



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

May 11, 2009

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Rain Benefits Some, Slows Others

Rain fell across the entire state last week, with heavier rains mainly in the southern half of the state. Some growers in the Northwest and West Central districts could use some more moisture, while growers in the Southeast district are hoping for drier conditions since many fields were too wet to get into. Across the reporting stations, precipitation totals ranged from 0.12 inches in Eau Claire to 1.71 inches in Madison. Average temperatures last week were 3 to 7 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 68 to 71 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 45 to 48 degrees. There were 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork. 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/>

Corn planting was in full swing throughout most of the state, except in the Southeast district where many of the fields were too wet. Corn planted was reported as 43 percent complete, an increase of 26 percentage points from the previous week. Some early seeded corn began to emerge, with emergence reported as 3 percent complete.

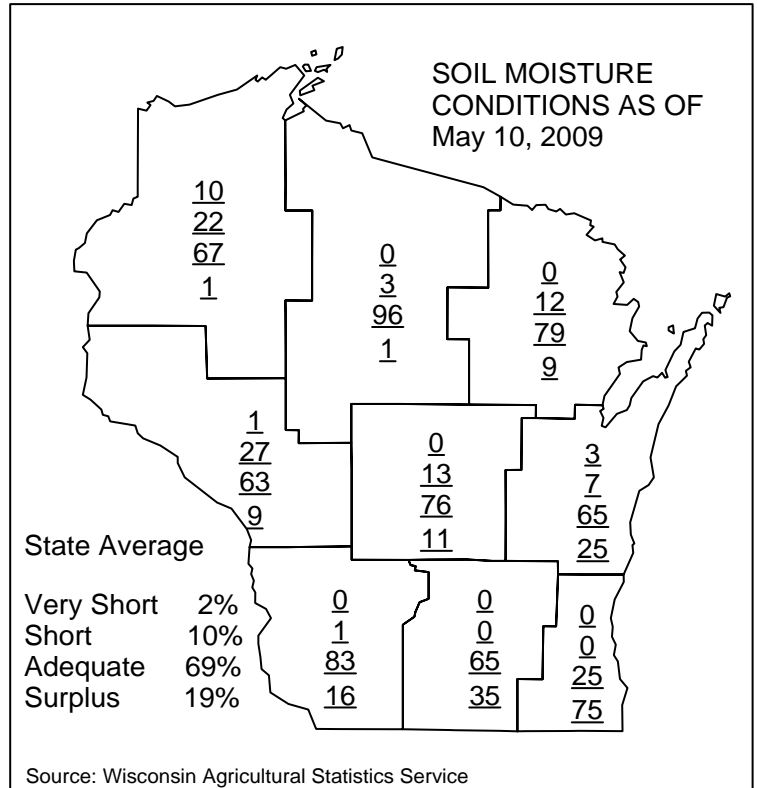
Soybean planting is just starting across the state, with 8 percent reported as complete. This is below the five-year average of 18 percent, but ahead of last year's 5 percent complete.

Planting of **oats** has wrapped up in the South Central and Southwest districts. Across the state, oats planted was reported as 89 percent complete, while oats emerged was 58 percent complete.

Spring tillage continued to progress across the state, particularly in the North Central and Northeast districts where spring tillage increased by 33 and 36 percentage points from the previous week, respectively. Overall, spring tillage was reported as 67 percent complete, an increase of 17 percentage points from the previous week.

Alfalfa was reported as doing well across the state. Rainfall and above-average temperatures helped alfalfa grow quickly last week. Some fields that were struggling the week before perked up and were looking much better.

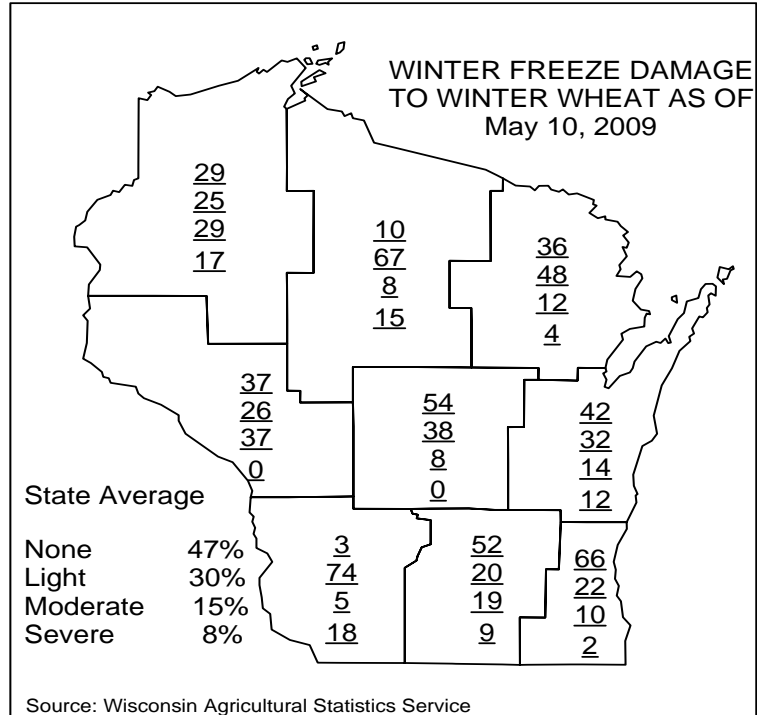
Reports varied for **winter wheat**. There were some fields that were not doing well and were being re-planted, while others came through the winter very well and benefitted from the rain and warmer temperatures. Across the state, winter wheat was reported as having 77 percent light to no winter freeze damage.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 10, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	3	6	28	53	10
Oat	0	1	15	66	18
Pasture	2	9	26	54	9

