



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of  
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

August 8, 2005

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## Return of the Dryness

After two weeks of scattered showers, dry weather returned. Without additional rain, many crops are in danger of further yield reduction. Insects are also causing damage. Precipitation was very slim last week. Eau Claire reported 0.12 inches, Madison 0.09 inches, and Milwaukee 0.15 inches, while all other areas were rainless. Low temperatures were reported at 50, and high temperatures topped out at 94. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 27 percent very short, 42 percent short, and 31 percent adequate. During this hot and dry week, there was an average of 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

**Corn** conditions were rated as 10 percent very poor, 18 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Corn silked jumped to 95 percent, well ahead of last year's 64 percent, and the 5-year average of 76 percent. Corn is reaching dough stage quicker than normal, at 15 percent, surpassing last year's 5 percent, and the 5-year average of 10 percent. Some light soil corn is drying up, while surviving corn is looking for rain. Armyworms are showing up throughout the state.

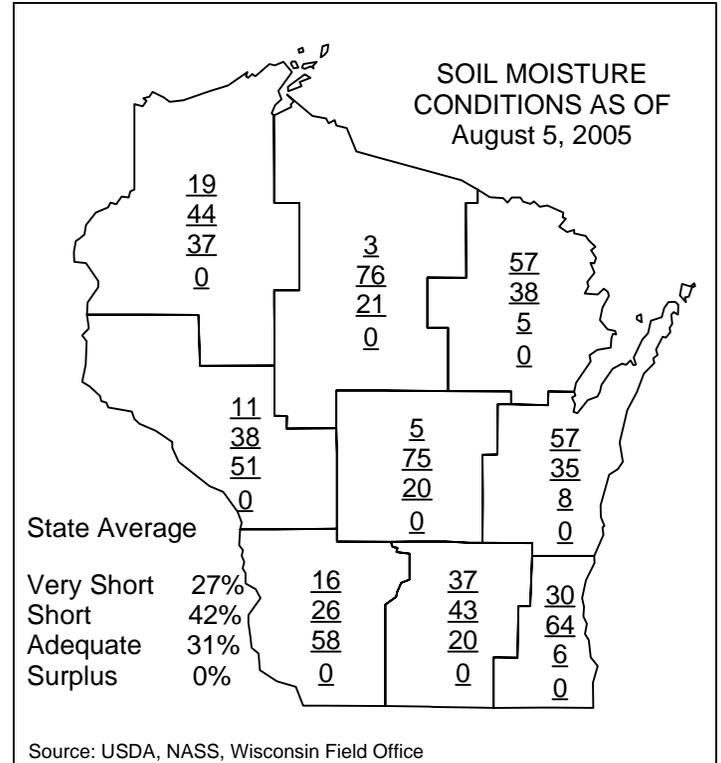
**Soybean** conditions were reported as 9 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Blooming continues to be ahead of schedule at 93 percent, higher than last year's 72 percent, and the 5-year average of 79 percent. Soybeans setting pods was at 72 percent, ahead of last year's 43 percent, and the 5-year average of 42 percent. Due to lack of moisture, pods are filling slower than expected in some areas. Aphids and Spider Mites were being a pest.

**Oat** conditions were reported as 2 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Harvest for grain is moving along quickly at 77 percent complete, compared to last year's 36 percent, and the 5-year average of 44 percent. **Winter wheat** harvest has started to wrap up, reported at 93 percent, ahead of last year's 65, and the 5-year average of 74 percent. Yields are highly variable.

Second cutting **hay** was reported at 95 percent complete, ahead of last year's 83 percent, and the 5-year average of 88 percent. Farmers reported crop quality is good, but tends to be shorter than desired. Third crop cutting is underway, reported at 22 percent complete, ahead of last year's 10 percent, and the 5-year average of 16 percent. Many farmers are looking to other grasses for feed.

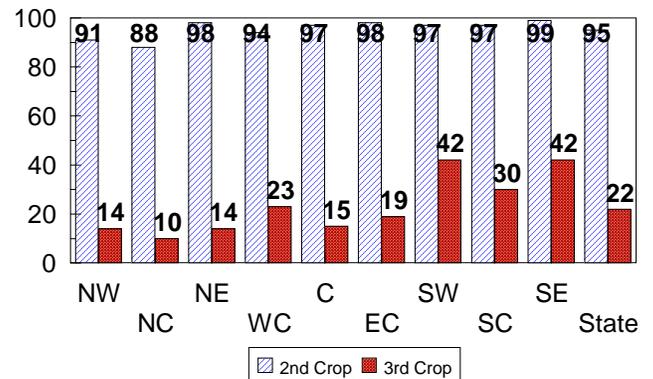
**Pasture** conditions were rated as 16 percent very poor, 23 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 23 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Lack of moisture has certainly taken a toll.

