



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

May 7, 2007

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## Fieldwork Continued in Mild Weather

Warm, dry weather allowed farmers to continue fieldwork this past week. Average temperatures were 2 to 6 degrees above normal. High temperatures reached the 80s and 90s, while average high temperatures were in the 60s and mid 70s. Average low temperatures were in the mid to upper 40s and 50 degrees across the state. Soils began to dry out through the week. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.42 inches in La Crosse and Madison to 1.30 inches in Green Bay. Soil Moisture conditions were at 2 percent very short, 18 percent short, 66 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. There was an average of 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

**Corn** planted was reported at 38 percent complete, below last year's average of 49 percent and even with the 5-year average. While planting progressed across the state, south central areas were limited to planting on well drained soils due to excess moisture.

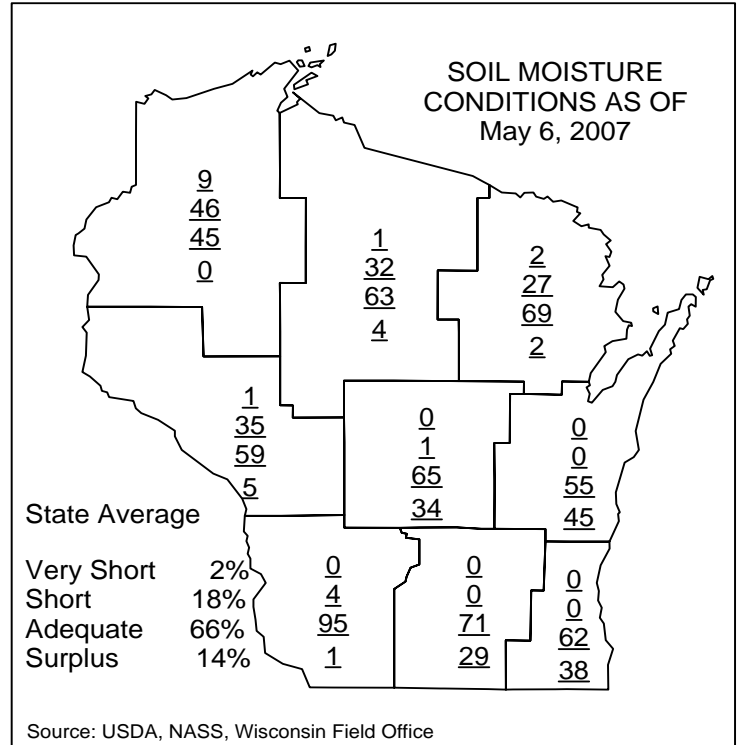
Favorable weather conditions also allowed farmers to begin planting **soybeans**. Soybeans planted was reported at 6 percent complete, below both last year's average and the 5-year average of 9 percent.

**Oats** planted was at 80 percent complete, below last year's average of 89 percent, but above the 5-year average of 75 percent. The fair weather allowed farmers to continue with planting. Oats emerged was reported at 25 percent complete, below last year's average of 55 percent and the 5-year average of 38 percent.

**Sprig Tillage** was reported at 53 percent complete, below last year's average of 70 percent and slightly below the 5-year average of 59 percent. Dry weather throughout the week allowed farmers to continue to make progress.

**Winter Wheat** conditions were rated as mostly good to excellent with only minor winterkill damage. Winter wheat conditions were rated at 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 26 percent excellent. Freeze damage to winter wheat was at 78 percent none, 16 percent light, 5 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. **Alfalfa** conditions appeared to be improving across the state. Most districts reported only mild freeze damage at this time.

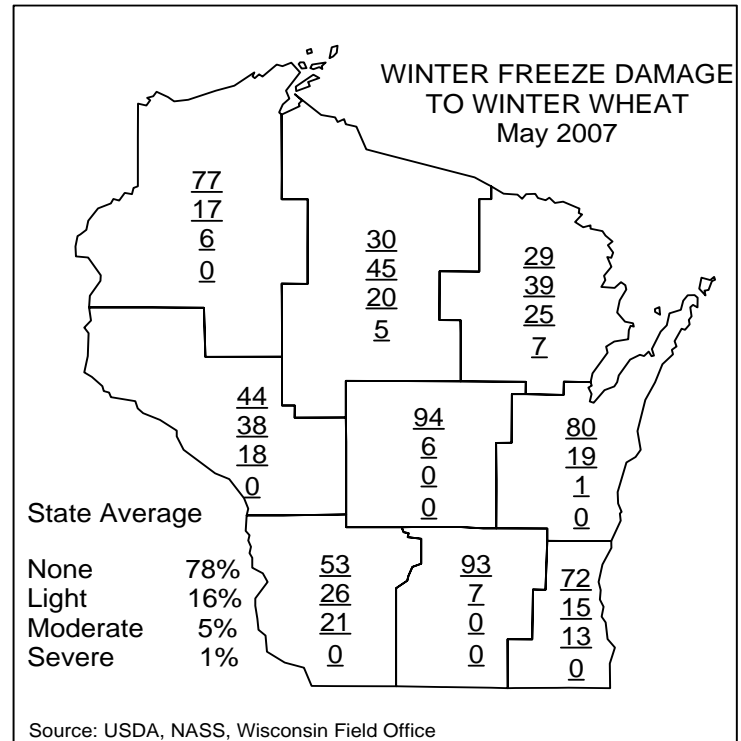
**Potato** planting continued across the state and neared completion in central areas. **Peas** began to emerge in central areas as well. **Fruit trees** continued to bloom.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 6, 2007

