



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

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The new growing season is upon us, which means that 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 further weather data, please reference the following sites:

- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Farmers Hoping for Warmer Weather

Cooler temperatures last week delayed fieldwork and crop development. Frost was reported to still be in the ground in many areas across the state. Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 2 to 3 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 47 to 52 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 26 to 33 degrees. There was very little precipitation last week, with totals between 0 to 0.07 inches. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 4 percent very short, 16 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. There were 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork.

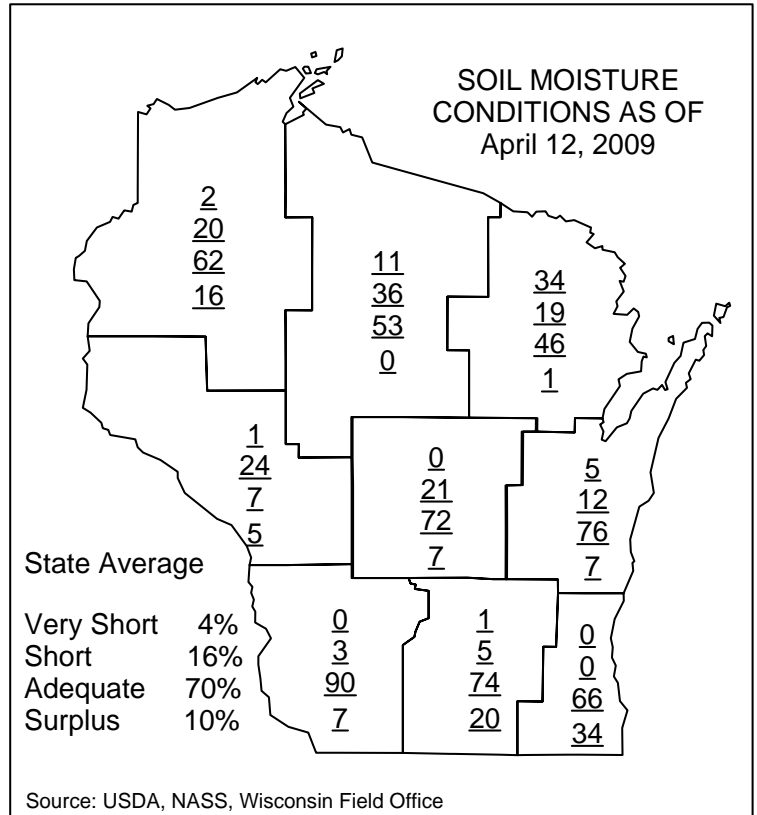
The cooler temperatures slowed growth in **alfalfa** and **winter wheat**. Many reporters noted that it is still too early to determine the amount of winter kill.

Planting of **oats** was reported as getting underway in many areas of the state, with the Southwest and South Central districts being the furthest ahead. Across the state, oats planted was reported as 10 percent complete. Some alfalfa seeding was also reported.

Spring tillage was also getting started across the state, with 6 percent complete. Fields were generally reported as being dry but still very cold. Some of the lower lying areas did still have standing water. There were a few reports from the northern part of the state that saw snow in some fields.

Manure hauling was in full swing in many areas of the state, and there were some reports of fertilizer going on winter wheat and alfalfa fields.

The **maple syrup** season was winding down, with many reports indicating a very good season.



Agricultural Statistics Districts



Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-R.M.: It is too early to comment on alfalfa and winter wheat. Maple syrup was slow but has picked up. Some frost is still in the ground. Some manure spreading is going on. Lime is being delivered and piled up; will have to wait for the ground to firm up.

RUSK-G.P.: It is too early to tell how much damage there is to alfalfa and winter wheat. Growing conditions have not begun as of yet. Manure spreading is the only field activity going on. Frost is still in the ground but is close to coming out. No fieldwork or planting is going on as of yet. Maple syrup season is on going, and it has been a great season.

CLARK-K.L.: The cool windy weather has prevented growth in alfalfa. Fieldwork is just starting. Some manure hauling is going on.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Some manure has been hauled out, but progress is slow because the fields are wet. No tillage has been done at this time. Everything is brown, so it is hard to say if there will be any winterkill.

MARINETTE-S.R.: Hard to tell about winterkill yet. Appears to be some on alfalfa, but not many problems with winter wheat. Tillage is going pretty well with manure spreading primary practice yet, but planting of small grains and alfalfa are definitely starting.

SHAWANO-B.R.: While many feel the frost is out of the ground, if you dig down three feet there is still frost. There has been no warm weather to draw that frost up and out yet. Winter wheat is just starting to green up, so it is a little early to judge how it is doing. No fieldwork in this area yet.

MONROE-P.B.: Tillage has started late in the week. A little oats has been seeded. Winter wheat fields are still greening up with large variation and some evidence of winter kill in fields. Alfalfa crowns are turning green and many look healthy.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Most crops are not growing enough yet to make sound determinations on condition. Manure pumping and spreading is happening. Seeding of oats and alfalfa is happening. Ground is dry for this time of year.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Too early to determine about winterkill. Alfalfa and winter wheat have not broken dormancy due to low temperatures. Some tillage has begun on lighter soils. The cold weather has prohibited any planting. Maple syrup producers mention above average sugar content in this year's sap.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Winter wheat looks good. It is too early to tell how alfalfa survived. Frost is out of the ground except in shaded areas. Early pea planting has started.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Alfalfa and winter wheat seem to have come through the winter in good shape. We need a warm rain to get crops going.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Soil is dry enough for corn fields to be plowed and cut-up with a disc all over at present in this area of the county.

GRANT-E.B.: It is too cold to judge anything. Almost no green or growth in pastures, wheat or alfalfa. First fieldwork started Thursday.

DANE-J.K.: It is hard to estimate on the condition of alfalfa and winter wheat but both look ok. We still are getting freezing temperatures each night. A few farmers were doing fieldwork on Wednesday but the pockets were too wet to work. There is a small amount of oats in on lighter and higher ground. Soil temperatures are very cold and quite wet. There is very little spring tillage going on.

DODGE-G.R.: Fields of alfalfa and winter wheat are just beginning to green-up. Too early to estimate winterkill. Cold, brisk winds began the week with temperatures reaching only into the low 50's at best. Soil is drying out on higher fields making some manure spreading possible. No planting or tillage observed in our area as yet. Some hints of green in alfalfa and wheat fields.

KENOSHA-R.R.: Too early to say anything about winterkill. Water is standing in low spots. Fields are still brown. Fertilizer is being spread on winter wheat and alfalfa fields.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 12, 2009

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. 11	Mar. 1 to Apr. 11 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	50	26	55	21	38	-2	33	21	0.07	1.11	-1.73	2.21	-2.49
Green Bay	48	28	54	24	38	-2	21	19	0.00	2.59	-0.42	4.80	-0.41
La Crosse	52	30	57	26	41	-3	66	39	0.00	1.18	-1.92	2.89	-2.46
Madison	50	29	57	27	39	-3	59	42	0.07	6.32	2.87	8.77	2.81
Milwaukee	47	33	55	30	40	-2	57	n.a.	0.00	3.77	-0.15	7.10	-0.29

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.