Irrigated **fruits** and **vegetables** are plentiful. Early potatoes are showing good quality. Cabbage is looking tough. Many non-irrigated grapes have aborted fruit.



Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	10	18	29	32	11
Soybeans	9	16	30	35	10
Oats	2	9	34	45	10
Pasture	16	23	34	23	4

2nd & 3rd Crop Hay Harvested Wisconsin by District August 7, 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 harvested for grain	67	70	71	78	82	67	84	86	83	77	36	44	
Corn silked	88	95	89	95	88	93	98	97	99	95	64	76	
Corn dough	5	15	10	10	15	14	17	18	25	15	5	10	
Soybeans bloomed	98	99	95	91	98	93	97	93	99	93	72	79	
Soybeans setting pods	83	85	73	54	65	56	90	78	90	72	43	42	
Second cutting hay	91	88	98	94	97	98	97	97	99	95	83	88	
Third cutting hay	14	10	14	23	15	19	42	30	42	22	10	16	
Winter wheat harvested	66	72	86	87	97	89	97	95	99	93	65	74	

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

**BARRON-A.B.:** We continue to stay on the edge, with light soils suffering the most damage. Heavy soils are holding up better, but we are taking bushels off those as well. Third crop alfalfa is light, but quality is good. Oat yields are highly variable, as is wheat. Quality of small grains is also all over the board. Aphids are exploding in some fields of soybeans.

**CLARK-N.S.:** Corn ear size and soybean pod set look quite good. Additional moisture will help fill out the kernels and beans. Quality of third cutting forage is very good, while yields are average.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Dry weather is causing greater insect pressure on alfalfa, and especially in soybeans. Spider mite is attacking the soybeans and doing a fair amount of damage. Oats and wheat combining is just about wrapped-up.

**PIERCE-J.K.:** Oats harvested generally had low test weights. Corn and soybeans look good in much of the county. We have gotten pretty good rains in the last couple of weeks, although some parts of the county received smaller amounts than others.

**ST. CROIX-L.M.:** Armyworms have been a problem in some corn and oat fields. A corn field was stripped to the stalk. Some parts of the county are very dry, and other parts have low to adequate moisture. Irrigators are running.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** Sweet corn harvest is about to get underway. Some dryland corn and soybeans already are a total loss.

**OUTAGAMIE-K.J.:** Checks in several parts of the county show that pollination was more successful than conditions have lead us to believe. Initial estimates have potential yields for many in the 150-180 bushels per acre, if we get adequate moisture through grain fill. Soybeans looked to recover from the drought for a short while, however, are once again in jeopardy as pods are not showing any significant signs of filling at the expected rate. Third crop alfalfa has been coming off as well as new seeding regrowth. Fields have been highly variable with there being little over higher parts of fields and average growth in lower parts. Harvested winter wheat yields reported ranges from 45-70 bushels an acre.

**SHEBOYGAN-M.B.:** The dry weather will result in significant yield reduction, unless we get good rain in the next week.

**GRANT-G.C.:** Oat combines are out in full force this week. Yields of oats and straw are excellent. Yields of 100 bushels per acre of oats are not uncommon.

**DANE-C.B.:** Corn and soybeans were affected by the dry weather before the rains came. Lower pods on soybeans are few, if any, upper stems seem to have more pods present on nodes. Early CRM corn planted was pollinating during dry weather and is now showing signs of lack of pollination.

**WASHINGTON-L.K.:** Corn is very dry, but looks OK; leaves roll in the heat of the day. Beetles are all over feeding on silk which may be a problem in later-planted fields. We need rain to keep pollination going to keep the plants from aborting kernels. Soybeans are standing still, and Aphids are feeding off the plants in some fields and not in others. I will spray about one-third of my acreage. Spider mites are in every field, hopefully we get a good, hard rain to knock them off the plants. At this point, they are not damaging the leaves because the leaves turn over as the day gets warmer. Blossoms are dropping and pods also; this has to affect yields. Lots of foliage, but not that great of a pod set. Hay is short, but has good quality. We planted some Sudan grass on some wheat ground to get a little extra feed, but we will need some rain to get it going-hopefully for at least one cutting. Sweet corn is short and tasseling. Early corn has very spotty pollination.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 7, 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 August 6	Mar. 1 to Aug. 6 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	87	63	94	50	75	3	1970	1655	0.12	8.66	-0.36	16.88
Green Bay	87	60	91	50	74	4	1801	1528	0.00	4.90	-2.63	13.16
La Crosse	88	66	94	55	77	3	2193	1851	0.00	7.28	-1.82	16.26
Madison	86	65	90	53	76	5	2027	1800	0.09	5.65	-3.17	16.50
Milwaukee	87	69	94	60	78	6	1858	n.a.	0.15	4.98	-2.92	14.83

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.