



Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

April 24, 2006

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Mild Weather Accelerates Fieldwork

Mild weather continued during the week, creating good field conditions for oat planting and spring tillage. Average temperatures were 6 to 8 degrees above normal. Temperatures reached the 70s during the week, while average high temperatures were in the 60s. Average low temperatures were in the 40s across the state. Rainfall totals last week ranged from 0.16 in Green Bay to 1.59 inches in Madison. Soil moisture conditions were at 4 percent very short, 25 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. There was an average of 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

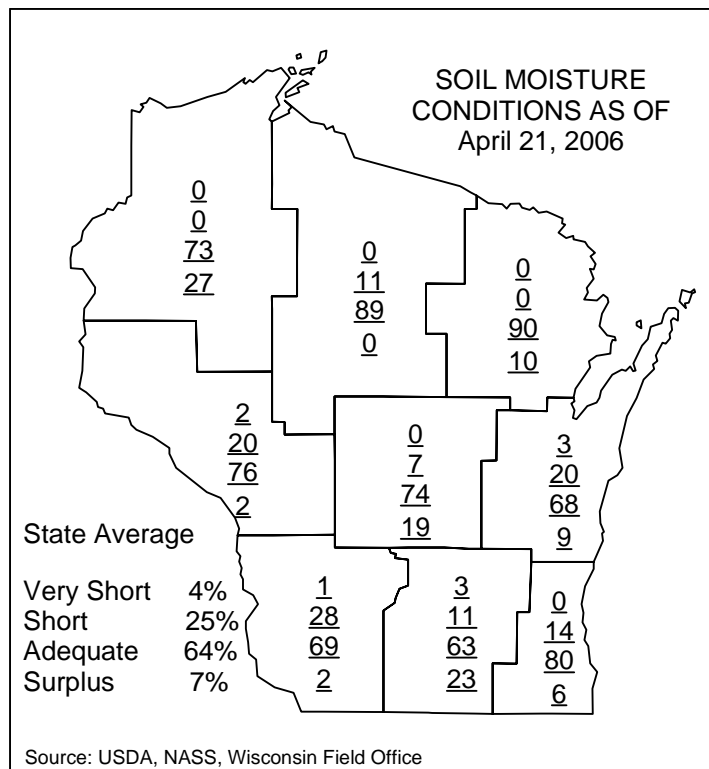
Corn planted was at 5 percent complete, compared to last year's 6 percent and the 5-year average of 2 percent. Farmers across the state took advantage of the warm weather to get some corn in the ground. Rains in southwestern counties have slowed planting progress. Northern producers have been able to plant on lighter soils. Soil temperatures have been slow to warm, causing concern for some growers. Planting progress is expected to intensify this week.

Oats planted was reported at 56 percent complete, above last year's average of 48 percent and the 5-year average of 35 percent. Oats emerged was reported at 3 percent complete, below last year's 9 percent and the 5-year average of 5 percent. Assisted by mild weather, oat seeding progress advanced rapidly during the week. Early-planted oats are beginning to emerge in central and southern areas of the state.

Spring tillage was reported at 27 percent complete, compared to last year's 34 percent and the 5-year average of 23 percent. Tillage progress increased 18 percent this week. Substantial progress was made in the northern districts during the week. Minimal rainfall in this area has allowed many farmers to get equipment into fields.

Alfalfa and **winter wheat** look good with no evidence of significant winterkill damage. Alfalfa seeding has been completed in many parts of the state. **Pasture** conditions were rated at 2 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. As conditions improve, additional cattle are being pastured.

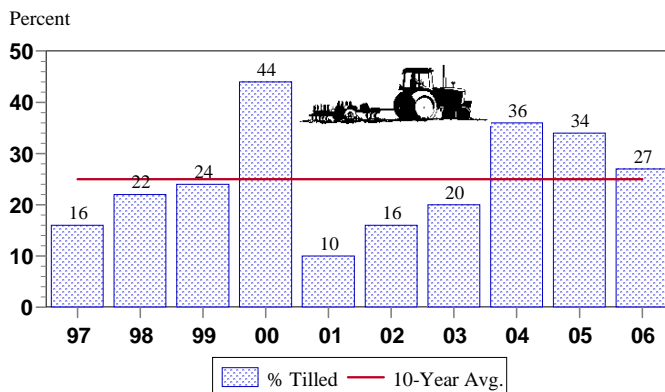
Potatoes were being planted in central and west central counties. Planting progress has advanced rapidly, with many areas ahead of schedule. There were reports of some **sweet corn** being planted last week. **Peas and carrots** were planted in central and eastern areas. **Cranberry** producers had a frost watch during the week.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 23, 2006					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	1	3	12	56	28
Pasture	2	13	35	39	11

