quality of late hay was very good. Grant County reported a very good hay crop with high levels of protein. Late harvest was hampered by rains, making baling difficult.

Apple harvest continued with varied reports on yields and quality. **Sweet corn** and **vegetable** harvest for canning companies continued to advance. Reports of sweet corn unharvested due to advanced maturity were received from Washington County. **Red beets** also are nearing completion, with good quality reported. **White cranberry** harvest in Portage County was competed. Cranberry harvest in Wood County has started with good quality and yields. **Potato** harvest advanced despite warm weather.

Winter wheat planting progressed in Door County and was emerging in some areas across the state. **Rye** was planted in Burnett County.



Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	7	28	55	9
Corn	4	11	25	45	15
Soybean	3	9	23	50	15



Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 22, 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 dent stage	84	78	71	87	90	85	93	90	97	88	58	82
Corn mature	20	12	11	29	35	27	36	34	42	29	18	40
Corn hvstd. for silage	26	24	31	50	40	43	57	55	60	42	25	45
Soybean turning color	86	86	80	85	88	80	95	99	98	92	66	88
Soybean dropping leaves	37	36	29	40	45	40	64	70	61	54	28	54
Third cutting hay	85	80	91	95	90	96	97	96	99	92	88	90
Fourth cutting hay	20	22	23	39	31	29	51	58	59	35	31	n.a.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

RUSK-G.P.: Another tough week for making hay or haylage. Corn silage starting, but still pretty wet. As fields are opened up, getting additional reports of lots of smut. Some varieties showing 10 percent of the ears infested. Soybeans mostly safe from frost now, but will need a good stretch of weather to get them ready for harvest. Had one corn silage sample through; 65 percent moisture with RFV of 137.

WASHBURN-R.H.: Hay crop was good. Another good year for corn; excellent ears. Husks are drying.

ASHLAND-A.R.: Corn silage harvest in full swing. Corn crop exceptionally good. Corn maturing fast. Third crop hay was good, mostly finished now.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Some corn still in milk stage. Cobs are smaller than normal. Small pod set on soybeans. Small grain yields about average.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Fields are wet, so harvesting is difficult in low spots. Some corn has been harvested for silage. The frost last night will help dry down the corn. Soybeans look good despite the fact much of it was late-planted.

FOREST-A.K.: Soybeans are turning color. Corn looks great, ready to start putting it in the silo.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Most of the corn is becoming ideal for silage this week. Many of the fields in the county have areas that are badly twisted-up from the mid summer storm.

DUNN-S.S.: Lots of hay made this week and much-needed by most farmers. Corn drying down real well, good corn silage. Looks like a good crop for corn and soybeans.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Grain is riper and drier than the stalk in much of the corn. Some grain moisture is below 25 percent now. Hay continues to grow well due to moisture and heat.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Excellent quality and quantity of hay. Soybeans dropping leaves. Some corn fields are being opened. Some late corn chopped for silage. White husks appearing on a lot of corn getting ripe.

WOOD-F.M.: Crops in very good condition. Most corn and soybeans are safe if it freezes. Cranberry harvest has started, with a very good crop predicted and good quality and yields.

BROWN-D.S.: Corn silage harvest is in full swing, with soybeans not too far behind. Hopefully, frost will hold off to allow

late-planted crops to take advantage of recent rains.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Some winter wheat is up already. Soybeans are about a week away from harvest. Corn yields are running 50 to 80 bushels per acre. Soybeans yields are 20 to 30 bushels per acre. Sweet corn harvest is moving along with yields of 2 to 4 tons per acre.

GRANT-G.C.: All crops look great in our area. Corn and soybeans are rapidly maturing for harvest.

IOWA-S.M.: Most farmers are trying to finish corn silage. Silage plots have yielded 18 to 24 tons per acre, normal for this area. Corn is drying down, hand-shelled at 26 percent. Winter wheat is being planted, acres are up.

SAUK-C.N.: Plenty of rain in mid week slowed harvest down.

JEFFERSON-B.K.: Some corn combined in southern part of county with 25 to 27 percent moisture, but yields of only 30 to 75 bushels per acre. Most soybeans are bare of leaves. Wheat sowing will begin now that rain came. Alfalfa regrowth has struggled to grow, but should take off now.

ROCK-C.O.: Soybean harvest should begin this week. Corn is variable, with yields at 30 to 80 percent less than normal.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Corn that a farmer put in his silo averaged 80 bushels per acre. Some farmer's yields were 18 to 24 bushels per acre. Soybeans are going 10 to 24 bushels per acre. Corn is ripening, but the ears are small.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Fourth crop hay cutting was very good in quality, but quantity was low. Soybeans are dropping leaves fast. Most of the corn silage is done, with one report of 12.5 tons per acre. Sweet corn is in full harvest, with some yields running 7 to 8 tons per acre. Some sweet corn will not be harvested as it is too mature.



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

Bob Hunter
Statistician

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 22, 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. 21	Mar. 1 to Sept. 21 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	73	53	80	43	63	5	2720	2360	0.64	5.47	2.66	33.39
Green Bay	73	52	81	40	63	5	2439	2224	1.48	2.59	0.30	23.46
La Crosse	74	54	81	47	64	2	2962	2656	1.29	3.05	0.53	25.74
Madison	75	54	80	41	64	4	2696	2603	1.35	2.29	-0.02	21.96
Milwaukee	75	59	80	49	67	5	2758	n.a.	0.74	2.12	-0.31	22.73

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.