



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

October 7, 2002

Vol. 02, No. 27

Wet Weather and Storms Slow Harvest

Rains were a common occurrence over most of Wisconsin last week. The state experienced 1.25-2.50 inches for the week, with reports of up to 6 inches in some areas. Northwest Wisconsin is over 4 inches above normal for the period from September 1-October 6. Temperatures were 4-7 degrees above normal. The rains were often accompanied by high winds, which caused some crops to lodge. Light frost has been reported in many regions, but farmers are waiting for a strong killing frost to help dry crops down. Growing degree days continued to be above normal, and most crops are now safe from frost damage.

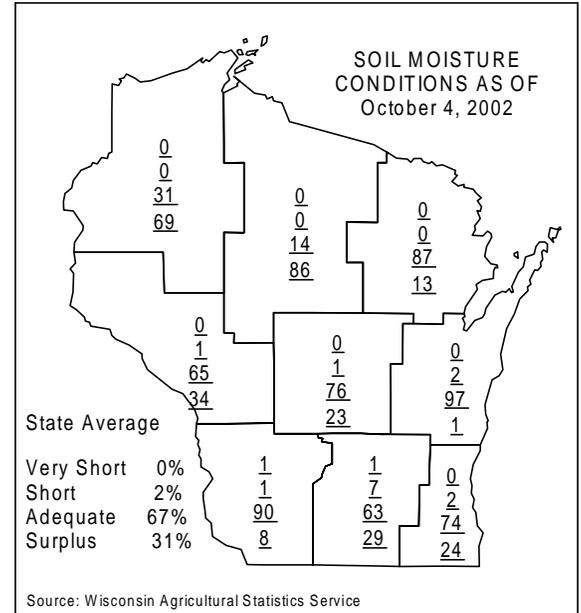
There were an average of 3.2 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin last week. The soil moisture was estimated at 2 percent short, 67 percent adequate, and 31 percent surplus. The statewide rains moved surplus ratings higher, and short moisture ratings dropped 19 percentage points for the week.

Corn harvest was slowed greatly across the state due to rains. Mature corn ratings jumped 30 percent, statewide, with the continued warmer weather. Corn in the northern tier of counties could use some dry weather to finish maturing. Wet weather has caused delays in corn silage harvest across the state, with corn being ready, and muddy fields preventing harvest. Wind damage contributed to lodging in many parts of the state. However, in many parts of the state, the corn crop looks very good, and farmers are waiting for drier conditions to harvest. **Soybean** condition was reported slightly better than last week, but harvest is being held up by the weather. Concerns over mold damage have been reported in Buffalo County. Many farmers across Wisconsin are waiting for a hard frost to dry soybean stems. Yields on early-planted soybeans have been from 52 to 64 bushels per acre in Iowa County. Soybean yields are expected to be above normal in most parts of the state, once combines are able to work.

Wet weather has slowed **hay** harvesting across Wisconsin. Final harvest of third and fourth crops was delayed with wet fields. A hard frost would prompt many farmers to harvest the last crop.

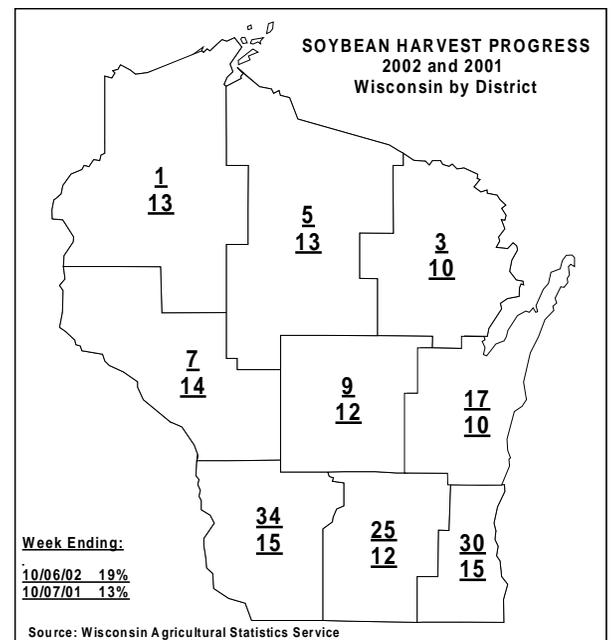
Apple harvest in Sheboygan County was progressing, with a good-looking crop reported. **Pumpkins** and fall **squash** are starting to show up in roadside stands across the state. **Potato** harvesting was reported to be two weeks behind schedule in Vilas County due to the wet weather. Dry weather would help everyone. **Cranberry** harvest in Oneida County and around central Wisconsin was in full swing.

