

# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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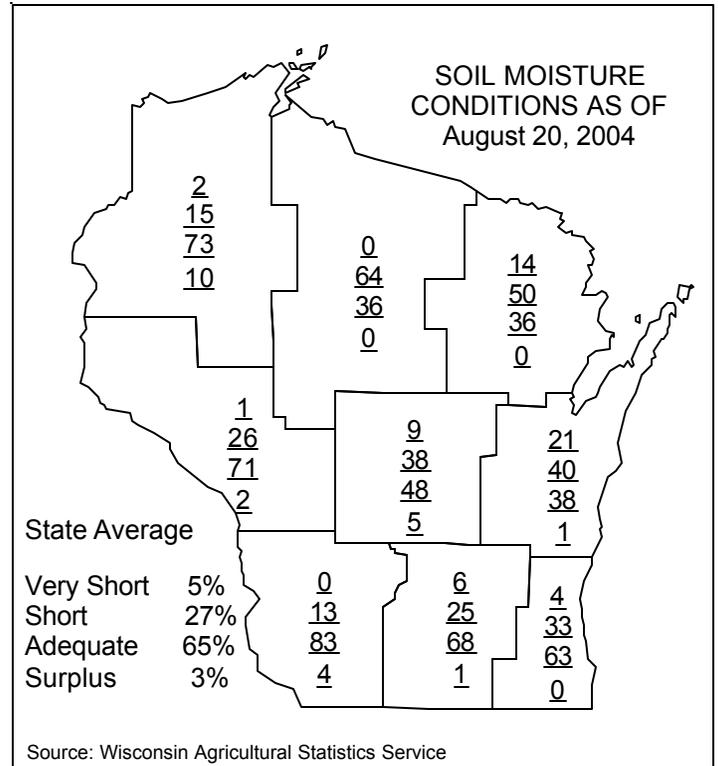
## Is it August, or Late September?

“When will the warmer weather come?” seems to be the big question. Since the week ending May 30, 10 out of 12 weeks have had below normal temperatures. There were reports of frost in northern areas of the state. Temperatures this past week were 6 to 10 degrees below normal for this time of year, ranging from the low 40’s to the mid 70’s. Precipitation ranged from trace amounts to 1 inch. Year-to-date precipitation in the northwestern part of the state is about 3 inches below normal, the west central part of the state is 5 inches above normal, the east central part of the state is 2 inches below normal, and the south central part of the state is 2 inches above normal. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 5% very short, 27% short, 65% adequate, and 3% surplus. There was an average of 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

**Corn** is in need of heat all over the state. Some corn is being harvested for silage. In some areas late-planted corn has not yet silked, and some has not even tasseled. There are reports of insect and weed problems across the state. Third crop **hay** is looking good with reports of high quality and yield around the state. The **oat** crop continued to look great as harvest is near completion. Oats are yielding 60-95 bushels per acre across the state. The quantity of oat straw is higher than normal. Cool weather has slowed the development of **soybeans**. There are a lot of pods setting in some areas of the state, but without warmth, soybeans may not reach maturity. **Wheat** is nearing the end of harvest.

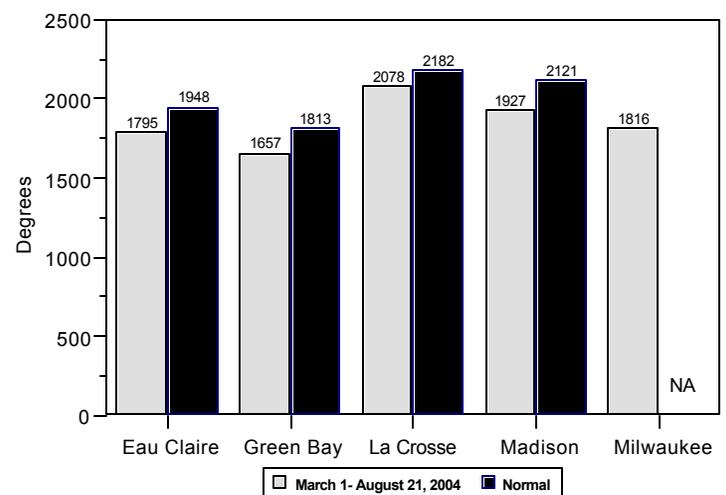
**Oats** harvested was reported at 78%, behind both last year’s 88%, and the 5-year average of 89%. **Corn** in dough stage was reported at 34%, compared to last year’s 53%, and the 5-year average of 54%. **Soybeans** setting pods were reported at 78%, behind both last year’s 88%, and the 5-year average of 83%. Third cutting **hay** was reported at 33% complete, behind both last year’s and the 5-year average of 54%. **Winter wheat** harvesting was reported at 94% complete, behind both last year’s 95%, and the 5-year average of 99%.

**Snapbeans** are still being harvested with average or above yields. **Potatoes** are showing signs of maturity, and looking good. **Pears** and **plums** look good. **Vegetables** look good, except **tomatoes**, which are very late. Some **vine** crops were lost to the frost this week. **Sweet corn** harvest, is 2-3 weeks behind in some areas of the state. **Cranberries** look good, but are on a frost watch. **Tobacco** harvest is underway.



Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	4	10	34	42	10
Soybeans	3	10	28	43	16
Corn	5	16	24	44	11

## Wisconsin Growing Degree Days March 1, 2004 to August 21, 2004



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 22, 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 harvested	61	70	52	76	83	69	98	85	98	78	88	89
Corn in dough stage	14	17	12	26	21	13	62	47	30	34	53	54
Soybeans setting pods	87	68	71	69	57	42	91	92	74	78	88	83
Third cutting hay	25	20	14	23	25	28	53	57	44	33	54	54
Winter wheat harvested	69	91	91	83	86	88	98	100	99	94	95	99

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

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Third crop alfalfa has good growth and quality. Cool weather has slowed progress of corn and soybeans. Oat yields are good. We need some heat.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Third crop alfalfa continues with quality and quantity both good. Corn continues slow, but soybeans seem to be moving along alright.

**MARATHON-M.K.:** Corn is 3-4 weeks behind. Third crop alfalfa is a nice crop with no pest problems. The oat crop is big.

**VILAS-L.K.:** First crop hay is still being made. Oats and rye are still not ready.

**MARINETTE-S.R.:** Third crop alfalfa will be very light, to say the least, due to lack of moisture. Leafhoppers present in some areas, further stunting growth. Small grain yields relatively high, but not exceptional, either.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Lack of moisture has caused third crop alfalfa to be reduced in yield. Corn and soybeans have good color but are just not maturing fast enough with the cool weather. Wheat and oats combining is coming to an end with yields being slightly above average.

**BUFFALO-R.S.:** We have the moisture but no heat units to mature the corn or soybeans. One field of corn was harvested for silage on sandy soil. Third crop alfalfa is being harvested. Still some corn has not tasseled. Soybeans are setting pods.

**MONROE-W.D.:** From too wet to too cold, we are drying out. Oat harvest is about average. There are many empty hulls but plenty of straw. It is difficult to get the straw dry. Lots of hay and tough stems.

**PIERCE-D.J.:** Some areas of the county had frost. The oat crop was excellent.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Friday night, light frost hit some corn and snapbean fields with no economic damage, but very obvious. Snapbean harvest continues, with good yields. Sweet corn harvest is beginning. Frost got unprotected vine crops.

**WOOD-M.L.:** There has been a lot of late summer seeding done to utilize the fields that went unplanted this spring. Small grains are yielding well with more straw than normal.

**FOND DU LAC-E.A.:** Third crop alfalfa has good quality but is short. Corn and snapbeans are well behind in maturity.

**SHEBOYGAN-T.B.:** The quality and quantity of third crop alfalfa hay has been good. Growers who sprayed reported much better yields on treated fields than on non-treated fields. Wheat scab topped the

list of crop diseases in our area, but it was easy to find leaf spot in alfalfa and rust in corn. Corn fields had cutworms, European corn borer, and corn aphids, but none were sprayed in our area. Snapbeans have been sprayed for potato leafhoppers and mites. Without some warm weather, all the late-planted corn and soybeans will struggle to make grain this year. Small grain yields are running about 20% behind last year's yields.

**GRANT-L.F.:** Third crop alfalfa has good quality and quantity. Most will be small baled if weather permits. Lots is mowed and on the ground. Haven't seen many pest or disease problems in hay, corn, or soybeans. Oats are done with an average 60-80 bushels per acre, very good tests weights also. Corn and soybeans look good, but it's a long way to harvest time. Overall, crops look real good in our area, but still very green.

**DANE-D.F.:** White mold is infesting soybean fields and blue mold is infecting tobacco. Reports of excellent oat yields and good test weights. Corn needs some heat and time before frost to ensure a mature crop.

**JEFFERSON-B.K.:** There is no corn denting yet and soybean pods are still flat. Late-planted crops planted after June 5<sup>th</sup> will make nothing but forage. Farmers are expecting a late harvest with very wet grain. Hay baling has been easy lately with dry days.

**WASHINGTON-R.B.:** All crops show drought stress, we need rain and heat. Corn is showing firing of leaves all the way to the ear. Some late-planted corn is not tasseled. Soybeans are very slow to grow. Some early-planted soybeans show twenty pods per plant and two to three beans per pod, and some have one bean per pod. Third cutting alfalfa is fair looking but has insects, need to spray. Wheat averaged 40-60 bushels per acre and had high percentage of damaged kernels.

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** There is no third crop alfalfa yet.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 22, 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 Aug. 21	Mar. 1 to Aug. 21 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	72	47	77	38	59	-10	1795	1948	1.02	7.90	-3.38	21.36
Green Bay	74	47	82	39	61	-6	1657	1813	0.31	7.22	-2.15	23.63
La Crosse	73	50	80	40	62	-9	2078	2182	0.65	16.13	5.01	32.99
Madison	74	51	79	44	62	-7	1927	2121	0.48	13.07	2.18	31.35
Milwaukee	73	55	81	49	64	-6	1816	n.a.	0.16	9.34	-0.49	25.93

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 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.