



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

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The new growing season is upon us; therefore, it is once again time for USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office to begin reporting the progress of crop planting, growth and development, harvesting, and current crop conditions. If you are interested in additional weather data, please reference one of the following sites:

<http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
<http://www.cocorahs.org/>

Precipitation Delays Spring Fieldwork

Precipitation in both the form of snow and rain delayed spring fieldwork in Wisconsin due to wet and muddy conditions. Average temperatures were 0 to 5 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures were in the 40s while average low temperatures ranged across the 30s. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 1.61 inches in Eau Claire to 2.96 inches in Madison. Soil moisture conditions were at 0 percent very short, 0 percent short, 52 percent adequate, and 48 percent surplus. There were 0 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

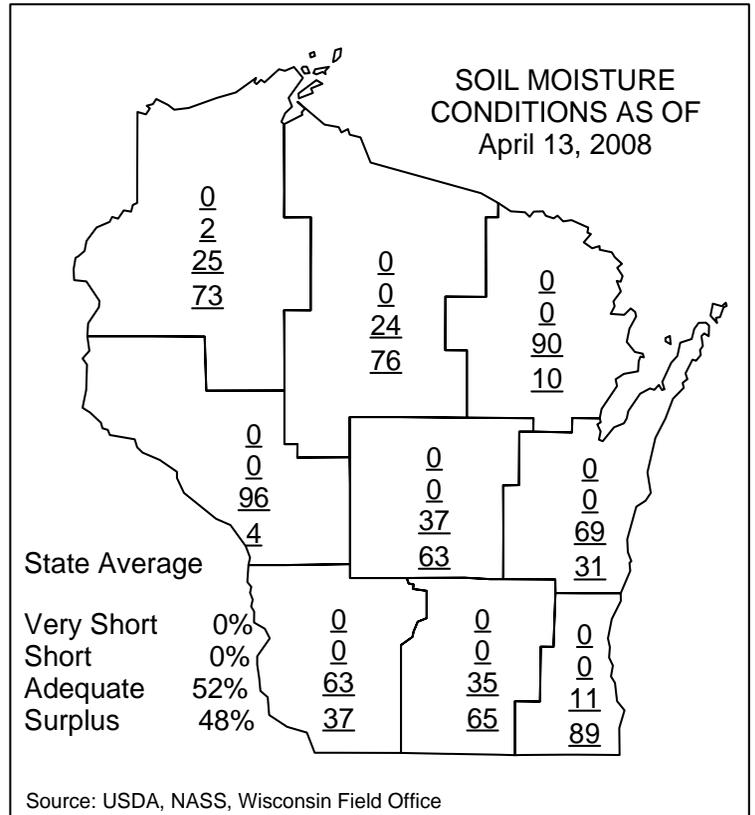
Very few **Oats** have been reported as being planted yet since most of the fields were wet and unworkable. Winter temperatures have kept the soil too cold, and spotty areas of frost remain in the ground across the state.

Spring tillage was delayed for the most part due to wet field conditions. There is still a lot of snow to come off the fields in many of the northern areas of the state. Saturated conditions have kept farmers out of the fields.

Alfalfa and **winter wheat** have started to green in some parts of the state while other parts have reported no growth yet. Most reporters stated that it was too early to tell the extent of any winterkill, with some reports of spotty winterkill. Some southern areas of the state have reported alfalfa as being slow to grow with very little greening-up. Alfalfa and winter wheat that were green last fall looked the same when the snow melted.

The **Maple Syrup** season was reported to be better this year than last across the northern half of the state. The majority reported a good season, although last week was reported as being slow. There was also a report of lower sugar content this season.

Manure spreading was kept to a minimum due to snow and rainfall throughout the state causing a lot of soft spots in the fields.



AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS



Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

RUSK-G.P.: Spring is slow coming to the north country this year. Snow is still coming off the fields with quite a bit of snow still in the woods. Frost was not particularly deep this year and should come out pretty quickly when and if it does finally warm up. No growth yet to assess winterkill level. Maple syrup season is winding down. It was much better this year.

MARATHON-G.M.: Hayfields look good now. It is too wet for anything.

VILAS-L.K.: All fields are still covered in snow. Fields are muddy. Frost is out of the ground. Maple syrup season is terrible. Received 7.0-10.0 inches of snow Thursday night.

FLORENCE-R.O.: Fields are still snow covered but what is showing is brown.

FOREST-A.K.: We are waiting for the snow to melt. Maple syrup season is good so far. It was slow this week.

BUFFALO-R.S.: It is too early to tell about alfalfa, but rye and winter wheat are fine. There is no field activity anywhere. No water runoff here, it all soaked in.

MONROE-W.D.: It is too cold and wet to do anything other than haul manure. Alfalfa that was green last fall was the same when the snow melted. I am waiting to see if it starts to grow. At this point, I am waiting for the weather to turn around.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Waiting for all the snow to melt so we can better observe for winterkill. There is very little greening-up as of yet. No frost, but fields are plenty wet. Small amounts of fieldwork have started. There is nothing planted as of yet. We are supposed to get snow and rain again. We received 3.0 inches of snow on Wednesday.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: It looks like winter wheat and alfalfa came through the winter in excellent condition. After a few warm days we got rain and snow again. There has been no fieldwork done except some manure spreading.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: It is too early to know how crops did over winter. It still is very wet and cold. Some equipment is ready to roll if we get some sun and wind to dry off the land.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Alfalfa not showing any evidence of winterkill. I was able to get in the field and disc corn stalks on Tuesday.

GRANT-G.C.: Too early to tell anything about alfalfa. I hope they start to put out new shoots soon. Most of the snow went into the soil. Very little frost this winter, unless the wind blew areas bare. Most fields are too wet to haul manure. Amish are plowing sod.

DANE-J.K.: It is too early to tell about winterkill, but when fields were bare the last couple days, alfalfa and winter wheat looked good. The crops might suffer yet, but I doubt it. Nobody is able to get in the fields as of yet. A small amount of manure is being spread. The land is very wet and a lot of soft spots. With more than 1.0 inch of rain and snow on Tuesday night and Wednesday, it will be wet for quite some time. Not much frost is in the ground, but there are spots where there is some. All the melting went into the ground.

DODGE-G.R.: Winter wheat looks like it came through with little or no kill. Alfalfa is too early to tell, just breaking dormancy. Frost is out of the ground. A late March snowstorm of 15.0 inches followed by rainy days has pushed all fieldwork into a holding pattern. Soils have been too wet for any tillage or planting. Limited manure spreading is the only field activity seen.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Wheat shows some spotty winterkill. Fields are uneven and flooded. Alfalfa is very slow to grow but time will tell. There is no fertilizer spread in our area. Sunday and Monday was able to spread manure and did a little tillage. I put barley in.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 13, 2008

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. 12	Mar. 1 to Apr. 12 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	42	33	59	28	38	-4	22	27	1.61	3.24	0.30	4.95	0.15
Green Bay	45	36	61	33	41	-1	19	25	2.46	5.00	1.90	10.95	5.64
La Crosse	46	36	63	30	41	-5	25	47	2.05	4.20	0.92	6.64	1.16
Madison	48	36	62	33	42	-2	20	51	2.96	5.64	2.05	11.11	4.98
Milwaukee	49	38	58	33	43	0	29	n.a.	2.63	6.02	1.93	11.41	3.81

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.