



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

September 27, 2004

## Warm Weather Continues

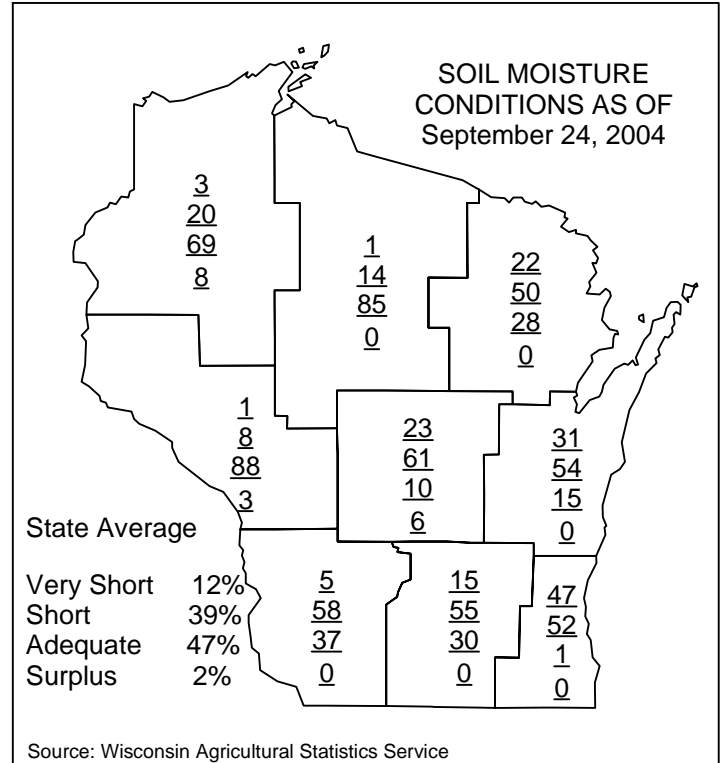
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Five weeks of above normal temperatures have helped crop conditions. Temperatures this past week were 6 to 9 degrees above normal for this time of year, ranging from the mid 40's to the mid 80's. Growing degree days are about normal for this time of year, except the south central part of the state is below normal. In the west central part of the state, trace amounts of rain fell this past week, in the east central over two inches of rain fell, and in the south central and southeast no rain was reported. In these areas, farmers are saying they need some rain. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 12% very short, 39% short, 47% adequate, and 2% surplus. The eastern half of the state is experiencing dryer conditions with reports of very short or short soil moisture. There was an average of 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

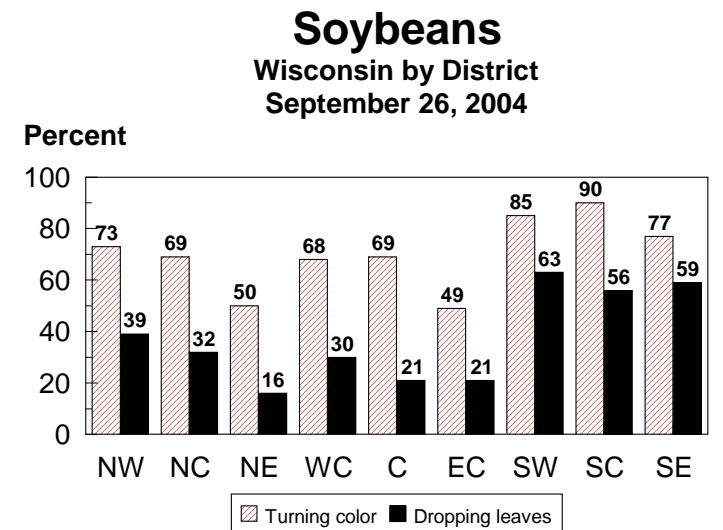
**Corn** has made great strides towards maturity this past week. In the western half of the state, the corn appears to be of good quality and quantity. In the central parts of the state, the early corn is mature, and husks are starting to open up. In the eastern part of the state, corn is not as mature as the rest of the state. Some farmers are saying they are finding leaf rust, stalk rot, or root worm beetles in many corn fields. The shortage of soil moisture is causing some fields to show signs of crop stress. Corn silage harvesting is in full swing, with yields running above average in many fields. In some areas, corn has dried too fast to make silage. In the southern half of the state, **soybeans** are looking very good with leaves dropping nicely. Every frost-free day improves the chances for the crop to reach maturity. In the northern part of the state, some fields are trying to catch up. Some fields vary from green leaves to total leaf drop. In eastern parts of the state, soybeans are starting to show stress from the lack of moisture. Fourth crop **hay** in the southwestern part of the state is excellent. In the central part of the state, both third and fourth crop hay has been good. In some areas of the eastern half of the state, farmers are reporting that both third and fourth crop hay has been of fair to good quality, but short due to the dry weather. Hay harvest is winding down across the state.

**Corn** in dough stage is at 87%, behind both last year's 100%, and the 5-year average of 99%. Corn in dent stage was reported at 59%, well behind both last year's 92%, and the 5-year average of 89%. Corn in the mature stage was reported at 12%, well below last year's 50%, and the 5-year average of 51%. Corn is being harvested for silage and was reported at 30% complete, well behind last year's 77%, and the 5-year average of 59%. **Soybeans** turning color were reported at 76%, behind both last year's 98%, and the 5-year average of 92%. Soybeans dropping leaves were reported at 46%, behind last year's 76%, and the 5-year average of 67%. Fourth cutting **hay** harvest is 41% complete, ahead of last year's 28%, and the 5-year average of 30%.

