

Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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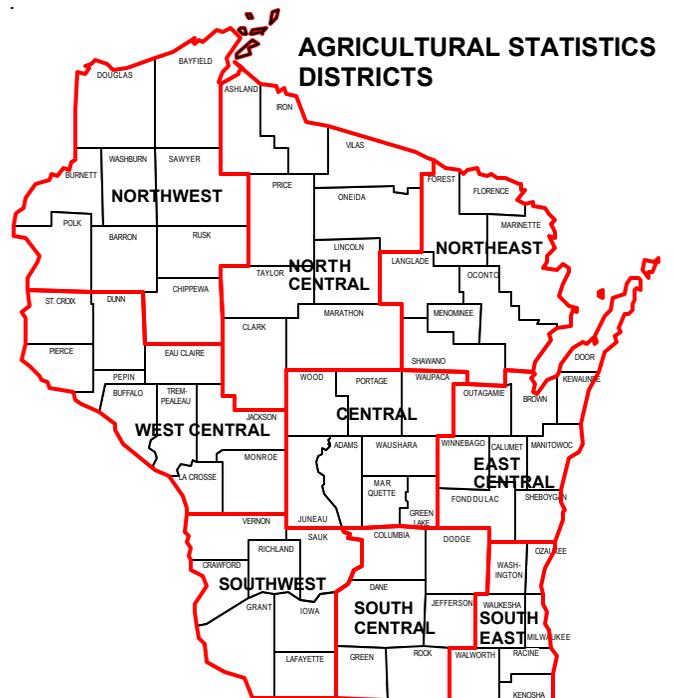
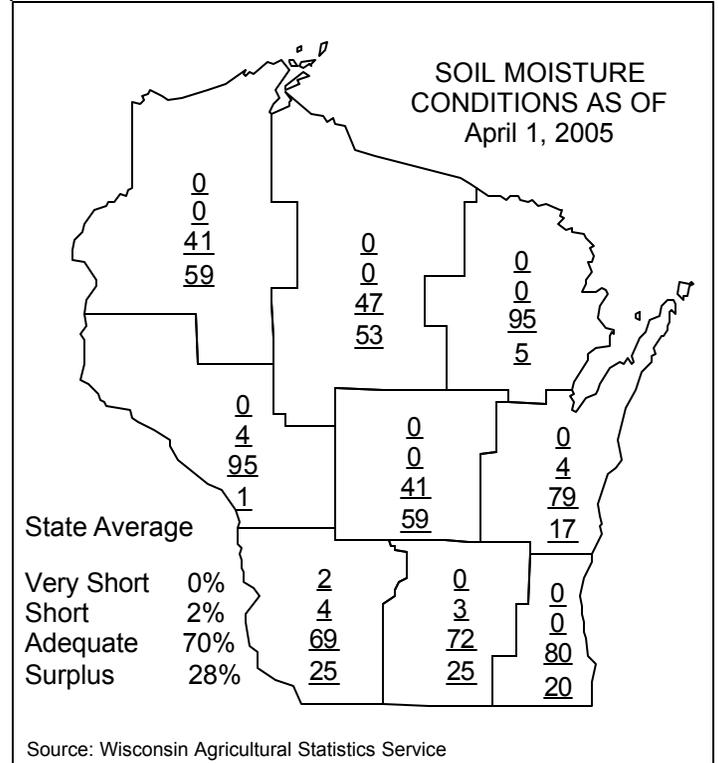
Limited Spring Activity

The 2005 growing season is starting slowly in Wisconsin. Temperatures were 7 to 9 degrees higher than normal for this time of year. Low temperatures were reported in the 20s, while high temperatures reached the 70s during the week. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 2 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 28 percent surplus. Most of the surplus moisture is located in central and southern parts of the state. There was an average of 2.5 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Many locations in the northern half of the state still have snow cover and frost. These areas received 0.43 to 0.71 inches of precipitation this past week. The combination of rain and warmer temperatures are reducing snow cover and frost. There are reports of manure spreading in fields that are not too soft or wet. The main agricultural activity in this area is maple sap. Northwestern producers are reporting that the season got off to a slow start last week, with mixed reports on yields. Northeastern producers are reporting poor yields up to this point.

