



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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Rains Lift Grower's Spirits and Crops

Many growers were more optimistic about the future of their crops after a second consecutive week of adequate rainfall. Corn, soybean, and pasture conditions all improved from last week due largely to the recent precipitation. The rain delayed harvest of some small grains and prevented some third crop hay from drying out, but was beneficial overall. Heat units and a late frost are still needed, as crops like corn and soybeans are still behind in maturity.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.70 inches in Madison to 1.26 inches in La Crosse. Average temperatures were 1 to 4 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 74 to 76 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 55 to 63 degrees. On average, 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 silked was 96 percent complete statewide, while 39 percent of the corn was reported to be in the dough stage. Corn in dent was reported at 2 percent complete around the state. Even though some corn was reported to be as much as 2 weeks behind schedule, the crop responded well to the recent precipitation. Many corn stands were setting large ears, but their potential could be affected by an early frost.

Soybeans blooming were reported as 92 percent complete, while 77 percent were setting pods. Soybeans also were showing great improvement because of the recent rains and were reported as looking predominantly uniform and healthy. Spraying continued for aphids and spider mites. A few fields were filled with excessive vegetative growth, while others have been hit with white mold. Soybeans also need more heat to help fill pods.

Winter wheat harvested for grain is nearing completion and is reported as 94 complete statewide. Comments indicate yields were good to very good for this year's wheat crop and only a few late maturing fields of wheat remain standing as harvest was winding down. Other small grain harvest was progressing swiftly and also nearing completion.

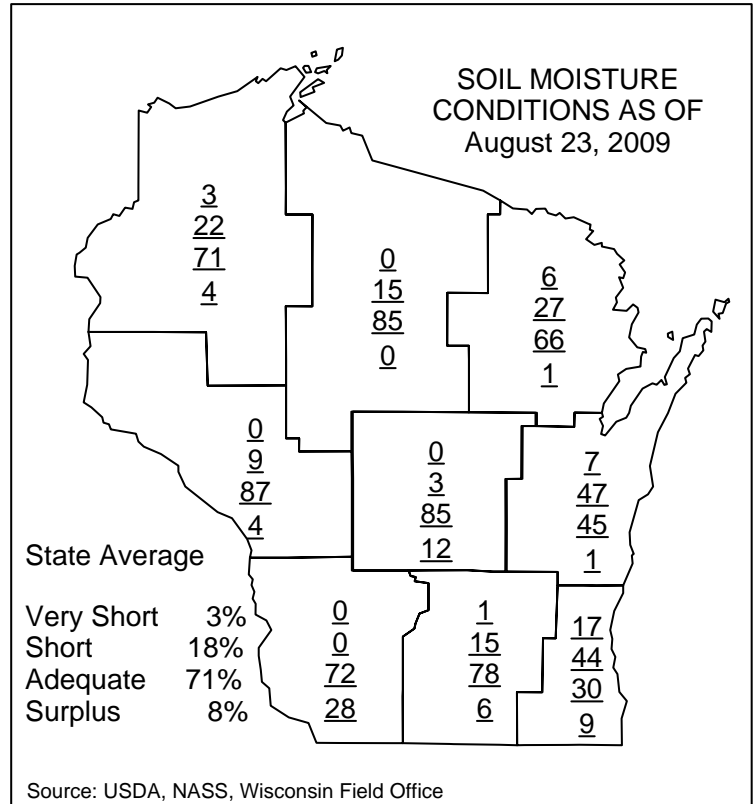
Combining **oats** for grain continued and is up to 78 percent complete across the state. Above average yields were commonly reported and plenty of straw is being left behind to be baled.

Third cutting **hay** harvest was taking place when weather permitted and has reached 55 percent complete across the state. Some comments indicated a shorter third crop due to a lack of moisture. Newly seeded alfalfa and fourth crop re-growth benefitted greatly from the recent precipitation.

Sweet corn and **snap bean** harvests in the Central and West Central districts were producing good yields.

Pumpkins in Eastern Racine County were on schedule for an excellent crop.

