



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

May 18, 2009

Vol. 09, No. 06

Cool Temperatures Slow Growth

Planting continued to progress across the state last week, despite rain showers that kept some fields too wet to get into. Cool temperatures slowed growth in hay fields and in emerging crops in many areas of the state. Across the reporting stations, precipitation totals ranged from 0.47 inches in Eau Claire to 1.21 inches in Milwaukee. Average temperatures last week were normal to 4 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 62 to 64 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 41 to 47 degrees. There were 4.1 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 planted increased 19 percentage points from the previous week, and was reported as 62 percent complete. Growers are hoping for some warm, dry days to help complete corn planting. Corn emerged was reported as 14 percent complete, 8 percentage points above last year, but 8 percentage points below the 5-year average. Cooler temperatures hindered emergence and led to some emerged corn being pale and yellow.

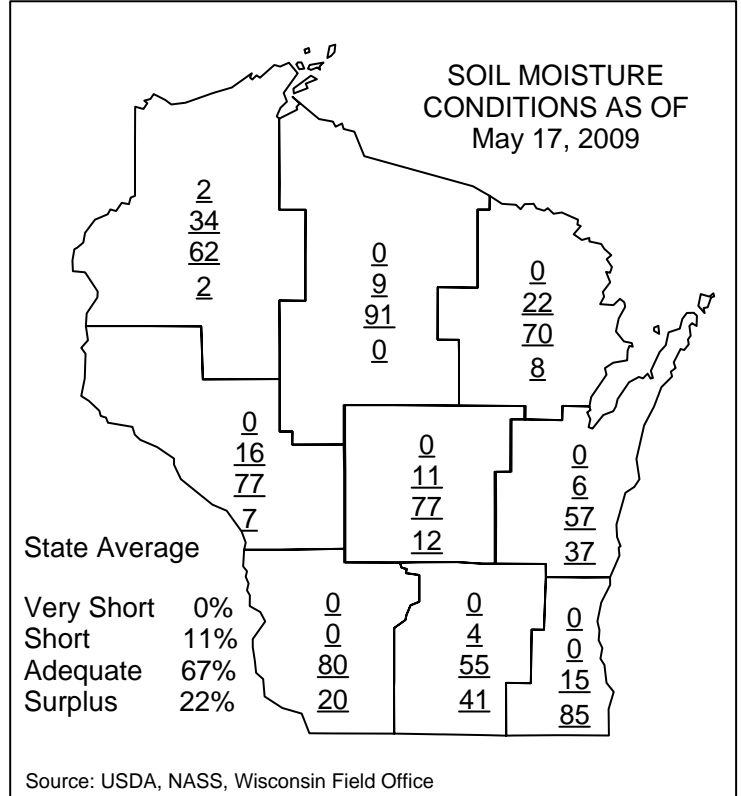
Soybeans planted was reported as 22 percent complete, slightly ahead of last year's 20 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 34 percent complete. Soybeans have yet to emerge for the most part, with only 1 percent reported emerged statewide.

Planting of **oats** was wrapping up across the state, with 95 percent reported planted. Oats emerged was reported as 77 percent complete. This is ahead of both last year's 39 percent and the 5-year average of 68 percent complete. Growers reported that oats and other small grains were looking good. Oats were rated as 87 percent Good to Excellent.

Despite some rains, **spring tillage** progressed 12 percentage points from the previous week, up to 79 percent complete statewide. Growers in the Southeast district continued to be behind the rest of the state due to excess moisture.

Alfalfa fields looked good, with heights between 12 and 18 inches reported. There was a report of alfalfa being cut in Lafayette county. Many reported hay fields looking to be ready to cut before the end of the month. Growers reported 86 percent of alfalfa having light to no winter freeze damage.

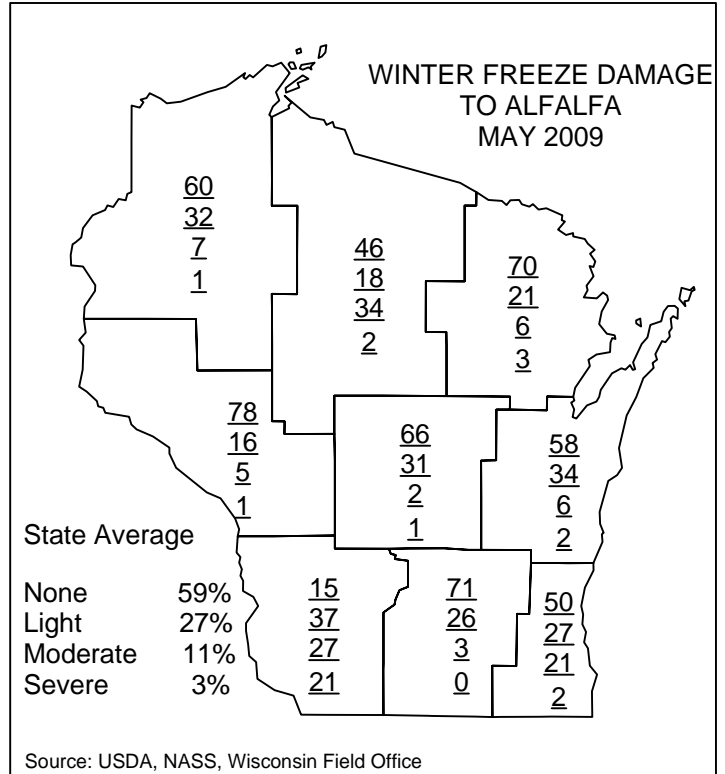
Fruit trees across the state were blossoming.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 17, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	4	5	30	49	12
Oat	0	1	12	67	20
Pasture	2	4	20	60	14

