



Wisconsin Crop Progress

May 10, 2010

Vol. 10, No. 5

Farmers Welcome Moisture, But Fear Frosts

Farmers continue to plant corn and soybeans as planting of oats nears completion. The past week brought some much needed moisture across the state, including snow in the northern and west central parts of the state. Frost occurred throughout the state, particularly in the central and northern parts. Farmers are concerned that crop progress may slow due to frost and cooler temperatures.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week ranged from 4 degrees below normal to 6 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 59 to 65 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 39 to 48 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.64 inches in Madison to 1.29 inches in Green Bay. There were 4.7 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/>

Farmers made significant progress planting **corn**, with reported plantings at 68 percent complete, 17 percentage points above the previous week and 21 percentage points above the five-year average. Some farmers are waiting to plant corn in hopes of avoiding a late frost. Corn continued to emerge, with emergence reported at 13 percent complete statewide, more than triple the five-year average of 4 percent and more than double the 10-year average of 6 percent.

Soybean planting continued, with 20 percent reported as complete. This is 6 percentage points above the five-year average. Some farmers are waiting for warmer soil temperatures before planting soybeans.

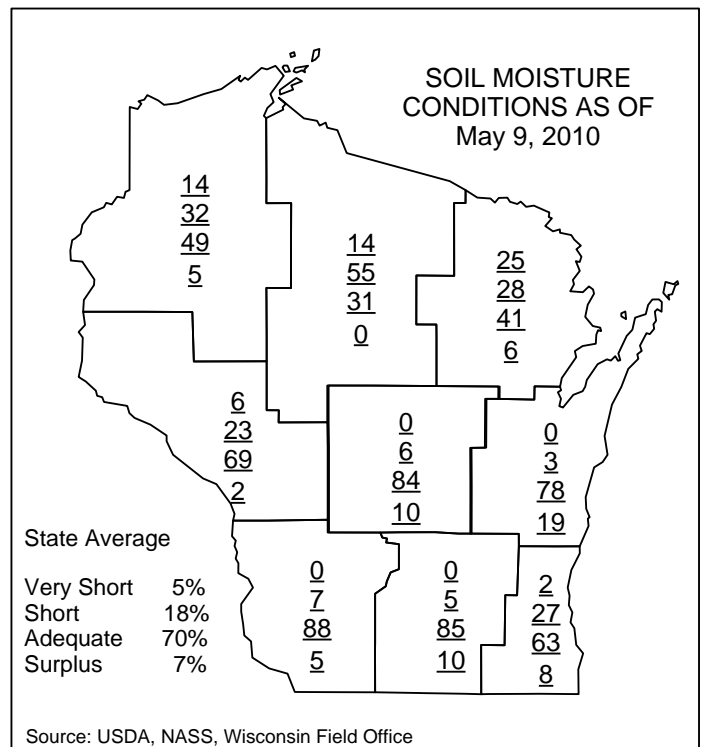
Planting of **oats** is nearly finished, with reported plantings at 96 percent complete. Emergence continued apace and was reported at 72 percent complete. Oats are reported as looking good.

Alfalfa and **winter wheat** are reported as looking good. Reports stated that winterkill can be found in some low-lying areas. Several reporters stated that alfalfa cutting will begin soon. Some fields of alfalfa have reportedly been cut in Richland County.

Spring tillage continued throughout the state, with 83 percent complete, 21 percentage points above the five-year average.

In Portage County, **potatoes** have started to emerge and **sweet corn** planting has started. Potatoes have also emerged in Marquette County.

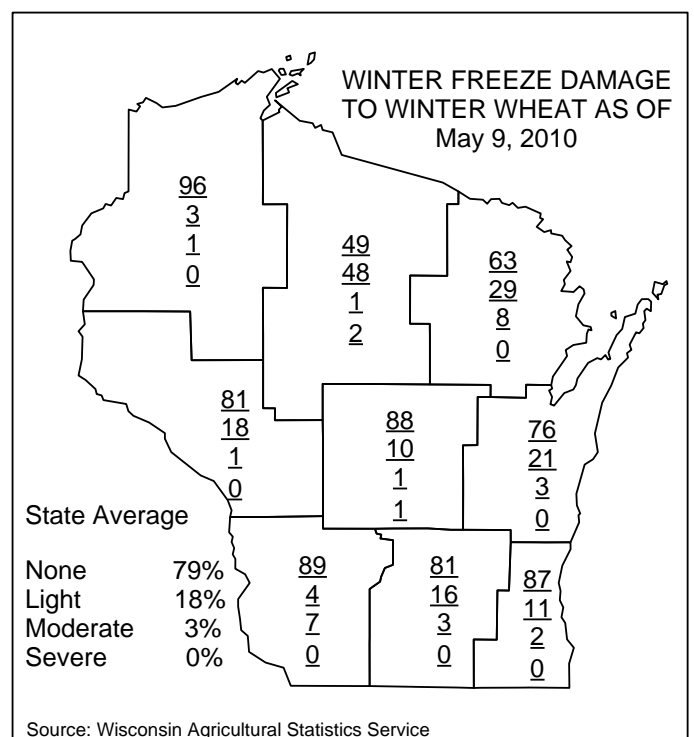
Fruit trees are in bloom, but the full effect of the recent hard frosts and cold nights is currently unknown.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 9, 2010

