



Wisconsin Crop Progress

April 19, 2010

Vol. 10, No. 2

Warm Temperatures Continue to Aid Spring Planting

Another week of above normal temperatures allowed many farmers across the state to get into the field and continue planting small grains. The past week also brought some moisture across the state, but reporters stated that more rain is still needed.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 10 to 11 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 65 to 70 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 40 to 44 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in La Crosse to 0.80 inches in Eau Claire. There were 5.7 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 continued to aid growth in **alfalfa** and **winter wheat**. Many reporters noted that these crops are in good shape, with little to no winterkill. More fertilizing on fields was done this past week.

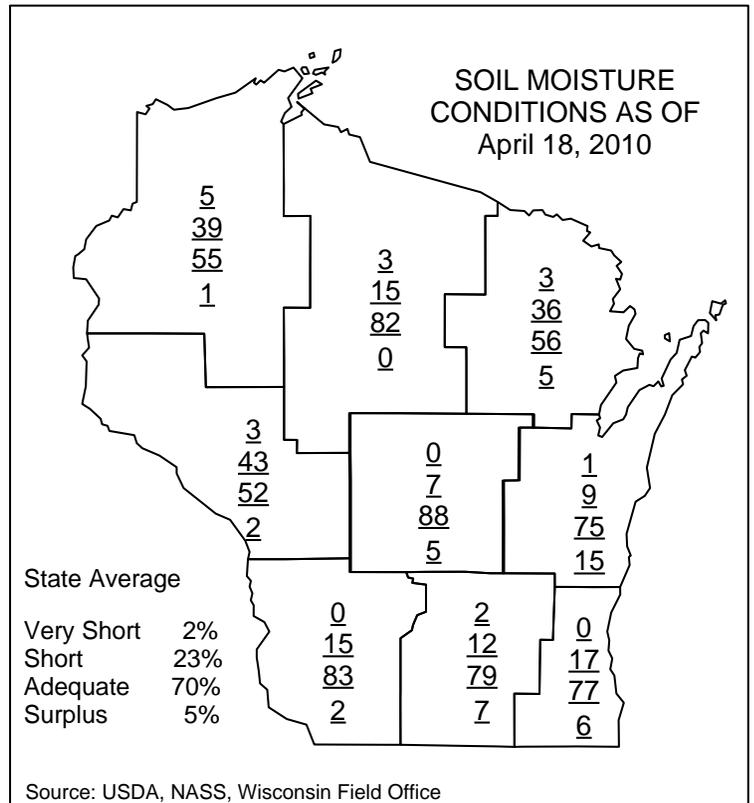
Planting of **corn** was reported as starting in some parts of the state, particularly in the southern districts. Across the state, corn planted was reported as 3 percent complete.

Oats planted is well underway with some oats reported as emerging. Across the state, oats planted was reported as 62 percent complete, well above the 5-year average of 21 and the 10-year average of 24 percent. Oats emerged was reported as 18 percent complete, above the 5-year average of 0 and the 10-year average of 1 percent. Since 1980, for this week, the previously reported records for oats planted and emerged was 53 percent and 3 percent, respectively, set back in 2000.

Warmer and mostly dry weather allowed **spring tillage** to progress in earnest across the state, with 39 percent complete. Fields were generally reported as being dry, with one reporter in Walworth County stating that lack of sufficient soil moisture is a concern. **Manure hauling** continues in many areas of the state.

Many reporters stated that **maple syrup** production was poor this season. Reports stated that production was below normal, up to 30 percent below in some counties.

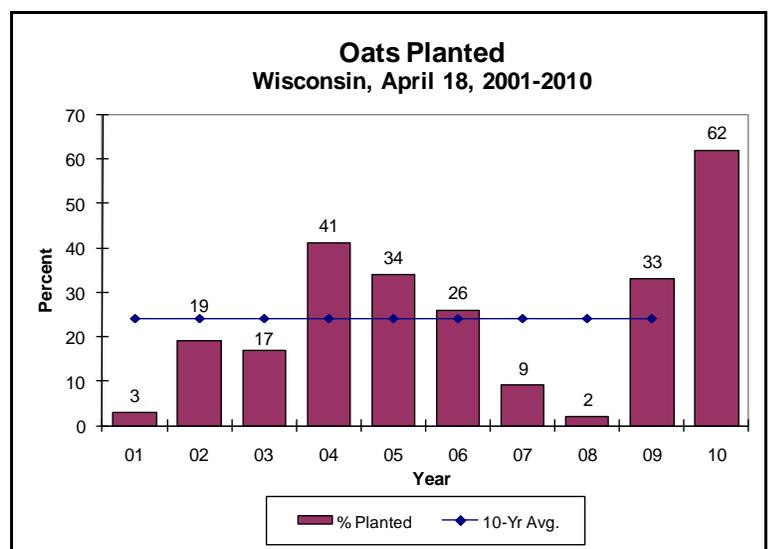
Potato planting continues.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 18, 2010