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	66	70	72	79	74	39	92	50	27	62	53	72
Corn emerged	4	2	13	19	26	4	39	11	3	14	6	22
Soybeans planted	8	20	32	31	12	14	55	18	5	22	20	34
Oats emerged	55	64	75	85	69	48	100	94	83	77	39	68
Spring tillage completed	82	86	90	92	79	60	94	76	53	79	62	80

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Corn planting is winding down. Soybeans are being planted now. We could use some moisture and warmer temperatures.

WASHBURN-P.H.: In spite of the cool temperatures, corn is emerging. Alfalfa is growing good. Apple trees are starting to flower.

CLARK-R.H.: Much of the small grains have emerged and look good. We had a freeze warning for Sunday morning. Have not seen any corn emerged as of yet. A good amount of the corn is planted and some soybeans are planted also. I have seen sod fields being plowed this week to be planted to other crops.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Spring planting is proceeding well. Cooler temperatures have slowed hay growth, but the rain received last week was welcomed. Oats that are up look good. Some corn and early soybeans are peeking out, so hopefully no hard frost in the forecast.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Some fields are too wet to do tillage, but planters were rolling hard where it was dry. Winter wheat and alfalfa have really improved the last couple of weeks. Very little corn has emerged as of yet.

DUNN-J.F.: Corn planting is moving along at lightning speed. Some corn has emerged. Alfalfa is looking good.

MONROE-P.B.: Corn can be rowed on many early-planted fields. Emergence appears to be even with adequate moisture. There is still some manure hauling to complete before final tillage. Alfalfa growth was very good over the past week, with stands reaching knee high in some areas.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Generally, planting is on target from a year ago, if not a little further along. Pastures are slow in growing. Alfalfa is short as well. Early peas look real nice and winter rye is beginning to spike. Emerged corn is pale and could benefit from an 80 degree day or two.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Corn planters are running at full tilt this week. Oats and winter wheat look good. Alfalfa would grow faster if it was warmer.

WOOD-F.M.: Corn planting has progressed very good last week. Ground temperatures have slowed planting of soybeans. A farmer that planted corn in April has concerns with slow germination and yellowing of emerging corn.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Planting is going slow due to constant rain and cold temperatures. Alfalfa looks good. Winter wheat is not so good due to winterkill. Some is being worked up and planted to corn or soybeans.

SHEBOYGAN-T.J.: Planting in our area is at a standstill. Rain on Wednesday night has put us further back. Alfalfa looks good due to cold, wet weather. We need a dry spell in our area to get corn and soybeans planted.

IOWA-S.M.: Corn and soybeans are emerging. Some soybeans have yet to be planted. Alfalfa looks good.

SAUK-W.J.: Corn is slow to come up and also uneven. Rain slowed any real progress on planting corn until Saturday. Hay is close to being ready to cut.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Everything has stopped due to wet soil. Winter wheat came along very good with the extra rain. Wheat looks great for the most part. Some corn and soybeans are sitting in water; outcome is very doubtful.

GREEN-M.M.: The majority of corn is planted and out of the ground. Farmers are having to plant around wet soils in low lying areas. Soybean planting is about half done. Majority of alfalfa came thorough the winter well and first cutting will likely start by Memorial Day weekend.

KENOSHA-E.M.: Planting of corn began on Monday afternoon and Tuesday. We received rain on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

WALWORTH-E.M.: Some planting of corn began on Monday afternoon and Tuesday. Light rain Tuesday night and then a deluge on Wednesday night. Wednesday and Thursday overnight rain of 1.5 to 2.0 inches.



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This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 17, 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 16	Mar. 1 to May 16 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	63	42	72	33	53	-3	296	264	0.47	3.78	-2.73	4.88	-3.39
Green Bay	62	41	70	34	51	-4	235	218	0.78	6.47	0.59	8.68	0.57
La Crosse	64	46	73	38	55	-4	354	313	0.60	5.39	-1.70	7.10	-2.12
Madison	63	47	70	40	55	-1	321	307	1.14	13.47	6.27	15.92	6.16
Milwaukee	63	46	69	38	54	0	284	n.a.	1.21	10.27	2.25	13.60	2.08

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.