



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

July 13, 2009

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## Lack of Moisture Starting to Stress Crops

Many growers around the state were in need of some precipitation as their crops started to show the effects of very dry soil. The strain on the crops was most evident in the upper half of the state, as the southwest corner was the only area to receive an adequate amount of precipitation. However, the amount of precipitation received during the next couple weeks will be crucial in determining whether many crops will suffer a more substantial decline or help to progress towards a measurable harvest. Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.10 inches in Eau Claire to 1.48 inches in Madison. Average temperatures were 2 to 4 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 78 to 82 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 54 to 59 degrees. On average, there were 6.2 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/>

Average **corn** height was reported as 49 inches across the state. High winds this past week flattened some stalks, especially on the edge of fields. Corn continued to curl in spots. Growers have verified early planted corn has started to tassel and is reported at 2 percent of the crop statewide.

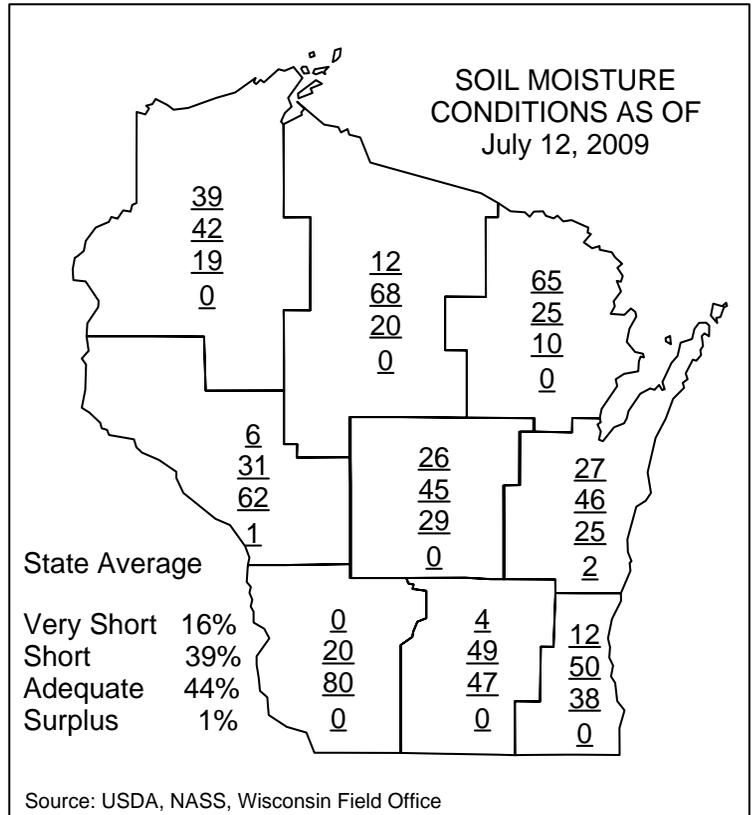
**Soybean** development continues to struggle, also in need of rain and warmer temperatures. Statewide, soybeans were reported as 9 percent in bloom. Growers continued to spray their beans and some have reported spider mites and aphids adding extra stress to their crop.

**Oats** headed was reported as 91 percent complete and were reported as starting to turn color. Some growers were starting to take oats for oatlage.

Conditions this past week were conducive to harvesting **hay** as second crop cutting jumped 31 percentage points to 50 percent complete. Reported yields varied by region. The final cuttings of first crop hay were wrapping up last week.

**Potatoes** and **snap beans** were looking good, but need rain like everything else.

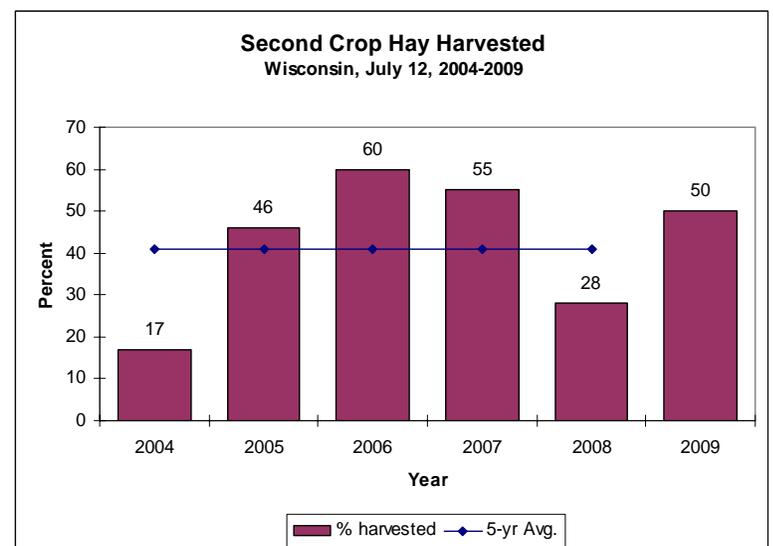
Fresh market **sweet corn** was silking out.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 12, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	1	7	21	55	16
Soybeans	1	6	24	58	11
Winter Wheat	1	5	23	54	17
Oats	1	3	17	65	14
Pasture	6	17	27	44	6