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	1	15	59	25
Oat	0	1	14	67	18
Pasture	3	5	25	53	14

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 9, 2010

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	54	80	69	79	65	39	78	75	75	68	38	47
Corn emerged	2	3	8	16	9	2	14	24	22	13	2	4
Soybeans planted	9	21	6	22	26	11	28	23	25	20	7	14
Oats planted	94	96	97	98	97	92	99	100	99	96	87	79
Oats emerged	49	64	62	80	67	53	86	93	70	72	55	45
Spring tillage completed	83	88	81	89	81	65	87	86	83	83	65	62

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-R.S.: Tillage and planting are progressing quickly. Despite a few rain showers, conditions have been dry enough to work right through. Established alfalfa stands appear to be growing as expected. There are a few concerns about new seeding alfalfa. After receiving more moisture on Friday we should learn a lot about hay and pasture conditions in the next week.

WASHBURN-E.M.: Had frost several mornings this week. Temperatures in mid 20's to low 30's. Our area received 0.5 inch of snow on Friday.

CLARK-J.B.: Alfalfa is in very good condition, very little winterkill. Some fields have about a foot growth. Other forages look good. Pasture is getting better due to this week's moisture.

MARATHON-S.N.: Cooler, sunny weather conditions prevailed last week. Most farmers are finished with corn planting. Some farmers are waiting until after Mother's Day to plant to minimize the effects of a late frost. Marathon County received 2.0 – 4.0 inches of snow on Friday. This caused problems in the ginseng beds. The tarps that cover the tender plants were weighted down by the snow, supporting poles snapped, and collapsed onto the garden beds. The frost on Sunday morning did not improve conditions. Damage at this time is unknown. A lot of work will need to be done to restore the beds to normal. The precipitation was welcome as the dry conditions are causing concern.

FLORENCE-T.B.: The 0.5 to 0.75 inch of moisture helped the small grains take on a green color and show some growth the past few days. Farmers are still slow to do fieldwork on corn ground for fear of losing what little soil moisture there is.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Winterkill on both wheat and alfalfa was evident across the area but in scattered pockets and only small areas of fields. Most fields were left and growers will work around them. Potatoes are being planted and also some peas and snap beans going into the ground.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Getting some much-needed rain. Some corn has emerged. Frost is still a threat. Some rye has lodged. Hay crop looks great. Crop spraying when it is not too windy.

DUNN-S.S.: Very little winterkill on alfalfa. Fruit trees are all in bloom, and looking good. Spring tillage is almost all completed. Very poor maple syrup season locally. Corn planting is in full swing, some have already completed. Some are ready to plant soybeans. Could use a little more rain.

GREEN LAKE-B.K.: Very slight evidence of winterkill in alfalfa and wheat. Spring planting of peas is underway. Spring tillage is ahead of normal.

JUNEAU-J.W.: Very little indication of winterkill but there were some areas where 2009 seeding did suffer damage. Spring tillage is pretty much done. Everything is about three weeks ahead of last year

DOOR-T.S.: Some older alfalfa fields experienced winterkill. Tart cherry trees have been hit by significant freeze conditions four times since blossom buds have developed. Significant losses are expected but the extent will not be known until the June drop occurs in late May. Apples also appear to have been affected by the extensive freeze. Temperatures last night got down to 23 degrees. Fruit set will be occurring over the next two weeks and a better picture will develop of the fruit crop.

GRANT-E.B.: Everything is coming along good. Some alfalfa is already 18.0 inches tall.

RICHLAND-J.C.: Alfalfa has good growth, and some fields were cut this week. Planting progression of both corn and soybeans are ahead of normal.

DANE-D.F.: Spring planting has been progressing rapidly with corn almost complete and soybeans having a great start. Frost over the weekend created concerns for both strawberries and apples. Alfalfa is looking good, although cool weather will slow progress.

ROCK-C.O.: Signs of winterkill on second and third year stands of alfalfa are now showing through. Some fields will be harvested then planted to corn I am sure. Spring tillage and planting is all but complete with a few acres of snap beans to go. Now just waiting for the hay harvest to begin.

WALWORTH-E.M.: Most corn is planted. Corn is just beginning to emerge. Rainfall has been very light 0.10 to 0.20 inch. There is excessive wind speed. Some soybeans are beginning to be planted.



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

Colette Childs
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 May 9, 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 8	March 1 to May 8 normal*	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	59	39	77	32	49	-4	370	190	0.77	4.14	-1.45	5.40	-1.99
Green Bay	61	43	73	33	52	0	292	155	1.29	4.97	-0.26	6.68	-0.82
La Crosse	63	45	83	37	54	-2	412	230	0.71	3.61	-2.61	5.86	-2.51
Madison	63	45	80	35	54	1	363	226	0.64	5.00	-1.41	6.90	-2.06
Milwaukee	65	48	82	39	57	6	305	n.a.	0.78	5.02	-2.25	6.30	-4.37

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.