



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

July 27, 2009

Vol. 09, No. 16

Severe Weather in Southwest Corner Damages Some Crops

Some growers in Grant and Lafayette counties saw high winds and hail damage their crops. Across the rest of the state, scattered showers provided some relief for those who received them, but many growers are still in need of more moisture. Growing degree days are also behind normal across the state.

Across the reporting stations, precipitations ranged from .02 inches in Milwaukee to 1.16 inches in Green Bay. Average temperatures were 4 to 7 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 76 to 80 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 52 to 61 degrees. On average, there were 5.2 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/>

Corn silked was 21 percent complete statewide, well behind the five year average of 47 percent silked. Growers reported that corn has been late to tassel due to a lack of heat units. Average corn height was 68 inches, an increase of 8 inches from the previous week. Many growers reported that they are in need of rain and heat to give their corn crop a boost.

Soybeans blooming was reported as 42 percent complete, while 9 percent were reported to be setting pods. Both were below their five-year averages of 65 and 26 percent complete, respectively.

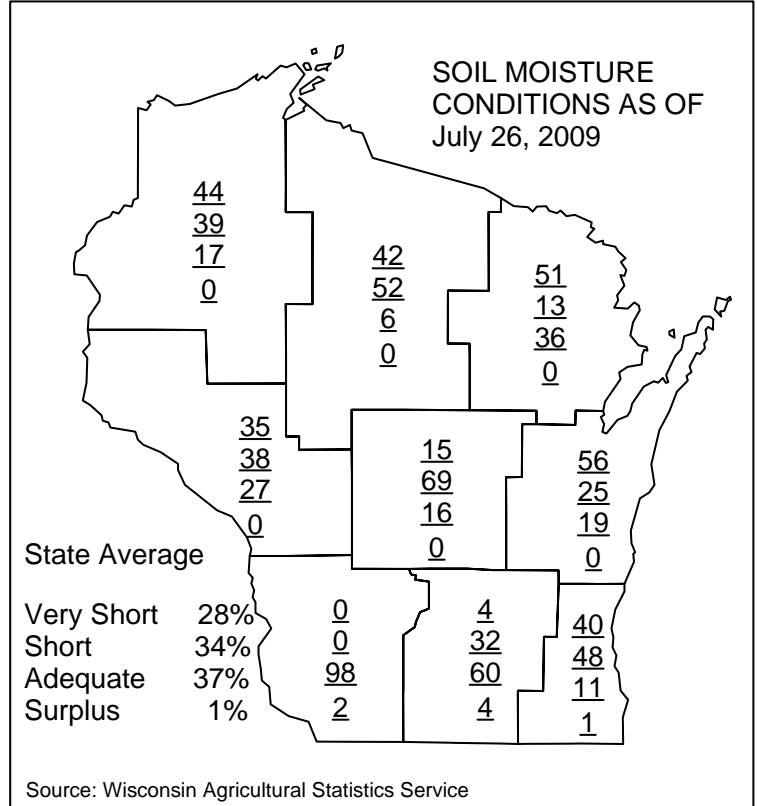
Winter wheat harvest began for some, with 6 percent reported to be harvested statewide. While the winter wheat crop has also been slow to mature due to cooler temperatures, conditions were reported as 65 percent good to excellent. Many reported that harvest of winter wheat and other small grains will begin to wrap up this week.

Oats have also been slow to mature with harvest reported to be 2 percent complete. This is behind the five-year average of 18 percent complete. Farmers have been taking oats for hay.

Second cutting **hay** advanced 13 percentage points from the previous week, and was reported as 81 percent complete. Reports varied on the quantity and quality, but many did say the crop was short due to lack of moisture.

There were several reports of farmers feeding out hay stocks due to poor **pasture** conditions. Pasture conditions were reported as 43 percent poor to very poor.

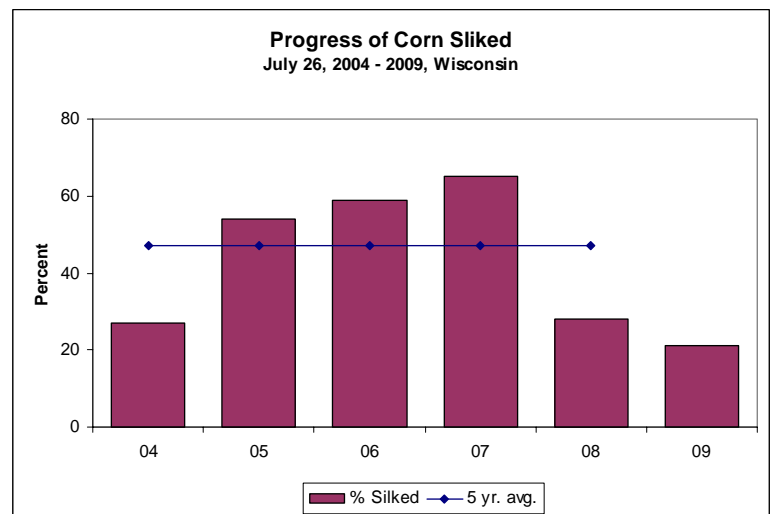
Snapbean harvest was reported to be finishing up in the West Central and Central districts.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 26, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	3	16	26	47	8
Soybeans	2	9	32	50	7
Winter Wheat	1	4	30	50	15
Oats	0	4	37	46	13
Pasture	13	30	28	26	3