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
Average corn height	40	39	40	55	35	35	72	58	42	49	43	52
Soybeans blooming	1	1	11	4	17	11	34	3	5	9	12	27
Oats headed	82	86	94	92	99	87	100	99	100	91	84	94
Second cutting hay	47	41	47	61	39	45	52	64	33	50	28	41

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**WASHBURN-K.S.:** Drought stress is now very apparent on corn especially on lighter textured soils. Soybeans are also showing signs of stresses. Pastures are browning up and many livestock producers are beginning to feed stored feed; some are contemplating culling. Second cut hay is short, some harvesting of oats for emergency forage is occurring. Wheat and rye crops are the only crops that look good. There are some pockets of ok looking crops, but overall crop conditions have declined recently. The rains that happened Thursday night and Friday morning were spotty, and most substantial rain fell to the south.

**TAYLOR -D.E.:** It is very dry throughout the area. Some sprinkles this weekend, but nothing to measure. Oats are short and some forage harvesting has begun. Second crop hay harvest has begun with some first crop still coming off. RFV's are holding up on the hay despite the drier conditions. Corn is showing some slight signs of distress but hopefully rain will come to this area soon.

**LANGLADE-A.K.:** We have received 2.55 inches of rain in last 30 days. Only thing saving corn and soybeans are cooler temperatures. Second crop hay that was cut early is ok. Later cut first crop hay has very limited regrowth. Everything is brown and powder, these continual dry summers in this area are amazing.

**SHAWANO-J.N.:** What started out to be a very promising year has now quickly turned to a questionable finish for some crops. Corn and soybeans on sandy soils are struggling with moisture stress with some beyond hope. I haven't had any measurable rainfall in about a month. The lack of rain is also affecting some canning crops, as I heard they may stop planting because of the dry soil. Glyphosate has been applied to most soybean fields, with another pass possible later with a foliar feed. Wheat harvest will start shortly as many fields have turned rapidly in the last week or so.

**LACROSSE-I.H.:** There was some wind this week that flattened corn in specific areas. The farmers are hoping that it will come back, but it looked bad at first. A few farmers are just finishing first crop hay and reported that it was coarse but bushed a lot. Those who planted oats and peas have them harvested. From my drives around the county the oats that were not chopped are beginning to color. A check of soybeans found a few aphids. Tassels are beginning to show on the corn that was planted early.

**TREMPEALEAU-D.D.:** We dried out quite quickly, so pivots are running and dry land is beginning to hurt. A rain this week will do wonders. Alfalfa regrowth is slow and corn is just pre tassel. Rye will be ready soon and wheat as well.

**FOND DU LAC-R.P.:** The worst looking crops are here in our county. We went from mud to dust. Soybeans and corn are in need of rain and warm temperatures. The hay crop is average in yield and quality; both first and second crops. Winter wheat looks great. It should be ready for harvest in two weeks.

**GRANT-G.C.:** Everything looks very good. Dark green color on corn nearing the tassel stage, pasture are heading out, but still yielding quality grass. Alfalfa does not show any insect damage or problems.

**SAUK-W.J.:** Sauk County Fair this week had great weather for livestock exhibits. Storms Thursday and Friday overnight left some corn lodged or broke off. Rain was much needed. Oats also lodged some. Wheat is near to harvest.

**ROCK-C.O.:** I think the corn crop looks the best of anything growing right now which is perfect timing with the prices. Oats are being cut and baled due to concern with poor test weights. Wheat harvest should begin soon and sweet corn is not far off.

**KENOSHA-R.R.:** Winter wheat started to turn; young crickets and grasshoppers are out. Crops are generally looking good, but a little rain would help to soften the hard crust.

**WALWORTH-E.M.:** Crops are in need of rain. Second crop hay is short.



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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 July 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 *	March 1 to July 11	March 1 to July 11 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	82	54	89	51	68	-3	1140	1131	0.10	3.97	-1.70	10.28	-5.78
Green Bay	79	54	85	48	66	-3	1010	1027	0.55	3.08	-1.58	13.51	-0.71
La Crosse	81	59	85	55	70	-3	1291	1278	1.40	4.30	-1.21	13.64	-2.79
Madison	78	56	82	48	67	-4	1204	1249	1.48	5.65	0.17	22.40	5.56
Milwaukee	78	59	86	54	69	-2	1098	n.a.	0.20	5.72	0.84	19.79	1.97

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.