



Wisconsin Crop Progress

May 3, 2010

Vol. 10, No. 4

Despite Rain, Some Fields Still Dry

Farmers continue to plant corn, oats, and other small grains but many fields across the state are very dry. Strong winds did not help the moisture situation. The past week brought some moisture to various parts of the state, but not enough to alleviate concerns of some farmers. Across the reporting stations, precipitation is 1.03 to 2.57 inches below normal for the season. Dry conditions are most visible in the north central and northwest parts of the state.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 5 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 62 to 67 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 43 to 48 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.40 inches in Milwaukee to 1.48 inches in Green Bay. There were 4.8 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/>

Growers made good progress planting **corn**, with reported plantings at 51 percent complete, 31 percentage points above the previous week and 30 percentage points above the five-year average. Some early seeded corn has begun to emerge, with corn emergence reported at 2 percent complete statewide.

Soybean planting has started, with 8 percent reported as complete. This is 5 and 6 percentage points above the five and ten-year averages, respectively.

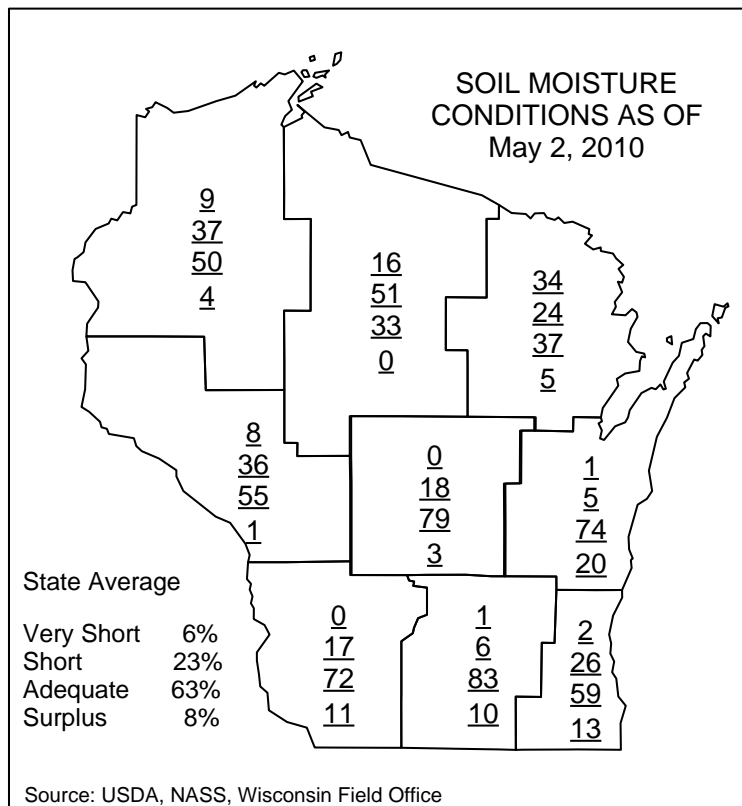
Planting of **oats** is starting to wind down, with reported plantings at 92 percent complete. Almost all oats are in the ground in the west central, southwest, and south central parts of the state. Emergence progressed and was reported at 60 percent complete. Percent planted and emerged continue to remain well ahead of their five-year averages.

Alfalfa and **winter wheat** continue to be reported as looking good. Reports stated that winterkill can be found in low-lying areas and is very spotty. Winds and dry soils were reported as slowing growth of small grains; however, many reporters stated that alfalfa and winter wheat stands are about one foot tall.

Spring tillage continued throughout the state, with 72 percent complete, 30 percentage points above the five-year average.

Potatoes and other **small vegetables** continue to be planted across the state. Reporters stated that early vegetables are beginning to emerge.

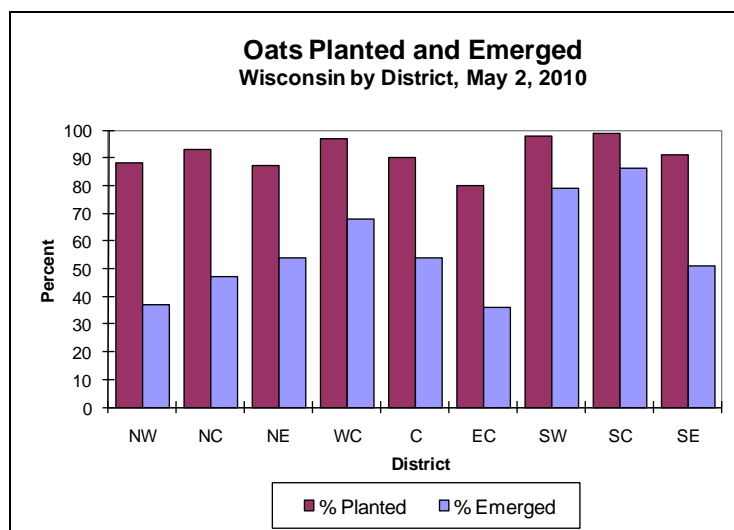
Fruit trees are blossoming and **cranberry** growers continue to protect against frost.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 2, 2010