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



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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	37	51	49	55	40	23	80	35	10	43	25	54
Soybeans planted	2	3	7	12	3	4	15	11	1	8	5	18
Oats planted	74	84	93	97	98	75	100	100	84	89	45	82
Oats emerged	22	46	50	56	49	39	92	81	74	58	19	48
Spring tillage completed	61	67	83	83	67	50	84	70	34	67	35	66

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Corn planting is in full swing. Soybeans are just beginning to be planted. Oats look good.

RUSK-G.P.: Alfalfa is doing well from the rain and heat we have had. Wheat has been top dressed or plowed down depending on the amount of winterkill. Fieldwork continues in some areas, but in other areas it has shut down due to locally heavy rain. Oats and seedings are winding down. Corn is rolling right now. Soybeans are just starting to be planted.

CLARK-K.L.: Hay looks like it is going to be an excellent crop. Corn planting is in full swing. Oat planting is about done. There is very little winterkill in alfalfa. Pastures are starting to grow.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Winter wheat suffered dramatically from winterkill. Grass fields are in good condition, but some alfalfa is showing some areas of winterkill. Spring planting is progressing well. Early oats have emerged and are looking good so far. Frost last night will slow growth.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Alfalfa is showing slight evidence of winterkill that is confined to high traffic areas on older stands. Spring tillage is progressing very well and will wrap up this week for the most part. Oat planting is almost done. Soybeans are also being planted. Corn planting is in full swing.

PIERCE-J.K.: Corn planting is winding down in our area. Soybeans are also being planted. Alfalfa is growing, but could use some rain.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Alfalfa generally looks good. Winter wheat varies from field to field. Soil moisture is at a critical point. Cool weather has helped moisture level.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Frost this morning and cool weather is slowing down planting progress.

WAUPACA-D.H.: There is very little evidence of winterkill in alfalfa and winter wheat. Spring tillage has picked up again since the big rains two weeks ago. Most oats are planted. Producers are planting corn since soil temperatures have warmed up. Fruit trees are leafing and there is evidence of a lot of buds.

CALUMET-D.W.: Alfalfa and winter wheat are looking pretty after last week's warmer weather. There is very limited fieldwork done; we need dry warm weather.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: As the past week ended, a lot of corn had been planted. For many producers, as soon as the corn was planted, the fields were sprayed for weeds to take advantage of the dry conditions. Oat planting in this area is wrapping up. There have been no soybeans planted in this area yet. Most producers will be waiting until the corn is in the ground before moving on to soybeans. While a lot of corn was planted this past week, perhaps the greatest change in the fields was with the alfalfa. The recent rains really allowed the crop to grow, and grow quickly. The fields that did not look so good now look excellent. First crop harvest is still a few weeks away, but there should be some high tonnage taken off at that time. The condition of the winter wheat has also improved. For the most part, both the alfalfa and winter wheat did not suffer too much winterkill. There are still small spots in some wheat fields where the wheat will be thinner, but overall, the crop here looks good.

GRANT-R.R.: For the most part, if there was alfalfa there last fall, it is still there. A lot of corn and soybeans are going in the ground. Some early-planted fields are up in rows.

ROCK-C.O.: What a tough time to be planting corn or soybeans. Alfalfa finally woke up and is doing great. Rain will hold back planting for a few days and I estimate 5 percent of the acres will not get planted due to standing water or wet fields.

KENOSHA-J.H.: There is very little fieldwork being done due to too much moisture.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Most fields have a few wet spots which has slowed planting. I cannot remember a year when so many fields were so wet.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 10, 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 May 10	Mar. 1 to May 10 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	69	45	75	34	57	4	247	197	0.12	3.31	-2.39	4.41	-3.19
Green Bay	68	46	75	37	57	5	191	161	0.48	5.69	0.38	7.90	0.38
La Crosse	71	48	77	41	59	3	301	238	1.10	4.79	-1.59	6.50	-2.05
Madison	69	48	75	39	58	5	272	236	1.71	12.33	5.81	14.78	5.72
Milwaukee	69	48	77	42	59	7	233	n.a.	0.88	9.06	1.76	12.39	1.53

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.