Late **potato** harvest is going strong, and yields are looking good. Potatoes are now going into storage. The last of the **snapbeans** are being harvested. The **apple** crop quality and yields is questionable. In some areas, **winter wheat** is being planted. **Pastures** are starting to show stress due to the dry conditions.



Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	6	18	43	31	2
Soybeans	3	10	26	41	20
Corn	5	13	26	43	13



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 26, 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
Corn in dough stage	85	88	67	83	88	71	97	97	87	87	100	99
Corn in dent stage	51	27	33	53	55	34	77	68	65	59	92	89
Corn in mature stage	10	3	4	10	15	6	17	19	11	12	50	51
Corn hrvt. for silage	9	5	27	26	38	16	61	43	44	30	77	59
Soybeans turning color	73	69	50	68	69	49	85	90	77	76	98	92
Soybean dropping leaves	39	32	16	30	21	21	63	56	59	46	76	67
Fourth cutting hay	14	11	11	58	32	32	49	65	52	41	28	39

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

**BARRON-R.C.:** The corn has progressed better than expected, test weights will be lighter, but there will be more dry corn to harvest than originally thought. Every day without frost is welcomed and a good day. The county average soybean yield will also be off, estimates are 15-25 % lower than the 5-year average.

**CHIPPEWA-T.P.:** Corn for silage will be ready on many fields next week. Soybeans dried down a lot this past week.

**MARATHON-M.K.:** Not a lot of crop work this week. Corn too wet to harvest yet; 73-75 percent moisture. Fourth crop hay looks great.

**ONEIDA-P.L.:** Third crop hay is very short. Corn has matured with the warm weather, and if we do not get frost, some of the corn could get ripe. Some farmers are just getting sweet corn now. The quality of the silage that is being made is poor because it was frozen.

**SHAWANO-T.A.:** Corn silage dry down got ahead of many, as the week brought rapid dry downs. It is so dry that the agronomists are having a hard time of soil sampling the alfalfa fields this fall.

**BUFFALO-R.S.:** Corn planted in May is dented and safe from frost damage; however, most corn did not get planted until June and is in milk stage. Soybeans vary in the same field from green leaves to total leaf drop. Corn and soybean quality is dependent on how long until the killing frost.

**ST. CROIX-R.K.:** September has really helped corn and soybean crops; most all is safe from frost, but does need considerable time to fully mature. Sweet corn still left to harvest for canning company.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** Warm weather this week is helping corn get closer to maturity. Soybeans vary from green stems to leaves dropping in same field.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** All the early corn is mature; husks are opening up. Most of the soybeans have turned yellow and are dropping leaves. We have had almost no rain in the month of September, so it is very dry. Not much hay being harvested anymore.

**FOND DU LAC-E.A.:** Third crop hay had good quality, but

short. Had to spray for insects. Fourth crop hay is very short due to dry weather. Corn and soybeans are maturing fast due to lack of rain.

**SHEBOYGAN-E.P.:** It is very dry here. Soybeans have been turning color rapidly this week. With the drought now and wet last spring, hurt the corn crop this year.

**GRANT-G.C.:** Corn and soybeans have caught up to where they should be for drying down at this time of year. Silo filling has gone on rapidly and some beautiful, green, small bales of alfalfa is going in the barns.

**IOWA-K.V.:** Excellent tonnage being taken off as corn silage. Fourth cutting alfalfa is almost finished, with very good quality. Almost all corn is dented. Some tested 24 percent moisture. Soybean harvest just starting with 60 bushels per acre yields and 11 percent moisture being reported.

**DANE-J.K.:** Quantity and quality third and fourth crop hay has been good. Weed and pest problems are improving due to dry weather conditions. Corn and soybeans are improving tremendously with the increased heat units. The corn plant moisture is 65-70 percent. The corn silage quality and quantity seems to be very good. The full-time corn silage appears to be excellent, but with a little less green due to lack of ear-tip-fill and smaller ears.

**GREEN-M.M.:** Corn silage harvest is in full swing with yields running above average in many fields. A few farmers are also starting to harvest soybeans in early-planted fields.

**WASHINGTON-R.B.:** All crops are drought stressed. Corn is maturing fast. Silage has yielded all over the board. Quality and moisture varies. Some soybeans are with no leaves and a lot are green. Hay is short in growth.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 26, 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 Sept. 25	Mar. 1 to Sept. 25 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	77	54	83	45	66	9	2409	2400	0.26	3.42	0.26	25.11
Green Bay	79	51	84	46	65	9	2244	2266	2.29	2.86	0.26	27.92
La Crosse	78	57	84	46	68	8	2759	2704	0.10	3.49	0.63	36.57
Madison	78	52	81	47	65	7	2547	2656	0.00	1.08	-1.49	33.31
Milwaukee	76	55	82	50	66	6	2443	n.a.	0.00	0.24	-2.42	27.62

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.