

Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 9, 2005

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Warmer Temperatures Spur Corn Planting

A recent warm-up, compared to the previous week, allowed many farmers to begin planting significant amounts of crops that they had been waiting to put in the ground. Although warmer than the previous week, temperatures were 4 to 6 degrees lower than normal for this time of year. Low temperatures were reported in the low 20s, while high temperatures reached the high 70s during the week. Rainfall this past week ranged from 0.03 to 0.70 inches, as many farmers still reported a need for rain, especially in the southeastern part of the state. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 5 percent very short, 31 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn planted was reported at 59 percent complete, above both last year's 54 percent, and the 5-year average of 43 percent. Corn emerged was reported as 3 percent complete, higher than last year's 2 percent, but lower than the 5-year average of 5 percent. Farmers cited the higher temperatures as a primary reason for the increase in planting. Many reported that corn planted earlier still has yet to emerge.

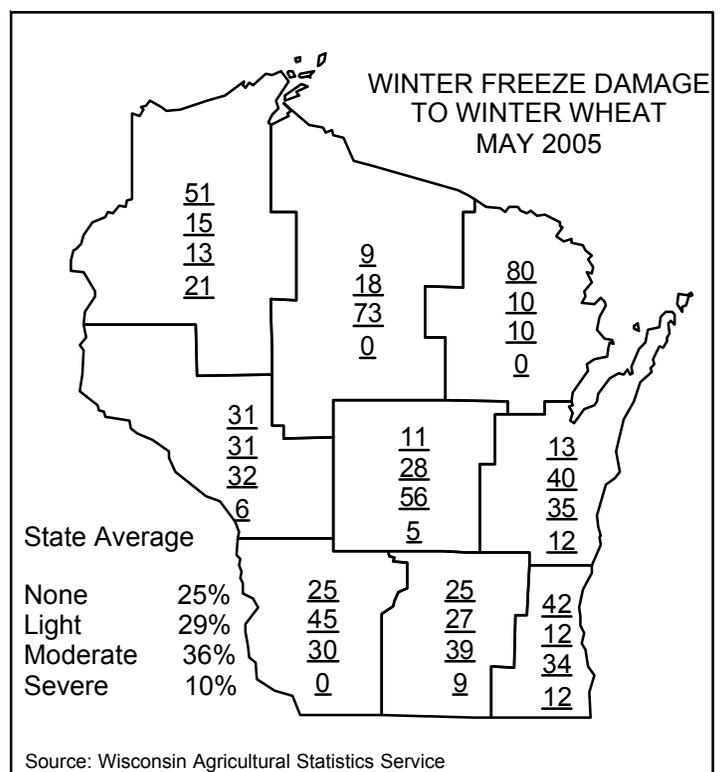
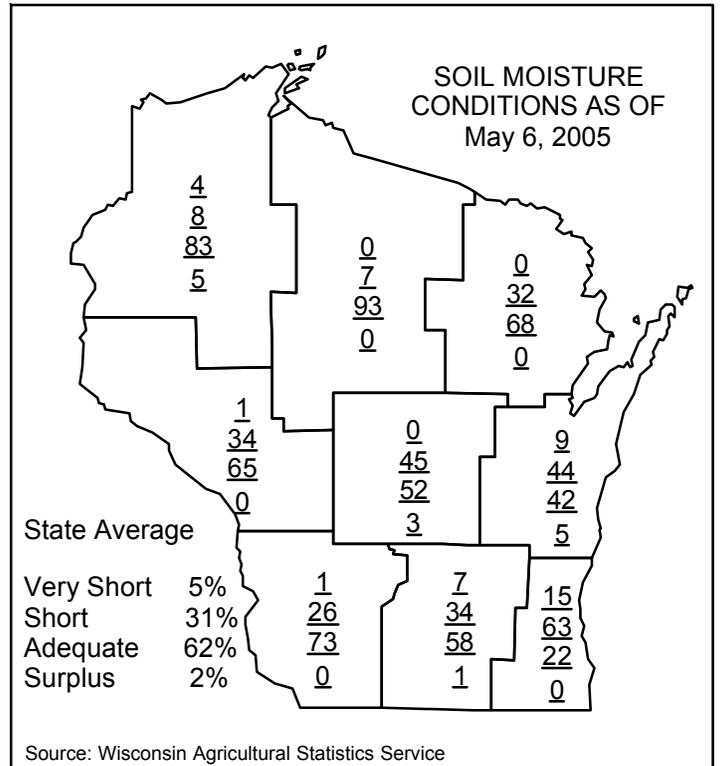
Oat conditions were reported as 1 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Oats planted was at 87 percent complete, below last year's 90 percent, but above the 5-year average of 75 percent. Oats emerged was at 43 percent, behind last year's 57 percent, but above the 5-year average of 38 percent. **Spring tillage** completed was at 72 percent, just below last year's 73 percent, but greater than the 5-year average of 63 percent. **Soybeans** planted was reported at 29 percent complete, significantly above last year's 12 percent, as well as the 5-year average of 11 percent.

Pasture conditions were rated as 2 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 4 percent excellent.

