



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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Start of Fieldwork Slowed by Wet Conditions

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.

Spring tillage and planting were behind last year's early start due to high levels of moisture. The week ended with above normal temperatures allowing some to enter fields. Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1 to 5 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 48 to 58 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 33 to 38 degrees. There was precipitation across the state, ranging from 0.13 inches in Eau Claire to 0.83 inches in Milwaukee. There were 1.5 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/>

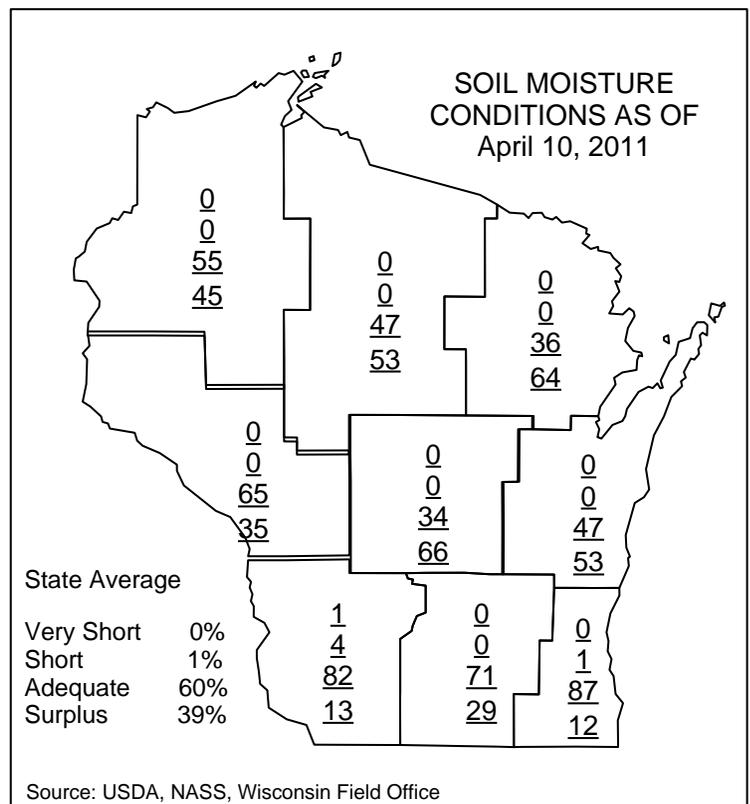
Spring tillage was minimal across the state. Statewide spring tillage was at 3 percent complete, compared to 20 percent last year and 6 percent for the 5-year average. Fields were generally reported as too wet, with most of the frost gone.

There were very few reports of planting **oats**, with 3 percent oats planted statewide, compared to 35 percent last year and 13 percent for the five-year average. There were reports in the Southwest District of some seeding of **peas**, oats, and alfalfa beginning.

Farmers were busy **spreading manure** on fields that were dry enough. Other fieldwork going on included: applying fertilizer, clearing fencerows, and drainage work.

Many reporters noted that it is still too early to determine the amount of winterkill. Those that did report on **alfalfa** and **winter wheat** commented that the crop appears to have come through the winter in good to excellent condition.

The **maple syrup** season was reported as being short, but with good flow. A report from Calumet County stated that the crop was better than last year, but less than 2009. Producers in Southwest District stated that the maple sap was running good and had high sugar content. Several reports indicated it was tough getting the sap out of the woods with all the snow.



Agricultural Statistics Districts



Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

RUSK –G.P.: It's too early to determine winterkill, snow is still coming off. Snow is coming off the fields, still lots of snow in the woods. No field activity at all yet, way too soft. Maple syrup season is winding down. Most will pull taps over the weekend. Good season, but tough getting the sap out of the woods with all the snow.

CLARK -J.B.: Winter wheat looks good, will see after a few warmer days. Right now doesn't look like much winter kill for either alfalfa or winter wheat. Producers are hauling out manure, as there is still frost in the ground. Maple syrup was running good, with warmer days has slowed down.