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	2	15	61	22
Oat	0	3	20	61	16
Pasture	1	6	27	52	14

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 planted	29	60	43	58	45	19	67	66	51	51	15	21
Soybeans planted	1	3	1	9	12	4	12	9	10	8	n.a.	3
Oats planted	88	93	87	97	90	80	98	99	91	92	70	62
Oats emerged	37	47	54	68	54	36	79	86	51	60	27	23
Spring tillage completed	68	76	67	82	68	52	79	78	77	72	48	42

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.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Corn planting is in full swing even on heavy soils; excellent planting conditions. Very little winterkill on alfalfa. Maple syrup run was good. Many apple trees in pink and with good blossom set on some.

ONEIDA-P.L.: We are way behind on moisture, extremely dry March and April. Earliest spring in many years. This allowed early fieldwork. We did get scattered showers amounting to approximately 1 inch of moisture. This helped the pastures green up and got the oats above ground. Warm days but cool nights. Some fruit trees are in blossom and some are just starting to leaf out. Early potatoes are being planted.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Planting is progressing well, however, conditions overall are very dry. The rain was welcome, but we could do without storms. Hayfields are growing and show little signs of winterkill. Spring tillage is ahead of schedule at this time and everyone is hoping for warm weather to continue.

VILAS-R.K.: Oats planting is beginning. We have had two light rain events and are expecting a chance at more precipitation this next week.

FOREST-L.O.: Received 0.70 inches of rain, but still very dry. Very windy, robbing what moisture there is. Nights are still cold.

OCONTO-B.T.: We live on lower, wetter ground. It is drying nice for plowing for soybeans. The hilly parts of fields are dry. Apricots are done blooming. Plums full bloom. Pears are starting to bloom. Peaches are in full bloom. Apples are pink stage. Rye is 1.0 - 1.5 feet tall.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Winter wheat has some thinner spots in the fields but overall looks very good. Alfalfa did not winter quite as well with a few fields being torn up and planted to something else. Many farmers in the area patch seeded areas in the field that froze out. Rain this past week slowed fieldwork down considerably and now another 1.0 inch fell last night. Overall, we are ahead of schedule with tillage, planting and manure hauling.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Very little winterkill in alfalfa. Farmers are going full throttle to get tillage completed. Corn planting is going well. Some soybeans are planted but most will be going in soon. The warm temperatures are helping things along, but strong winds still cause some problems. Dust rising from planting can be seen a long

way off. Driving down the highway, I encountered a small dust storm obscuring the road, scratching the paint on the vehicle.

MONROE-P.B.: The alfalfa is progressing quickly reaching over a foot tall and many farmers anticipating an early first cutting. Winter wheat is also over a foot tall with little winterkill seen.

MARQUETTE-D.B.: Corn planters really got going this week.

WOOD-M.L.: Very little winterkill. It has been very dry, recent rains have been light but helpful. Many are done with corn planting already in April.

BROWN-B.S.: Timely rains have improved growing conditions.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: Hardly any winterkill in winter wheat or alfalfa. Spring tillage and planting is progressing very well, fruit trees (apples) are in bloom and appear to be in good condition. Vegetable operations in the county are experiencing excellent planting conditions so early vegetable plantings are in progress. As many areas in the State a nice good rain would be welcome.

IOWA-S.M.: Most of the corn will be planted today. Soybean plantings will get a good start this week. Alfalfa looks excellent.

GREEN-M.M.: Plant development and Growing Degree Days are running about 2-3 weeks ahead of normal. Some early-planted corn has already emerged.

WASHINGTON-G.S.: No winterkill in wheat or alfalfa. Spring tillage progressed rapidly this past week. Fruit trees are beginning to bloom. Peas and other vegetables are not being planted yet.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 2, 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 May 1	March 1 to May 1 normal*	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	66	43	69	26	55	5	334	128	0.97	3.37	-1.51	4.63	-2.08
Green Bay	64	43	79	32	54	5	248	104	1.48	3.68	-1.03	5.39	-1.52
La Crosse	67	48	75	33	58	5	362	160	0.73	2.90	-2.57	5.15	-2.53
Madison	65	46	77	31	55	5	312	160	1.07	4.36	-1.37	6.26	-1.97
Milwaukee	62	45	80	31	54	5	243	n.a.	0.40	4.24	-2.28	5.52	-4.51

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.