



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

April 26, 2004

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## Rains Welcomed, Waiting for Warmer Weather

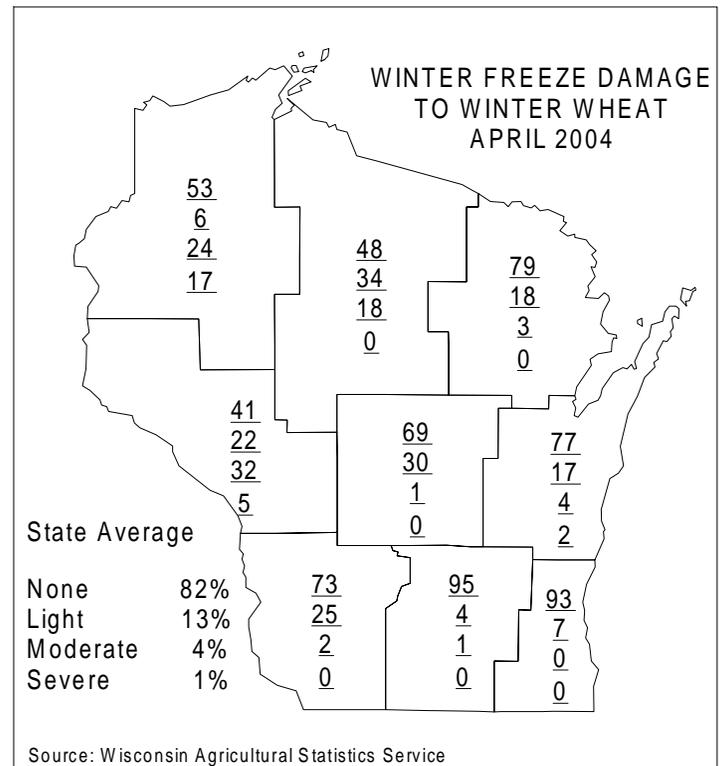
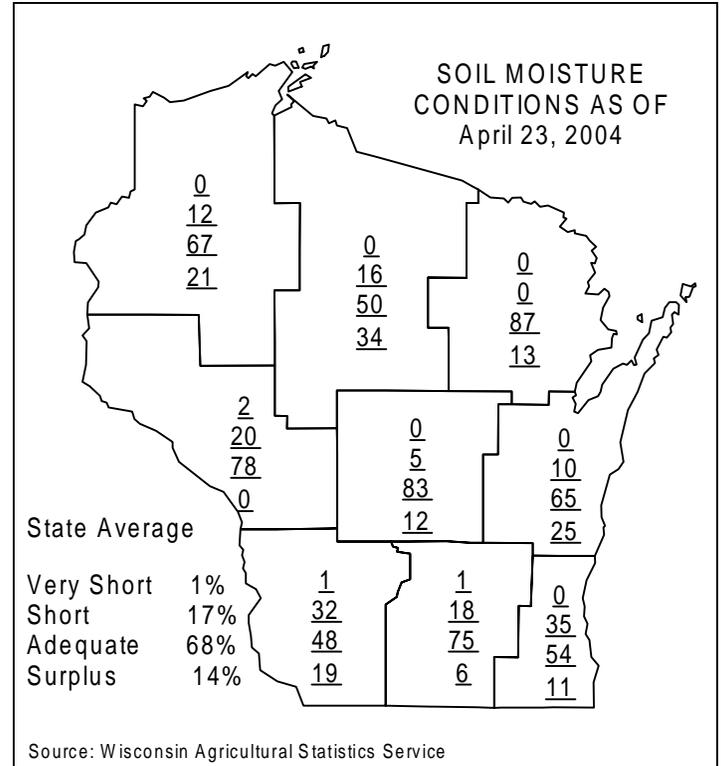
Farmers were pleased to get some much-needed rain during the past week. Precipitation for the week was mostly below 1 inch. Soil moisture conditions were reported to be 1% very short, 17% short, 68% adequate, and 14% surplus. Temperatures across the state ranged from the low 80's to a low in the 30's. Temperatures, overall, were 1 to 4 degrees above normal, but the soil temperatures were still cold, delaying corn planting in many areas of the state.

**Spring tillage** was reported as 39% complete, ahead of both 23% last year and the 5-year average of 26%. Farmers are busy getting the ground ready to plant **corn**. Statewide, 3% of the corn has been planted, compared to 4% last year and the 5-year average of 5%.

**Oats** are 61% planted statewide, compared to 34% last year and the 5-year average of 38%. Oats are looking very good throughout the state with about 16% emerged, compared to last year's statewide average of 3% emerged and the 5-year average of 8%. **Winter wheat** conditions were reported as 1% very poor, 3% poor, 18% fair, 51% good, and 27% excellent. Winter freeze damage was generally light to none across the state. **Alfalfa** looks good on most first and second year stands. The fields seem to be greening up quite well.