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	1	2	10	61	26
Pasture	2	8	28	48	14

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 6, 2007

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 planted	43	60	56	52	17	11	50	43	15	38	49	38
Soybeans planted	5	4	1	9	6	3	4	8	2	6	9	9
Oats planted	87	76	86	93	65	44	89	72	91	80	89	75
Oats emerged	20	15	19	48	13	4	36	38	10	25	55	38
Spring tillage completed	67	72	73	69	35	31	54	52	25	53	70	59

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Another dry week has kept the fieldwork in high gear. Most corn has been planted, and oats are emerging. Alfalfa looks good for the most part but could use more rain.

**POL K-C.S.:** Potatoes, oats, and wheat are planted. Corn planting is approximately 50 percent done. A few soybeans have been planted also.

**PRICE-M.K.:** The warm and dry weather has allowed fieldwork to proceed way earlier than typical. A good, long soaking rain would be perfect right now.

**LANGLADE-A.C.:** Spring tillage is progressing early and our soils are getting dry. Fields that are normally wet at this time are plowed for corn. The first potatoes are planted. Alfalfa fields are affected with significant winterkill, my guess is at least 60 percent county wide. Many farmers are using this dry period for replanting forage acres and new seeding.

**OCONTO-K.H.:** Good weather for fieldwork, but rain is needed to jump start pastures. Corn planting is progressing; not too far off from the normal schedule. Small grains and hay seedings are winding down.

**DUNN-J.F.:** Dry conditions have allowed farmers to plant corn. The 0.30 inch of rain last week did little to slow any fieldwork. Alfalfa is looking good. Growers are turning their attention to soybeans now.

**LACROSSE-S.H.:** Tillage and planting continue to go strong as the weather stays nice. Oats that have been planted are germinating and starting to take off.

**MONROE-W.H.:** Fieldwork is being completed as the weather allows. Rainfall has slowed progress.

**PEPIN-R.C.:** Relatively dry conditions have planting ahead of schedule. We need more rain as the sub-soil is very dry. Alfalfa looks good with only modest winterkill showing up.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Nearly 2.0 inches of rain slowed progress on heavier soils.

**FOND DU LAC-B.B.:** Even with 0.90 inch of rain, corn and soybean planting began on well-drained soils by the week's end.

**SHEBOYGAN-M.B.:** Rains last weekend have kept growers out of the fields this week. Spring tillage and planting is behind the average pace for this time of year.

**LAFAYETTE-M.R.:** A great year to do no-till planting. As the drying winds blow the worked soil away, or dry it clumpy, the seeds planted directly into last year's crop residue are sprouting in moist soils. If the wind ever stops blowing, we will stop planting to catch up with the sprayer.

**COLUMBIA-R.S.:** Lots of oats and corn have been planted. Winter wheat has improved greatly. Alfalfa is coming along very well since the hard frost.

**DANE-D.F.:** Fieldwork has progressed rapidly in the past week, with both corn and soybeans being planted. Soil is still wet in some places, but the wind has helped to dry it out.

**JEFFERSON-B.K.:** Lots of corn has been planted this week. Most of our county saw light rains which did not stop planting. Low fields are very wet; need a week of dry weather. Some soybean planting has begun. Wheat and alfalfa is bouncing back nicely after the hard freeze.

**WASHINGTON-K.R.:** Fields started to dry at the end of the week.

**WAUKESHA-D.W.:** We received 0.5 inch of rain on Monday and were able to work in the fields on Wednesday. On sandy soils, potato planting is nearing completion. Field and sweet corn is also being planted. Manure hauling and cranberry planting are other activities. Planting is in full swing on the well-drained soils.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 6, 2007

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 5	Mar. 1 to May 5 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	72	45	88	35	58	5	293	164	0.45	4.40	-0.90	6.02	-1.14
Green Bay	68	44	85	40	56	5	235	133	1.30	5.03	0.0	7.05	-0.14
La Crosse	74	50	90	44	62	6	335	201	0.42	5.36	-0.53	7.90	-0.16
Madison	69	47	85	43	58	5	273	199	0.42	8.19	2.08	10.62	1.99
Milwaukee	61	44	83	40	53	2	218	n.a.	0.77	7.58	0.69	9.80	-0.62

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. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.