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	1	16	62	21
Pasture	1	12	36	44	7

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
Oats planted	42	62	43	77	48	25	78	81	69	62	33	21
Oats emerged	6	2	1	15	2	10	23	25	18	18	n.a.	0
Spring tillage completed	27	55	31	43	35	22	43	49	39	39	19	13

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

POLK-A.M.: Light rain during the week was good; but more rain is needed. Alfalfa, winter wheat, and oats are green. Producers are opening bee hives. No evidence of winterkill at this point. The snow coverage early aided in protection. Producers are still hauling manure and cleaning manure pits.

RUSK-G.P.: Alfalfa and winter wheat both look to have come through the winter ok. Small grains and seeding continue to go in. Corn will probably start next week. Had about 0.75 inches of rain this week but is already drying up. It is too early to be this dry. Bottled the last of the maple syrup last night, it was an ok year. Syrup is dark but has a good flavor.

CLARK-A.K.: Where the deer dug through the snow the alfalfa died. The fields are dry so fieldwork could start. My peas and oats are in but when I look at the calendar I think I should have waited.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Manure is being hauled and the lighter soils are being worked for planting. Winter wheat varies in condition from excellent to fair, with the fair looking fields spotty, I believe because of a late planting date and they never really tillered out. Maple syrup ran about a third of normal.

EAU CLAIRE-D.J.: Alfalfa looks good, no winterkill. Have not had much moisture in March or April. Need rain; it is very dry. I planted oats and peas on Monday. I am starting to work up the corn ground.

LA CROSSE-I.L.: Farmers continue to work their fields. While they can haul manure and work the ground, spraying is nearly impossible due to strong winds that have been almost constant this week.

PEPIN-H.R.: Alfalfa and winter wheat are showing very little winterkill. We need some rain and warm weather. Spring planting is going real good with no rain. Lots of manure hauling is also going good.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Maple syrup season was dreadful, not cold enough at night. No rain this week, cold nights will continue to delay planting. Potato planting continues and some oats are going in also. Manure hauling is going well. Expect cranberry growers to be watching frost the next few days.

WAUPACA-D.H.: There is some winterkill on very low spots. Progress continues now after all of last week's heavy precipitation.

CALUMET-B.L.: We had 3 to 4 days with moisture but the total was not high. With the high winds last week we are drying fast. The nights have been very cool with frost some nights so soil temperatures are not warming up real fast. Most alfalfa stands are looking very good with excellent densities and color. Most wheat has had fertilizer applied.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: Seeing very little winterkill in alfalfa, wheat and rye. Soils have dried well enough for plowing and harrowing. Oats and vegetables sowed the first week of April have begun to emerge.

SAUK-W.W.: Spring came fast and early. The only thing holding back corn planting is the calendar. Tillage is progressing nicely. Some soil is blowing on the windy days. Windy days are hindering field herbicide applications. First peas were planted a week ago, and we continue to plant based on heat units.

DODGE-M.H.: Spring seeding planted mid to late March is looking very good. Soils are suitable for fieldwork but producers are a bit hesitant as they look at the calendar for corn and soybeans. Producers plan to hit it hard the week of the 19th.

GREEN-M.M.: Both alfalfa and winter wheat have come out of winter in good shape. Dry weather and winds allowed soils to dry out. A lot of spring tillage was done this week. Some corn was planted and most will start next week, weather permitting.

KENOSHA-R.R.: Alfalfa and winter wheat have overcome winter well. There is some damage in lower areas.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Weather conditions were good this last week. Corn planters were starting to roll at the end of the week. Alfalfa and wheat look like they survived the winter in good shape.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 18, 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. 17	March 1 to Apr. 17 normal*	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	68	40	81	28	54	11	219	51	0.80	1.98	-1.43	3.24	-1.98
Green Bay	65	42	79	35	54	11	166	44	0.02	2.07	-1.43	3.78	-1.94
La Crosse	70	44	84	32	57	10	228	73	0.00	1.66	-2.11	3.91	-2.10
Madison	67	43	80	37	55	11	206	76	0.08	3.02	-1.11	4.92	-1.72
Milwaukee	65	43	82	37	54	10	182	n.a.	0.01	2.86	-1.82	4.15	-3.98

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.