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, July 26, 2009

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	63	57	55	72	54	55	93	73	61	68	68	71
Corn Siked	8	1	3	35	23	8	48	19	5	21	28	47
Soybeans blooming	35	33	38	38	34	50	85	34	29	42	56	65
Soybean setting pods	4	1	3	13	11	17	9	6	0	9	15	26
Second cutting hay	83	78	93	88	78	74	74	83	68	81	69	74
Winter wheat harvested	1	0	1	5	10	3	25	9	2	6	14	41

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Dry conditions persist throughout the county and are more severe on sandy soils. Second crop hay harvest is complete with average yields. No small grains are being harvested as of yet.

RUSK-G.P.: The continued cool dry weather is holding back the crops. I have not seen any tassels on corn as of yet. Light frost was reported at the beginning of the week. We are not as dry as it is north and south of us but dry conditions are starting to show up. Second crop hay is winding down and third crop will start next week.

ASHLAND-G.M.: We are extremely short on moisture. We have had less than 1.0 inch of rain in six weeks. We are going from short to very short on feed.

CLARK-R.H.: The crop stress for moisture is visible as the temperatures increased this week. Topsoil is very dry and soybeans and corn are beginning to show signs of stress in areas with heavy soils and not just on side hills or lighter soils. Need moisture and heat to move corn crop along. The early harvested second crop hay is growing. We need to start scouting for leafhoppers.

Some new seedings that were harvested have been at threshold, while older stands just harvested have low numbers. Small grains are maturing and we are close to harvesting in the next couple of weeks.

OCONTO-K.H.: Big news is the rains finally came. I had cumulative 2.5 inches in my rain gauge since mid-week. It came in spotty showers but nearly entire area received enough to relieve dry conditions at least temporarily. Local sweet corn is starting to come in; 2 to 3 weeks later than normal. Second crop alfalfa yielded well and had good quality. Recovery for third cutting has been slowed by dry weather. No small grain harvest has started. No corn tassels to be seen yet either.

EAU CLAIRE-R.S.: Alfalfa is drying up. Corn still looks good but rain soon is very critical to make a crop. Pastures have dried up.

PIERCE-G.A.: It is very dry, no rain in July.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Most crops are stressed due to dry conditions. Second crop hay is winding down. Hay has a good yield and excellent quality but is slow to re-grow due to lack of moisture.

WOOD-T.A.: We received much-needed rain this week. Rain along with warmer temperatures at night helped many crops bounce back, especially corn. Soybeans are starting to reach for the sun also but behind last year.

BROWN-M.H.: It continues to be very dry. Cooler

overcast days are helping to slightly decrease drought stress.

CALUMET-B.L.: Early-planted corn looks surprisingly well. We received 0.10 to 0.20 inches of rain over the last three days. Hopefully today and this weekend more rain will come. Corn is far behind normal. Alfalfa re-growth and third cuttings will be light.

GRANT-L.S.: Crops in this area look great but they are behind normal growth stages.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: We are way behind on growing degree days. We need heat units or are at serious risk of early frost cutting yields in corn; moisture is ok.

COLUMBIA-R.G.: Fields are very dry in our area. We have had a couple of small rains to give crops temporary relief. It is a critical time for the corn. We need substantial rain. Second crop hay was good in both quality and quantity. Bugs are in third crop hay and it needs to be sprayed. Wheat harvest is just starting. Light soils have been hurt permanently, but most fields still have good potential if we get some timely rains.

KENOSHA-R.R.: Started to harvest winter wheat. Little dust from the combine; little green; could wait a couple days. Early-planted corn and sweet corn is tasseling. Some sweet corn is silking. We have had no rain, but heavy dew, it is hot and humid.

WAUKESHA-C.W.: Received much-needed rain. Corn has shot up and is starting to tassel. Local sweet corn is starting to be picked and is showing up at stands. Harvest of winter wheat should be in full swing in next ten days.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

Robert J. Battaglia
Director

Craig Christianson
Statistician

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 26, 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 25	March 1 to July 25 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	80	52	84	45	66	-6	1355	1430	0.51	4.52	-2.88	10.83	-6.92
Green Bay	78	53	81	48	66	-4	1222	1313	1.16	4.26	-1.91	14.69	-1.10
La Crosse	79	57	84	51	68	-6	1538	1606	0.38	4.71	-2.76	14.05	-4.43
Madison	76	54	80	47	65	-7	1419	1562	0.93	6.99	-0.21	23.74	5.20
Milwaukee	76	61	81	56	68	-4	1359	n.a.	0.02	6.70	0.26	20.77	1.36

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.