Any remaining snow cover in the southern half of the state is limited to north facing slopes. The recent warm temperatures and rain have reduced most of the frost and snow. Southern areas of the state received between 0.38 and 0.60 inches of precipitation this past week. The main agricultural activities were manure spreading and fertilizer application. At this point, minimal spring tillage has been completed, putting producers slightly behind average. At this time last year, 4 percent of the spring tillage had been completed. There were no reports of oats being planted. However, some producers are expecting to start this week. At this time last year, 8 percent of the oat crop had been planted.

Alfalfa and winter wheat are starting to break dormancy in southern areas of the state. However, it's still too early to tell the extent of any winterkill. There were reports of producers beginning to prune fruit trees in southwestern areas of the state.



Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-A.B.: Too soon to make any assessments. Fields are saturated. Abandoned fall combining was being wrapped up before it got too muddy. Right now all is at a standstill. Too soft and wet to spread manure.

RUSK-G.P.: Too early to tell if there is any winterkill in the alfalfa. Snow is coming off nicely this week. Fields are mostly clear. Fair amount of frost still in the ground, but coming out fast. There has been no fieldwork going on. Maple syrup is going on with good quality; with average run to this point.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Alfalfa and winter grains do not show much damage. There is still frost in the ground. Only field activity is manure spreading. Fields are too wet to till. Maple syrup is being produced, but weather has not been favorable.

MARATHON-T.K.: There are no signs of winterkill in alfalfa as of yet. There is no fieldwork being done.

FOREST-A.K.: Some snow on fields yet. Maple sap is poor so far.

SHAWANO-T.A.: Still too early for fieldwork. It appears the frost is coming out, and we hope the snow cover limited the alfalfa winterkill.

DUNN-S.S.: Too early to tell if alfalfa has any winterkill. Up to now, there has been no type of fieldwork. Most snow is about all gone now. Frost is coming out quite fast right now. Have seen an occasional piece of land of winter wheat which is greening up

MONROE-W.H.: It appears that most of the frost has come out of the ground, but fields are still too soft. Some manure spreading is occurring on fields that will be rotated out of hay this spring.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Too early to tell about winterkill in alfalfa and winter wheat.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Alfalfa has not broken dormancy yet-too early to tell.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: It is too early to evaluate crops. The snow just left, and frost is still in the ground. There is no farm work being done, except hauling manure.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: At this time it appears as if alfalfa and winter wheat have not winter-killed, except in spots where water stood and froze. The only activity has been spreading manure.

MANITOWOC-D.S.: Too early to tell about winterkill, see very beginnings of wheat greening up. There is not any alfalfa greening up. Not able to get into the fields, any ponding in most fields soaked away. Most frost is out of the ground.

SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Neither the alfalfa or the winter wheat has greened up much yet. Isolated areas of winter wheat has the first signs of green, and if these are any indication, non-ponded areas look to have come though the winter well. There has been no farmers in the fields yet.

GRANT-L.F.: Too early to report winterkill, fields are starting to green up, still snow on northern slopes and quite cold. There is lots of frost in the ground. There has been no planting in our area as of yet. Mostly manure hauling is going on; almost too wet for that.

SAUK-C.N.: Lots of manure being hauled. Very limited, if any, fieldwork to date.

DANE-D.F.: Alfalfa has yet to start greening up. Winter wheat has just started. While it is too early to say for sure, most wheat fields appear to have survived the winter. There has been no spring tillage yet. Farmers hoping to haul manure this week.

DODGE-G.R.: Too early to detect signs of winterkill, but potential exists, as some fields are under ice sheets and pools of snow melt. Frost is coming out of the ground. There is no tillage or planting as of yet. Some manure spreading is going on higher ground and corn fields.

RACINE-L.F.: Winter wheat is just starting to turn green. Too early for making any determinations.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Wheat is greening up; will have dead

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 3, 2005

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 2	Mar. 1 to April 2 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	59	33	67	23	46	9	35	3	0.71	1.17	-0.84	3.06
Green Bay	56	34	63	27	45	8	24	6	0.43	1.32	-0.91	4.25
La Crosse	63	35	74	26	49	8	52	14	0.38	1.93	-0.26	4.61
Madison	61	34	71	24	48	9	46	17	0.42	1.65	-0.81	5.30
Milwaukee	57	35	68	24	46	7	30	n.a.	0.60	1.58	-1.24	6.68

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.