

Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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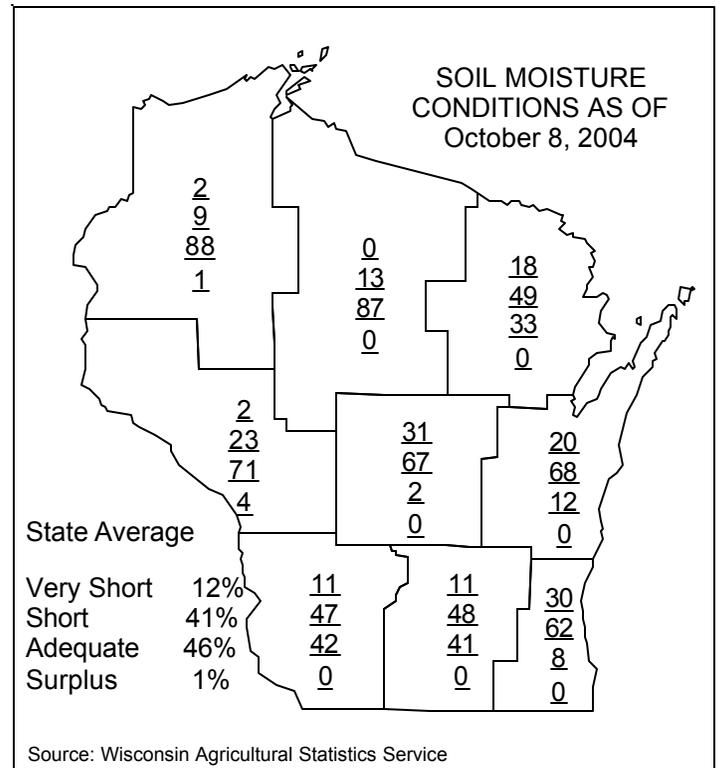
Hard Frost Hits Wisconsin

For the first time this growing season, a hard frost was reported state-wide. Reports in the northern parts of the state indicated that frost stopped the growing season. Southern areas of the state reported frost, but with varying amounts of crop damage. Low temperatures reached the 20's and low 30's last week. The Green Bay area received over an inch of rain this past week, while the rest of the state reported less than an inch. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 12% very short, 41% short, 46% adequate, and 1% surplus. The western half of the state is experiencing adequate to short soil moisture conditions. The eastern half of the state is experiencing more short to very short soil moisture conditions. There was an average of 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

The **corn** crop growing season was halted with the frost. Harvest has started in most areas of the state. However, the pace is still behind last year and the 5-year average. The northern parts of the state reported that high moisture corn harvesting has started. In the southwestern and central parts of the state, harvest is in full swing. Good yields have been reported in many of these areas. After the frost, silage harvest has been accelerated. The southwestern part of the state is close to completion, with reports of good quantity and quality of silage. The rest of the state reported mixed silage quality. **Soybean** harvest in the northern part of the state is moving slowly. Central and southern portions of the state have reported rapid drying of soybeans over the past two weeks. Harvest has increased in these areas, with good yields reported. Fourth crop **hay** harvest has continued this week. Dry conditions in the central part of the state may limit the amount of quality hay. **Fall tillage** has started across the state. The central part of the state reported that tillage is ahead of normal.

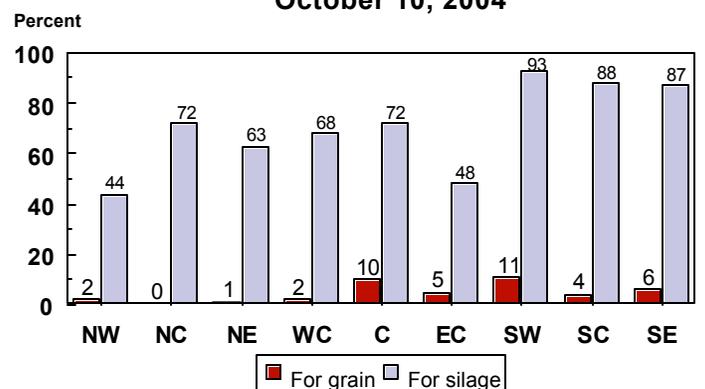
Corn in dent stage was reported at 88%, behind both last year and the 5-year average of 100%. Corn in the mature stage was reported at 45%, well below last year's 90%, and the 5-year average of 84%. Corn harvested for silage was reported at 70% complete, well behind last year's 93%, and the 5-year average of 86%. Corn harvested for grain was reported at 5% complete, behind last year's 18%, and the 5-year average of 17%. **Soybeans** turning color were reported at 98%, behind both last year and the 5-year average of 100%. Soybeans dropping leaves were reported at 84%, behind last year's 99%, and the 5-year average of 93%. Soybeans harvested was reported at 28% complete, behind last year's 44%, and the 5-year average of 37%. Fourth cutting **hay** harvest is 59% complete, ahead of last year's 51%, but even with the 5-year average. **Fall tillage** was reported at 10% complete, behind last year's 16%, and the 5-year average of 13%

Cranberry harvest is in full swing, with good yields and variable color. **Carrots** and **beets** are in the process of being harvested, with harvest almost complete in all other vegetables. **Winter wheat** planting is going strong, germination has been aided by the recent rain showers. **Apple** harvest is close to completion, with some reports of small size.



Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	6	19	41	32	2
Soybeans	2	14	26	41	17
Corn	4	13	23	41	19

Wisconsin Corn Harvested, by District October 10, 2004



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 10, 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 dent stage	85	87	70	84	84	70	98	97	98	88	100	100
Corn in mature stage	35	30	44	39	50	29	65	55	36	45	90	84
Corn hrvt. for silage	44	72	63	68	72	48	93	88	87	70	93	86
Corn hrvt. for grain	2	0	1	2	10	5	11	4	6	5	18	17
Soybeans turning color	99	100	97	95	98	90	100	100	100	98	100	100
Soybean dropping leaves	95	95	79	73	70	56	94	93	87	84	99	93
Soybeans harvested	10	22	17	17	21	18	54	21	52	28	44	37
Fourth cutting hay	33	25	51	68	64	48	68	80	90	59	51	59
Fall tillage completed	7	9	9	6	26	19	4	8	2	10	16	13

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BURNETT-R.B.: Last weekend had a killing frost. Do not know yet how much of the corn was far enough along to be alright.

POLK-C.S.: Corn silage has good quality with average yields. Soybean harvest is progressing slowly; 15-20 percent complete. Soybean yields are average at 30 bushels per acre. Very few acres of winter wheat have been planted. Corn for grain has not started yet. Moistures are still in the high 20s or more.

MARATHON-M.K.: Had a hard frost on Tuesday. Lots of corn is getting chopped and lots of grain is feed.

PRICE-M.K.: All annual crops were frozen the week before last. Some farmers are keeping the corn standing, but most will make only fair quality, high moisture grain this year.

OCONTO-K.H.: Hard frost last Tuesday ended growing season in our area. Corn silage harvest picking up in frost-killed crop. Fair amounts of corn made black layer before frost, but barely. About a third of soybean fields had leaves turning yellow before the frost. I only saw a field in which the leaves had dropped. Winter wheat germinated well in spite of dry conditions.

MONROE-W.D.: Since the frost, many acres of corn have been chopped, rushing to get it into the bunkers. Some early-planted soybeans are being harvested with light yields. Some fields of alfalfa are being cut for the third or fourth time.

ST. CROIX-L.M.: Early soybean yields being reported in the 35-45 bushel per acre range. Corn silage yields appear to be in the 15-20 ton range. Hard frosts have ended the corn and soybean growing season.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Killing frost occurred on Tuesday morning. Lots of corn chopped for silage. Some soybeans froze while yet green. Some fourth crop hay being cut-low yields due to dry weather.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Temperatures down to 22 degrees, so everything is frozen. Corn for silage nearly finished. Some soybeans have been harvested. Hay worth cutting has all been harvested.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Killing frost on Saturday or Monday depending on the area of the farm, has ended 2004 crop season. Should start soybean harvesting this week. Still have winter wheat to plant.

SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: The quality and quantity of corn silage and corn for grain is down about 25 percent below the five-year average. Soybean grain yields are ahead of last year's drought-influenced poor yields, but are about average for the past five-year growing season. Late-planted soybeans harvested for forage, prior to killing frosts, yielded on a par with an alfalfa cutting. Alfalfa harvest schedules messed up with the wet spring. Find most area growers now contemplating whether to take a fourth cutting now. The lack of rainfall in September made the final hay crop nonexistent on some soils. Many corn and soybean fields show the effects of frost on outer leaves, but stalks and plants within the fields still survived. Winter wheat planting is about 85 percent completed, and germination was greatly aided by the showers late last week.

GRANT-L.F.: Corn silage is real good in our area, yields are very good, and lots of silage being made in silos, also bagged. Soybeans are yielding fairly good, the moisture content is in the 9-10 percent range-almost too low for a profit. Dry down is unreal. Fourth crop hay is almost complete, yields not as good as expected, but very good hay. Some winter wheat or rye was planted.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Frost killed everything Monday night. Corn and soybeans are drying and dropping leaves. Weeds have come hard in corn and soybean fields. Not much winter wheat planted yet.

ROCK-S.H.: Soybean yields are ranging from 35-70 bushels per acre, with a majority of soybeans yielding 50-55 bushels per acre. Corn yields are 165-170 bushels per acre on rough ground. Expecting a lot of 200 bushels per acre corn on better soils.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Some winter wheat is planted. It is still dry.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 10, 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 Oct. 9	Mar. 1 to Oct. 9 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	67	39	78	27	53	2	2534	2488	0.90	5.33	0.89	27.02
Green Bay	68	39	80	24	54	3	2385	2352	1.60	2.28	-1.45	27.33
La Crosse	67	43	78	32	55	0	2890	2814	0.45	4.56	0.53	37.64
Madison	68	41	75	28	54	1	2681	2766	0.85	2.60	-1.11	34.83
Milwaukee	68	44	76	32	56	1	2571	n.a.	0.28	0.76	-3.24	28.14

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.