SPRING TILLAGE COMPLETED

Wisconsin State Average
April 23, 1997-2006



Crop and percent of acreage	Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 23, 2006										State average		
	District average										This year	Last year	5-year average
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
Corn planted	2	5	2	2	4	3	5	11	4		5	6	2
Oats planted	31	51	60	75	38	39	65	62	73		56	48	35
Oats emerged	0	0	6	4	1	1	9	5	6		3	9	5
Spring tillage completed	34	46	42	21	27	20	23	22	19		27	34	23

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Alfalfa looks good. Very little fieldwork so far. Some oats are planted. Fields are still wet.

BURNETT-R.B.: Clover looks good, but wheat does not. Not much work done. Little plowing on low spots, which is sandy. We could use rain.

PRICE-M.K.: Fields are just starting to green up, but so far it looks like forages came through the winter in good shape. Exceptionally warm and dry weather has given farmers a great head start on fieldwork this spring.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Spring tillage is well under way. Many small grains in the ground and some corn, although, there is concern about ground temperatures. Forage does not show any major signs of winterkill so far.

LANGLADE-A.K.: There are no signs of winterkill in alfalfa and winter wheat; a first in many years, stands look good. Very good week for spring tillage. We have had just traces of rain, need a good soaker.

OCONTO-K.H.: Spring tillage proceeding quickly on medium and light ground. Even some on heavier ground are getting started, having to till around low, wet spots. Spring small grain seeding and alfalfa is going in. Working conditions continue to be good in the immediate area. Showers have been extremely variable. Winter wheat and alfalfa continue to look good. Pastures and turf grasses starting to grow, but slowly.

DUNN-S.S.: Winter wheat looks to have made it through winter very well. Still early to tell about alfalfa, but looks OK at this point, except for low areas. For the most part, our county needs rain. One farmer planted corn. All oats are planted. Manure is still being hauled. Pastures are not growing due to lack of moisture.

PIERCE-J.K.: Alfalfa stands look good. Most oats went in the ground last week. Manure pits are being emptied. A few reports of corn planters beginning to roll. Topsoil has enough moisture for germination, but some rain sure would not hurt.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Manure hauling, tillage were the main activities this week. Planting slowed down due to cool weather.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Very little rain. Early potatoes are being planted. Oats are being sown.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Winter wheat looks good. Alfalfa is starting to come on strong. Lots of tillage being done. Winter wheat is being fertilized. Peas and oats are planted. Still no corn planted locally. Still a little early for most.

MANITOWOC-J.H.: Both alfalfa and winter wheat look very good. Most new seeding is planted. Many will start on corn planting next week. Will need timely rains; not much moisture.

GRANT-L.F.: Most fields look to have survived the winter. Greening up nicely. A few have started in the fields. Most oats are sown. Lots of rain over weekend has slowed fieldwork. Some corn has been planted also. Most pastures are greening. Warmer weather would be nice. We have good moisture so far.

IOWA-K.V.: Winter wheat and alfalfa looks great. Corn planters have started. Oats and alfalfa almost all planted. Three inches of rain has slowed fieldwork.

GREEN-M.M.: Alfalfa fields have really taken off with recent warm weather. Winterkill in alfalfa and winter wheat is very minimal this year.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: We had almost no frost all winter, so no winterkill. Low-lying fields are too wet to do anything with. Some spring tillage on higher ground is being done.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: No winterkill on winter wheat or alfalfa.



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

Robert J. Battaglia
Director

Jon Hornung
Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 23, 2006

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 Apr. 22	Mar. 1 to Apr. 22 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	66	44	72	38	55	8	181	81	0.61	4.63	0.71	6.17
Green Bay	62	42	73	35	52	6	135	70	0.16	2.75	-1.17	5.73
La Crosse	65	47	70	41	56	6	188	107	0.71	7.57	3.15	8.75
Madison	64	42	71	37	53	6	165	111	1.59	6.74	2.03	9.51
Milwaukee	61	45	74	39	53	7	143	n.a.	0.80	7.12	1.77	10.95

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.