Winter wheat is up and growing in central Wisconsin where conditions for planting were dry enough. **Fall tillage** had just begun in scattered areas, but was halted by the wet weather. Dry conditions will cause a flurry of activity in all areas.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 4, 2002

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	5	28	54	12
Corn	3	9	23	46	19
Soybean	3	6	23	48	20



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 6, 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 mature	79	80	70	85	78	74	84	86	87	81	48	74
Corn harvested for grain	4	1	1	4	5	9	7	11	6	8	6	13
Corn hvstd. for silage	58	50	60	80	70	84	89	86	93	76	59	78
Soybean dropping leaves	94	95	83	93	88	85	94	93	99	93	71	90
Soybeans harvested	1	5	3	7	9	17	34	25	30	19	12	29
Fourth cutting hay	49	30	49	52	49	62	65	74	61	55	48	n.a.
Fall tillage completed	5	6	4	6	7	7	9	8	9	7	n.a.	12

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-A.B.: We had light frost on about 40 percent of our area. Corn silage is grinding on at a slow pace due to the weather. No soybeans of significance cut yet. A few farmers are thinking about trying some high moisture corn. Need of some drying weather in order to be able to plant wheat. Hay that was cut three weeks ago is still laying in the fields.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Corn silage and soybean harvest are at a standstill due to all the rain.

ASHLAND-G.M.: Third crop hay almost done. Light frost on September 20 and 23rd. Corn at 75 percent moisture; some bagging. Most will be left for grain. Grain was very poor due to dry June.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Corn is ripening, but needs more time. Soybeans have shed most leaves. Very good pod set, with pods from the ground up. Haying is done, some green chop left.

OCONTO-K.H.: Slow start for corn silage harvest. Soybean leaves almost all gone. No harvesting done yet. Cutting of fourth crop hay is winding down. Winter wheat planting is past peak. No frost as of yet.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Corn silage tonnage per acre varied among the farmers. Silage quality was very good throughout the area. Some fourth crop hay is being taken now.

BUFFALO-R.S.: All field activity is at a stand still. Concern about corn and soybeans getting mold damage. Very little frost yet. Still some corn silage to harvest.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Rains have soil moisture levels up and field operations stopped. Light frosts have hit with some killing spots. The need now is for the warm dry breezes of autumn, and harvest will then begin.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Potato harvest nearing the two-thirds mark; yields about average to slightly above. Sweet corn harvest just finishing up; yields of later corn above average; some corn silage still being put up. Nothing for grain yet.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: We have had two light frosts. Crops are all mature and safe from frost damage. Some fourth crop hay to be made, but we have not had any drying weather lately.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Corn silage harvest in full swing. Good quality and yields at 15 to 25 tons per acre. Need a frost to ripen corn and soybeans.

SHEBOYGAN-T.J.: No frost in our area yet. Most corn and soybeans are mature and could withstand a frost. It has been an excellent fall for harvesting to date.

CRAWFORD-A.B.: Mid-week soybean harvest is about to get going very strong. Moisture was around 12 to 13.5 percent. Corn moisture is 25 to 30 percent.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: Has been a very wet week. Some harvesting was done on Monday and Tuesday. Yields for soybeans are running better than expected. Most of the corn that has been harvested as grain is in the areas of the county that was not as dry, and yields are very good.

DANE-C.B.: Corn silage is at 70 percent. Drought conditions have caused the grain to rob the stalk to finish grain fill. Many corn fields dropping ears due to high second generation of corn borers, may consider planting more Bt corn next year.

ROCK-S.H.: Soybean yields are exceeding expectations. Soil type is a definite yield barrier. Some may move to corn harvest while waiting for drier weather for the soybeans. Corn borer damage will facilitate earlier harvest than normal.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Heard of soybeans in the muck by East Troy were going at 55 bushels. These are seed beans. Had seed beans that were rejected because of insects. Sprayed twice, but still did not get the bugs. Some corn looks like it will be pretty good, but a lot will not make 100 bushels. Some of the corn does not have any food value. No corn harvest yet. Winter wheat planting is being done between showers.

WASHINGTON-L.K.: We had a pretty windy storm on Friday that knocked down some weak stalks in the corn fields. It is getting more critical with each passing windy day. The corn will not stand too much. Soybeans would go if we had enough dry days to start.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rfsetoc.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 October 6, 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 Oct. 5	Mar. 1 to Oct. 5 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	66	48	81	39	57	4	2820	2458	2.37	8.52	4.39	36.44
Green Bay	69	50	83	41	60	7	2569	2322	1.38	4.00	0.53	24.87
La Crosse	70	53	84	40	61	4	3100	2777	2.18	5.75	1.97	28.44
Madison	70	54	84	42	62	7	2847	2729	1.67	4.02	0.59	23.67
Milwaukee	72	57	83	45	64	7	2923	n.a.	1.50	3.63	-0.07	24.25

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.