CLARK-R.H.: We still have snow on the ground and frozen soils in the early mornings. There is ice present in the soil at about 6-8 inches. Soils will need to thaw and firm to account for the wheat and alfalfa condition in the next couple of weeks. There are many spring tillage implements in the shop, but no tillage work completed at this time. I have been told by a number of maple syrup producers the deep snow and weather has made sap collection a challenge. Weather was not ideal for sap production.

MARATHON-S.N.: Farmers have not reported any evidence of winterkill on alfalfa and winter wheat. Snow is rapidly receding with daytime highs approaching 50 degrees. Fields are beginning to dry. Maple syrup production has resumed with the warmer days and cooler nights. Producers report a lighter colored maple syrup.

ONEIDA-P.L.: This is the first significant rain fall of the season, yesterday and last night we had scattered thundershowers. Sunday was the first day in the seventies. It took the last of the snow pretty much away. There is still ice on the lakes while the rivers and streams are open. The spring bulbs shot up about three inches yesterday in the south exposed protected flowerbeds. The fields are very muddy on the surface as the frost comes out. There is no spring fieldwork at this point. The maple syrup weather has not been very good, when the nights were cold the days weren't warm enough, and when the days got warm enough then the nights weren't cold enough. This week may be the best week if it gets cold enough at night. It is a little too early to judge the effects of winter kill yet on alfalfa or winter wheat. Seen some geese and sand hill cranes came back along with the robins.

FLORENCE – T.B.: Just lost snow cover this past week. There is still snow on the south edge of fields along tree lines. Valleys still have some standing water and ice and fields are very wet at this time.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Rye is green. Alfalfa nothing happening yet. Some manure spreading, too wet for any tillage, still snow in woods.

DUNN-J.R.: Snow is finally melting. Maple Syrup season wrapped up last night and most are reporting a much better year than 2010. Everyone is getting antsy as field work was already in full swing this time last year.

JUNEAU-J.W.: Fields are still very wet with only the high sandy areas dry enough for spreading fertilizer or manure. Pastures are still dormant. Winter wheat is greening up but it is still hard to tell whether the cold and frost had any significant affect.

CALUMET –B.L.: Big storms passed through last night. With 70's yesterday, some of the last big piles of snow disappeared. The winter wheat and alfalfa appear to have come through the winter in excellent condition. Maple syrup season was better than 2010 but less than 2009 according to some I have talked with. Short season with good flow. One person stated they averaged 17 gallons of sap per tree this year. We are far behind last years record early spring. Nothing is done in our fields. This rain may get things started soon.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: No evidence of winter kill at the present time. Fields are drying and farmers are preparing for spring tillage and seeding oats. No major flooding at this time but this may change within a couple weeks.

COLUMBIA-B.K.: Alfalfa and winter wheat are looking OK at this time. Most frost is out except for shaded area along woods and fence lines. Some manure being hauled by small spreaders otherwise field conditions are too wet yet. Field work will be later than last years early start.

WASHINGTON-J.N.: Alfalfa and wheat too early to judge. No growth yet. Wheat looks green. In March and April 2011, we had 4 hail storms so far, I hope this is not a sign of what is to come this year.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 10, 2011

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. 9	March 1 to Apr. 9 normal*	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	55	33	65	26	44	5	26	15	0.13	2.79	0.16	4.64	0.18
Green Bay	49	33	56	30	41	2	9	14	0.54	3.62	0.80	6.19	1.16
La Crosse	58	38	65	31	48	5	44	31	0.76	3.73	0.82	5.64	0.56
Madison	54	38	64	31	46	5	32	34	0.40	3.59	0.36	6.46	0.70
Milwaukee	48	36	52	32	42	1	18	n.a.	0.83	3.91	0.26	7.37	0.22

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.