Winter wheat conditions were reported as 10 percent very poor, 18 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 28 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Winter freeze damage to winter wheat was rated as 25 percent none, 29 percent light, 36 percent moderate, and 10 percent severe.

Apple and other fruit trees may have been damaged by frost, but it is too early to tell for sure. **Potatoes** continue to be planted, especially in the northern part of the state.

Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 6, 2005					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Oats	1	7	26	57	9
Pasture	2	15	41	38	4
Winter Wheat	10	18	39	28	5



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 8, 2005

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	74	68	81	89	89	86	99	98	99	87	90	75
Oats emerged	18	9	14	34	46	33	79	81	70	43	57	38
Corn planted	34	47	45	37	32	46	82	76	84	59	54	43
Corn emerged	1	0	1	2	0	1	8	3	7	3	2	5
Soybeans planted	2	10	15	13	9	30	34	34	39	29	12	11
Spring tillage completed	59	75	85	58	48	65	86	83	85	72	73	63

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

POLK-C.S.: There is severe winterkill in alfalfa and some in wheat. Lots of reseeding or seeding going on in alfalfa. Spring tillage and corn planting going along very rapidly. Oats are in the ground and emerging. Corn planting should be half done by Sunday.

RUSK-G.P.: Alfalfa showing additional winterkill from cold over last two weeks. Some reseeding and over seeding going on. Good week for fieldwork. Corn planting started last weekend in the snow and has progressed rapidly into this week. Small grains about all in. Soybeans starting, though plenty early yet.

CLARK-R.W.: A great week for fieldwork. Considerable progress was made with tillage and planting. Warm weekend rains should encourage emergence and new growth.

VILAS-L.K.: There is not enough alfalfa and winter wheat in our area to tell if winterkill has happened. Oat planting is coming along good. Lime is being spread. Too cold and dry for anything to grow.

FOREST-A.K.: Some oats are seeded. Not much fieldwork with snow showers and cold weather.

SHAWANO-T.A.: About 60 percent of alfalfa was lost to winterkill and ice ponding. Alfalfa that made it is up about 5-6 inches.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Some alfalfa has been reseeded. It is cold and dry. Had low 20s temperature the last two mornings. Hay and pastures are not growing. Some oats after two weeks still have not germinated. A lot of corn planted this week.

DUNN-S.S.: Some winterkill in low places where water stood and froze. As of yet have heard of no alfalfa being reseeded. Have had three good days now of fieldwork. Lots of corn is being planted now. Crops slow to emerge. Ground is still cold.

JACKSON-W.E.: There are signs of winterkill in alfalfa.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: About 50 percent of the alfalfa is winterkilled. It has been very cool and dry. The early-planted sweet corn for the farmers market was 2 inches high, but froze off after several nights of 23-25 degree temperatures. Alfalfa is shorter now than two weeks ago; it froze off. Oats are all planted. Corn and potatoes are being planted.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Where water could run off of fields in January, alfalfa is good and where water stayed, it froze out. Did not see any reseeding around. Most oats and barley are in. Some corn planting has started. Some early-planted oats on sandy soils is coming up.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Alfalfa and winter wheat have 50 percent crop failure. Alfalfa is being planted in damaged places. Oats is all planted, as there is not much oats planted-only for hay. Corn planting is progressing at a 50 percent rate.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Alfalfa looks poor. New seedings need rain. Snowed last week while we finished planting corn. Soybeans about half-seeded. Almost always too windy to spray. Expect winter rye for forage harvest to start as soon as it dries out. Some of the low ground is the driest I have seen it in the 50 years I have been farming. Corn and oats are pretty much planted. Oats are up, but corn lays in ground for two weeks now-no sprouts.

GREEN-F.Z.: Not much alfalfa and winter wheat has winterkill. Most corn is planted and soybean planting has started.

JEFFERSON-B.K.: Record planting pace. Most are done with corn and at least half done with soybeans. Lots of spraying is completed. Bottom ground driest in years; now we need rain. Alfalfa has ran out of moisture, will be very short without rain.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Thirty percent of alfalfa is dead. Many farmers seeded extra acres. Spring tillage is way ahead of normal. All oats are planted. Very little corn is not planted. Oats emerged unevenly, if at all, due to dryness. Corn is coming up slowly.

WALWORTH-P.R.: New seedings of alfalfa had some frost damage. Quite a bit of damage in established alfalfa stands. A lot of spot seeding to fill in bare spots with cereals and peas or grass. Ground is dry, and cold temperatures have slowed down emergence of crops. Frost several mornings this past week.

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

Robert J. Battaglia
Director

Max Lord
Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 8, 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 May 7	Mar. 1 to May 7 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	61	36	76	23	48	-5	290	181	0.03	3.81	-1.71	5.70
Green Bay	59	38	74	30	48	-4	206	147	0.21	3.07	-2.13	6.00
La Crosse	62	38	78	27	50	-6	331	220	0.48	4.38	-1.78	7.06
Madison	59	38	75	28	48	-5	296	217	0.70	3.94	-2.41	7.59
Milwaukee	55	38	71	34	47	-5	173	n.a.	0.36	2.49	-4.62	7.59

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.