



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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Warmer Weather Brings Record for Oats Planted

The new growing season is upon us, which means that it is once again time for USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office to begin reporting the progress of crop planting, growth and development, harvesting, and current crop conditions.

Warmer temperatures allowed some fieldwork to get started in many areas across the state. Little to no frost was reported to still be in the ground. Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 6 to 7 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 55 to 59 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 35 to 39 degrees. There was precipitation across the state, with totals between 0.46 inches in Eau Claire to 2.19 inches in Madison. There were 3.9 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/>

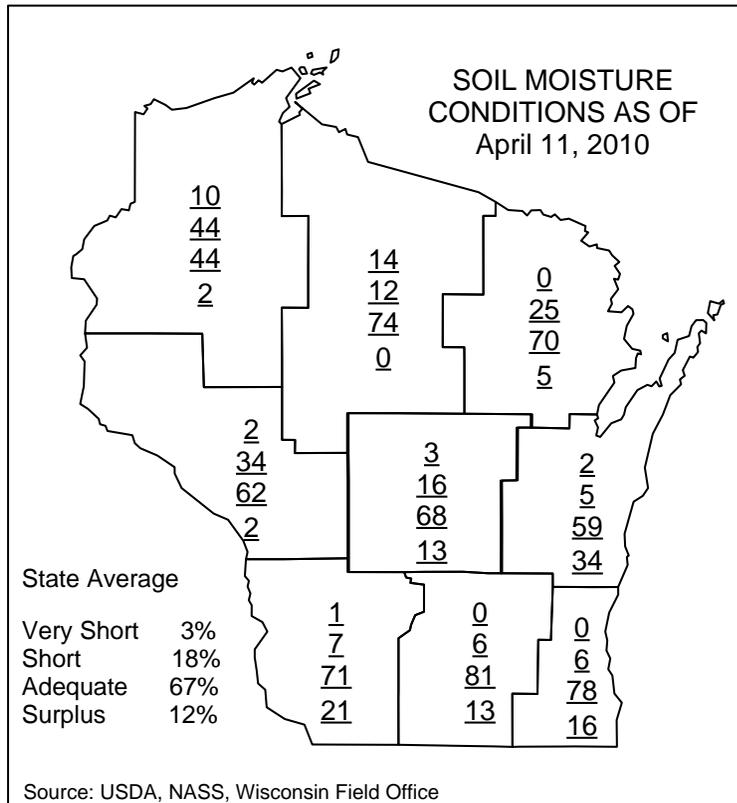
The warmer temperatures aided growth in **alfalfa** and **winter wheat**. Many reporters noted that it is still too early to determine the amount of winter kill, but overall it appears they have over-wintered well. Some reports stated some injury in low areas.

Planting of **oats** was reported as well underway in many areas of the state, with the Southwest and South Central districts being the furthest ahead. Across the state, oats planted was reported as 35 percent complete, 25 percentage points above the ten year average. Since 1980, for this week, the previously reported record oat acreage planted was 31 percent set in 2000. Some alfalfa seeding was also reported as being underway.

Reports stated that warmer weather has allowed **spring tillage** to get underway across the state, with 20 percent complete, 16 and 14 percentage points above the five and ten year averages respectively. Fields were mostly reported as being dry with some areas still wet from the rain and snow that fell last week. Some of the lower lying areas were reported as having standing water. Reports also stated that fields where corn harvest was delayed and fall tillage was not possible last fall have been combined.

Manure hauling was in full swing in many areas of the state, and there were some reports of fertilizer going on winter wheat and alfalfa fields.

The **maple syrup** season was winding down, with a report from Chippewa County that the season was not very good this year.



Agricultural Statistics Districts



Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: There are no signs of winterkill. We are ahead of schedule this year. Most farmers have finished harvesting last year's corn that was left over the winter. Manure pits are being emptied, fertilizer is being spread. Soil is being tilled and a lot of oats have been sown in the past couple of weeks.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Oat planting is nearly complete on lighter soils. Alfalfa looks good in most fields with a little winter injury in low areas. Winter wheat looks good. Tillage and seedings are earlier than normal.

CLARK-R.H.: It is very early, but winter wheat is greening up and there are some areas with winterkill. Some winter wheat was planted late so it will be interesting to see how it grows this spring. Alfalfa has started to grow, but it is 20 degrees this morning. The field I walked on looked good. I have not dug roots at this time. Small grains have been planted and this is very early for our area. Soil temperature this week one morning was 40 degrees. Manure hauling is beginning as is spring tillage.

MARATHON-G.M.: Alfalfa looks good now. Hope it does not freeze off later.

OCONTO-G.F.: The 6.0 inches of snow on Thursday halted all fieldwork, but the moisture was welcomed.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Winterkill showed up on the knolls of some winter wheat fields, and an estimate of winterkill on wheat or alfalfa fields is less than 5 percent. Fields are wet. Frost seems to be out of the ground, and manure hauling and spring tillage has been going on for several weeks already.

BUFFALO-R.S.: All hay and winter grains are good. Corn left in fields over winter dried down to 13 percent moisture and has been harvested with no mold problem. Most fields had enough snow cover that the soil never froze over winter and snow melt soaked in. About half the oats have been planted. Alfalfa is just starting to grow and looks healthy. Manure hauling went well with the dry March.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Alfalfa has broken dormancy in late March. It looks very good, very little winterkill. Winter wheat is excellent. Spring of 2010 is off to a kick start. Many farmers planted oats the last days of March. Much-needed rain came on Tuesday and Wednesday. We were greeted with 2.0 inches of wet snow on Thursday. Maple season was short due to early March warm up.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Not much has been going on in the fields. Two weeks ago when the weather was warm, some early planted oats went into the ground. Manure hauling was also taking place at that time as well. However, the rain and nearly 6 inches of snow this past week halted all field activity. Conditions are beginning to dry now, but fields for the most part are still too wet to even consider entering. For the most part, both the alfalfa and winter wheat have come through the winter in good condition, with very little winter kill. There are some areas in fields in both crops where there was some ice and those areas are bare, but it is not a widespread problem. The wheat is actually looking very good.

GRANT-D.W.: We received a couple of inches of much needed rain this week. The alfalfa looks great. I expect corn planting to begin in earnest next week (weather permitting).

DANE-J.K.: Alfalfa looks very good after 1.0 inch of rain and warm weather. Same goes for wheat, does not seem to be any winterkill. This has been the nicest, driest and warmest spring in 60 years that I can remember. There is no mud hardly at all. There is very little frost. Soil was warming up good until Tuesday when we got 0.90 inch of rain and cooler temperatures but still average to above. A lot of planting of oats and alfalfa, and some early sweet corn is in. Winter weather conditions are non-existing. Seems to be quite a bit of corn ground worked up with the beautiful weather conditions. Most manure has been spread but some spreading left to do.

KENOSHA-J.H.: No winter kill noticed on wheat or alfalfa as of yet. Oats are being planted. Plowing is being done. Anhydrous Ammonia is being applied.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 11, 2010

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 Apr. 10	March 1 to Apr. 10 normal*	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	59	35	68	20	47	7	154	18	0.46	1.18	-1.56	2.44	-2.16
Green Bay	55	37	70	27	46	6	108	16	1.73	2.05	-0.87	3.76	-1.39
La Crosse	58	39	67	27	49	6	151	35	0.71	1.66	-1.35	3.91	-1.30
Madison	58	37	69	25	47	6	142	38	2.19	2.94	-0.40	4.84	-1.06
Milwaukee	58	38	73	29	48	7	127	n.a.	1.89	2.85	-0.95	4.14	-3.12

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.