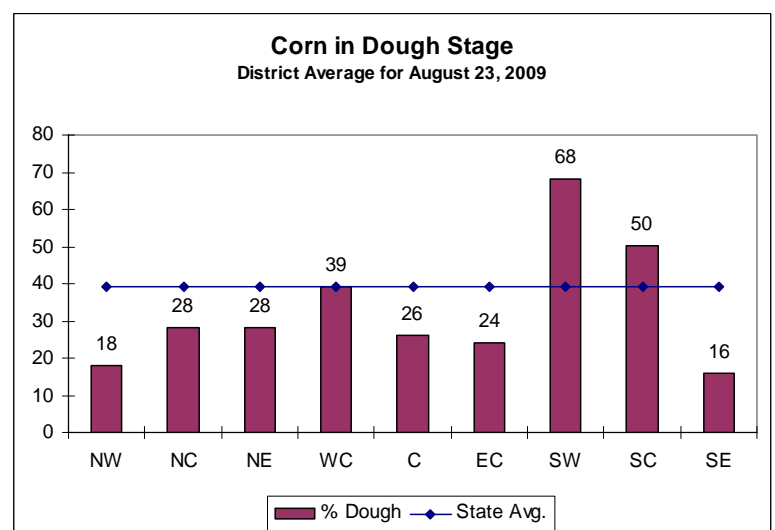
Potato growers are concerned about late blight being detected.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 23, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	2	9	25	49	15
Soybeans	1	7	26	49	17
Pasture	6	13	32	40	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 in dough stage	18	28	28	39	26	24	68	50	16	39	43	56
Soybeans blooming	86	98	100	99	67	91	99	99	93	92	98	100
Soybean setting pods	57	78	88	75	60	81	84	90	50	77	87	89
Winter wheat harvested	69	75	96	86	92	92	100	100	96	94	97	98
Oats harvested	77	65	60	83	67	64	99	98	78	78	83	92
Third cutting hay	36	64	64	54	55	67	47	56	42	55	61	58

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: We received much-needed rain this week which will help the alfalfa. Corn and soybeans need a lot of heat to mature before the first frost. Pastures are slowly recovering.

POLK-C.S.: Field crops are looking better but, yields are expected to be quite variable. Small grain harvest is nearly complete. Hay crops are average to below average. Farmers are spraying for soybean aphids and spider mites. We have had some good rains.

CLARK-R.H.: Third crop hay looks good. We have had a number of cloudy days with moisture to prevent drying of the crops. Most of the corn is silked but needs time to get to maturity. We need a late frost this year. Soybeans are in the R4-R5 stage. There is some early maturity in the soybeans which maybe in the R6 stage. We are starting to see the maturing yellow cast on some fields. Small grain harvest has been slowed this week by rains that prevented harvest, need some sunshine now. We have received much-needed moisture in August, but will need some heat and a late frost to mature the corn. I do not see high infestations of disease in corn or soybeans. With the increase of moisture and warm weather may see more developing.

MARATHON-M.K.: Crops are looking good. Third crop hay is short.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Scattered showers continue to improve crops. Some corn and soybeans look very good. Third crop hay also looks good.

OCONTO-K.H.: The heat has helped all crops along especially corn. Crops are still behind, but they are looking more promising.

PEPIN-H.R.: We do not need rain in our area as we got washed out. We have received 11.0 to 12.0 inches of rain in the last two rains. There is plenty of crop damage where creeks flooded carrying mud and debris on the fields. Corn needs heat to get ripe.

ST. CROIX-L.M.: Small grain harvest has been slower than in recent years with yields being quite variable. There is potential for a very good corn crop if we do not get an early frost. Soybeans look good from the road but in many fields there are fewer pods on plants than expected.

WAUPACA-D.H.: All field crops have improved with the recent rains and warmer weather. Corn will need a late frost to mature this year. Third crop hay is very short.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Small grains are nearly harvested. Straw has been baled due to cool weather. Corn and soybeans are behind schedule in maturity. There are lots of aphids in some soybean fields.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: We finally received some much-needed rain. Crops are about three weeks behind normal. Third crop hay is averaging 1,000 pounds to the acre as dry hay. Corn and soybeans vary greatly in every field.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Cloudy weather is making grain harvest difficult. Corn has a way to go before it matures. Hayfields are coming back and so are the weeds in grain fields.

SAUK-W.J.: Cool wet weather slowed crop development. Small grain harvest is over. Fall seeding of alfalfa was done if it was dry enough. Fourth crop hay has begun.

DANE-C.B.: Soybeans are being sprayed for aphids. Most fields are showing low numbers in the rest of our county. Powdery mildew is present in most soybean fields with low to mid incidence of white mold and sudden death syndrome. Soybeans are at the R6 stage. Soybean fungicides are most economical at R1-R5. Corn is approaching milk stage in most fields.

GREEN-M.M.: Crops and pastures are all looking the best in years due to abundant rainfall throughout the summer. Corn has pollinated well, but is behind in development. A later than average first frost will be needed for much of it to reach maturity to make grain.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Third crop alfalfa is very short and dry. Corn and soybeans need rain.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 23, 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 August 22	March 1 to August 22 normal*	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	74	55	83	46	65	-4	1864	1950	0.75	11.86	0.46	18.17	-3.46
Green Bay	75	57	82	51	66	-1	1726	1813	0.71	7.30	-2.18	17.74	-1.33
La Crosse	76	60	84	51	68	-4	2123	2183	1.26	12.72	1.47	22.06	0.00
Madison	76	60	81	50	68	-1	1973	2121	0.70	8.36	-2.64	25.11	2.70
Milwaukee	76	63	86	56	70	-1	1964	n.a.	0.86	9.21	-0.69	23.28	0.46

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.