



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

August 29, 2005

Vol. 05, No. 22

## Crop Conditions and Progress Remain Steady

Consistent weather conditions allowed crops to progress at a steady rate last week. Most of the state saw less than an inch of rain, but La Crosse received almost 2 inches. Madison and Milwaukee are 4-5 inches below normal for precipitation this growing season, with northern cities between 0.5-2.0 inches below normal. Temperatures for the week were slightly below normal, with lows reaching the mid-40s and the high reaching 84. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 16 percent very short, 31 percent short, 52 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

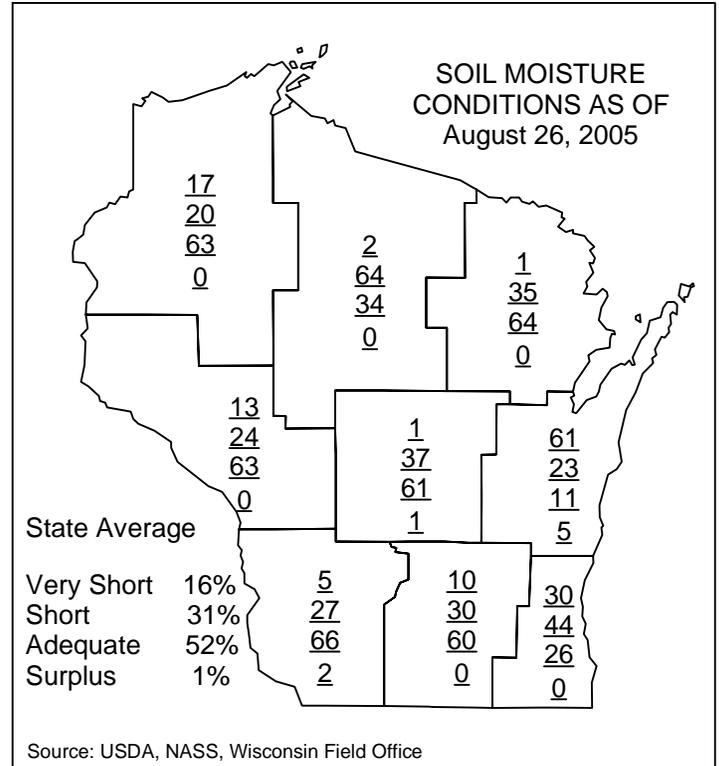
**Corn** conditions were rated as 6 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Corn progress remains ahead of schedule with the dough stage at 69 percent, higher than last year's 42 percent, and the 5-year average of 59 percent. Corn dent was reported at 26 percent, compared to last year's 4 percent, and the 5-year average of 14 percent. Corn harvested for silage is at 6 percent, above both last year and the 5-year average of 0 percent. Corn is beginning to mature in some areas, but it is still too early to tell how large of an impact the lack of rainfall this summer will have.

**Soybean** conditions were reported as 6 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. The progress of soybeans is still well ahead of recent years. Pod setting was reported at 97 percent, greater than last year's 81 percent, and the 5-year average of 89 percent. Soybean leaves turning color was reported at 17 percent, compared to last year's 3 percent, and the 5-year average of 7 percent.

Third cutting **hay** harvest is proceeding well at 67 percent complete, ahead of last year's 50 percent, and the 5-year average of 62 percent. Yields are smaller than normal, but quality looks good all around the state. Grasshoppers have been a problem in some areas.

**Pasture** conditions were similar to last week with 11 percent very poor, 22 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 28 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

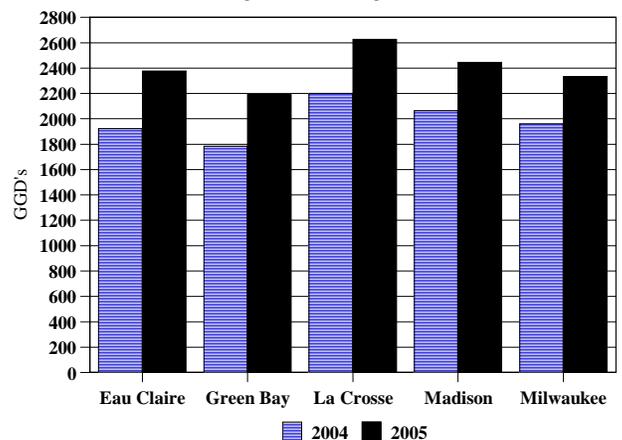
Some **apple** harvest has begun, along with **pumpkins**. The **squash** crop looks excellent.



Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	6	16	29	38	11
Soybeans	6	12	30	42	10
Pasture	11	22	36	28	3

## Growing Degree Days

Wisconsin by District  
Aug. 28, 2004 vs. Aug. 27, 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
Corn dough	52	77	58	69	60	77	76	71	68	69	42	59
Corn dent	20	12	18	25	27	30	33	27	28	26	4	14
Corn harvested for silage	3	4	2	3	7	9	7	13	2	6	0	0
Soybeans setting pods	99	95	97	93	92	94	99	99	100	97	81	89
Soybeans turning leaves	4	7	11	6	14	28	31	18	13	17	3	7
Third cutting hay	49	50	73	64	71	65	86	76	82	67	50	62

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

**BAYFIELD-S.S.:** Corn looks good, but will need a late frost to have mature corn. Second crop hay harvest continues. Everyone has a plentiful supply of hay on hand.

**LINCOLN-F.O.:** Corn yields will be below average. Cobs are shorter than normal, but filling quite well. Soybeans have shorter pods with fewer beans per pod. Quality of third crop hay is excellent, but not much quantity. Lack of rain these last three weeks has affected all crops.

**LANGLADE-A.K.:** Corn looks better, but most is silage, a lot of smut. Soybeans are better and starting to turn. Waiting on some third crop alfalfa because of last week's rain. Additional growth and tonnage are being added.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Corn is starting to dent a fair amount, but many cobs are small, and even some of those do not have corn all the way around. Soybeans are beginning to turn color. Cooler temperatures and heavy dews have made third crop alfalfa baling a challenge this week.

**MONROE-W.D.:** Third and fourth crop alfalfa is growing nicely. Corn and soybeans have recovered from drought and may make a normal yield. New seeding has spotty patches and many fields are very weedy.

**PEPIN-H.R.:** Some corn on sandy soil was harvested for silage. Other corn on heavy soils is looking very good. Showing a lot of dent on the early-planted fields. Soybeans are looking very good also on heavy soil; lots of pods on the plants. Lighter soils are not so good. Third crop alfalfa in this area is pretty much all done. Weeds and insects are not a problem right now.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Snapbean harvest is complete. Sweet corn and potato harvest continues. Early apple harvest starts-small size and good quality. Third crop alfalfa harvest continues, better yields than second crop.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** Most of the corn is in the dent stage. Some real good corn and some was completely burned up. Too much hot weather and not enough rain. Good quality third crop alfalfa was made, but poor yields.

**FOND DU LAC-J.M.:** Corn silage harvest to begin as fields mature. Yields are expected to be reasonably good where timely rainfall occurred. Most late corn has pollinated successfully.

Some soybeans being taken for forage, as the prospects for a crop have ended. Third crop hay is very short and not worth the fuel to harvest in many places.

**SHEBOYGAN-E.P.:** There is no fall seeding done yet due to the dry and very hard soil conditions. The bottom leaves on corn on high ground have turned purple and brown due to lack of water for months.

**CRAWFORD-V.H.:** Crops are looking great.

**GRANT-L.F.:** Corn looks really good, starting to get that maturing look to it. We have a lot of very good fields and will have high yields. Same is true for soybeans. Most corn and beans on sandy soil are much poorer. Most third crop alfalfa is being made, and quite a bit of fourth crop hay is mowed down and curing to be baled. Sure looks like a very nice crop.

**DANE-D.F.:** Corn and soybeans are way ahead of last year. Seed corn harvest will begin this week, as should corn silage harvest.

**DODGE-G.R.:** Corn fields around here look exceptionally well, given the erratic levels of moisture this year. Majority of fields are tall, well-tasseled with long, well-filled ears. Some plants now turning color on lower portion of stalks. Soybeans well-podded and few, if any, have begun to turn as yet. Third crop hay harvest continues. Yields far exceed second cutting, with some areas equaling first cutting. Lots of grasshoppers in hayfields.

**WASHINGTON-K.R.:** Rain this last week was good, but maybe too late to help improve the corn. However, it could help the soybeans and get some regrowth for the alfalfa fields.

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** Corn looks fairly good. Needs rain to finish. Soybeans are in trouble-may abort pods.



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This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 28, 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 Aug. 27	Mar. 1 to Aug. 27 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	76	53	82	44	65	-2	2378	2039	0.74	10.24	-1.95	18.46
Green Bay	76	53	82	48	64	-2	2191	1899	0.94	9.13	-1.01	17.39
La Crosse	76	57	83	50	67	-3	2627	2282	1.98	11.47	-0.47	20.45
Madison	77	55	84	47	66	-1	2445	2219	0.15	6.77	-4.90	17.62
Milwaukee	77	62	84	57	70	1	2334	n.a.	0.05	6.32	-4.21	16.17

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.