**Pastures** were reported as 4% very poor, 24% poor, 31% fair, 37% good, and 4% excellent. Farmers across the state reported that the rains of the past week really greened up the oats, wheat, and pastures. Fields that made it through the winter are off to a good start.

**Potatoes** and **peas** are being planted at accelerated rates. **Fruit trees** are in bloom in the southern parts of the state.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 23, 2004					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	4	24	31	37	4
Winter Wheat	1	3	18	51	27

## Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 25, 2004

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	
Oats planted	28	38	22	65	58	44	87	89	88	61	34	38	
Oats emerged	1	1	1	14	4	2	32	30	18	16	3	8	
Corn planted	0	0	0	2	2	3	6	4	1	3	4	5	
Spring tillage completed	25	43	28	36	42	32	42	54	52	39	23	26	

**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**CHIPPEWA-J.M.:** A few wheat producers are deciding what winter wheat they will leave, if any. Pastures are responding to recent rains and warmer temperatures. Pastures are good, however, still early in growth development.

**POLK-C.S.:** Alfalfa fields are greening up quite well. Two-thirds of our winter wheat is showing significant winterkill.

**ASHLAND-A.R.:** Too soon to tell if alfalfa has any winterkill. There is no fieldwork activity; it is too wet and cold.

**ONEIDA-P.L.:** Manure being spread and some disking and plowing started. The rye, winter wheat, and grasses are greening up and growing slowly. I think some lime and fertilizer will be spread this next week if we do not get more rain.

**LANGLADE-A.K.:** Newer stands of alfalfa look alright. Only tillage going on is on the lighter ground. Temperatures cool this week.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Cool, damp weather kept most of us out of the field again this week. Alfalfa and wheat fields really perked up and seem to have come through the winter fairly well.

**JACKSON-W.E.:** New seedings look good. Old alfalfa looks bad. Some corn planting going on.

**TREMPEALEAU-H.T.:** Have not seen hardly any winterkill on alfalfa or winter wheat. Not much field activity this week.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Potato planting is going good. Oat planting is making good progress. Pea planting nearly finished. Too cool for corn planting.

**WAUSHARA-A.S.:** There are no signs of winterkill except a few hollows where water might have stood. Peas and potatoes are going in. Not much oats planted anymore, but most of what will be is done. Lots of corn planters ready to start next week.

**WOOD-M.L.:** The cool week limited development of pasture, oats, and winter wheat. Fields are in good condition with the soil soaking everything up. Fieldwork is ahead of normal with manure spreading and seeding going well. Most are hesitant to plant corn yet, though a few started aggressively this past weekend.

**KEWAUNEE-J.B.:** There is little winterkill. Still too cold and wet to plant.

**OUTAGAMIE-K.J.:** Most producers had done primary tillage in the fall, so secondary tillage is moving ahead in those parts where the fields have not seen some of the heavier rainfall. Most of the small grains have been planted or will be planted this week. Alfalfa has greened up tremendously. Sizeable early corn plantings will be occurring this week if mother nature allows. There is no winterkill showing up. Corn planting has started. One farmer has 600 acres planted.

**LAFAYETTE-L.W.:** We have several reports of winterkill in alfalfa, and some acreage has been torn up and will be planted to corn or soybeans.

**DODGE-G.R.:** There are no signs of winterkill seen thus far. Soil conditions remained saturated with persistent rain. Alfalfa and winter wheat are greening up nicely. Fields are drying off at weeks end, no corn in yet.

**GREEN-M.M.:** First corn went in the ground last week. Alfalfa and winter wheat look to have over-wintered very well.

**JEFFERSON-B.K.:** There is no corn in yet, planters are on hold for dry weather and warmth. Oats look great. Alfalfa and wheat never looked better.

**WASHINGTON-L.K.:** A farmer worked the same hayfield three times to dry it out for planting alfalfa. I was able to plant all my oats and alfalfa before it started to rain.

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat look good.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 8934  
Madison, WI 53708-8934  
(608) 224-4848  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/risetoc.htm>

**Robert J. Battaglia**  
State Statistician

**Michael Lester**  
Statistician

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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 25, 2004**

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 April 25	Mar. 1 to April 25 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	61	37	82	29	49	1	147	96	1.08	3.84	-0.28	6.78
Green Bay	58	37	78	30	47	0	113	81	0.54	4.76	0.66	7.62
La Crosse	63	44	82	39	54	3	218	126	0.92	4.37	-0.27	6.62
Madison	61	38	79	29	50	1	179	129	1.04	5.24	0.30	7.30
Milwaukee	63	40	85	36	51	4	164	n.a.	1.36	5.72	0.12	8.25

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.