



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

July 11, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 14

## Heat & Humidity Has Helped

Another week of above-average temperatures around the state has given crops a surge in growth and development. Several northern and central counties in the state reported spotty to substantial rains, while many southern counties remained dry. Many crops benefitted greatly in areas that received ample moisture, in addition to the heat and humidity, yet more precipitation is needed overall to keep the crops progressing. Statewide, there were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork this past week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 2 to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 82 to 88 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 60 to 64 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in La Crosse to 1.44 inches in Green Bay. Despite being less than normal for the entire season, growing degree days in Eau Claire and La Crosse were now above average. If you are interested in further weather or vegetation drought response data, please reference the following sites:

- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>
- [http://drought.unl.edu/vegdiri/VegDRI\\_Main.htm?EV](http://drought.unl.edu/vegdiri/VegDRI_Main.htm?EV)

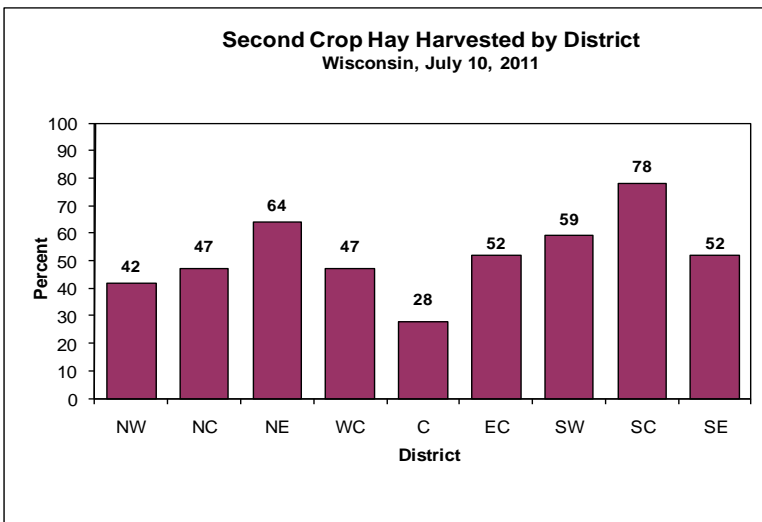
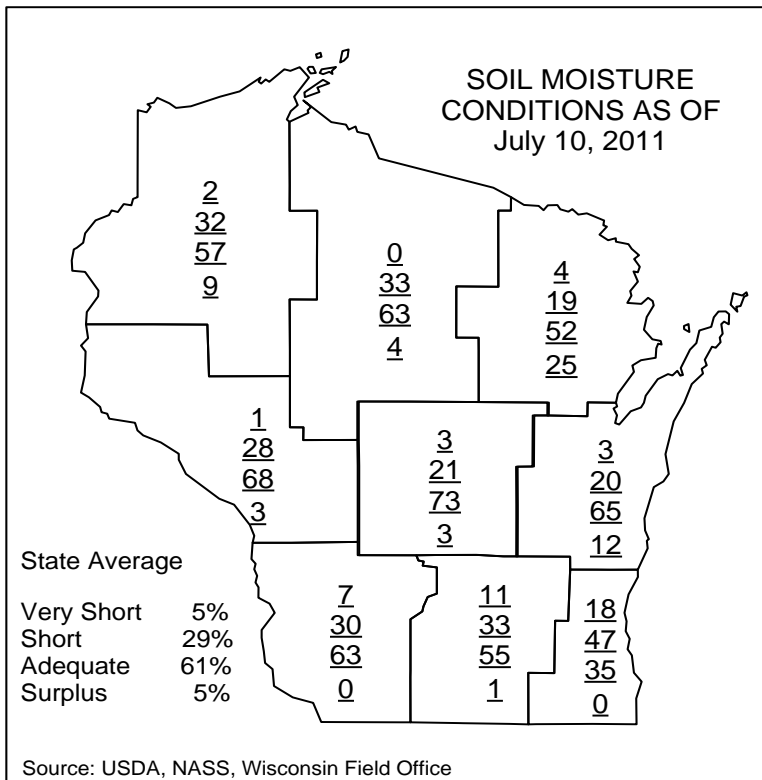
The heat and humidity proved beneficial for **corn**, reported as an average of 43 inches high across the state. Yet, there were several reports that corn fields were starting to curl up and show stress as a lack of moisture was evident. This was especially true for late-planted corn and fields on sandy soils. Producers in a small portion of Juneau County had their corn damaged by hail.

**Soybeans** perked up this past week as several fields had just begun to bloom. Across the state, 13 percent of soybeans were reported as blooming. Spraying remained a priority for many soybean fields containing weeds. Similar to corn, soybeans in areas lacking precipitation were also showing stress.

Second crop **hay** harvest was in full swing this past week, due to optimal weather conditions, as 53 percent had been reported as harvested statewide. Reports on quality and yield varied widely. Even some hay fields were showing stress, due to a lack of moisture, as one Rock County reporter noted that hay fields were beginning to crack.

**Oats** were 81 percent headed statewide, up 19 percentage points from previous week. Some oats were being chopped for forage in Kewaunee County. **Winter wheat** was reported as turning color very rapidly and was looking like a good crop. Several growers hadn't started harvesting winter wheat yet, but thought it would probably start in the next week or two.

The **cranberry** bloom was reported as progressing well in both Oneida and Portage counties. **Sweet cherries** were being picked while the **tart cherry** crop was not ready to be harvested yet in Door County. The **pea** harvest was in full swing while the harvest of **snap beans** was soon to follow in Portage County. **Pumpkins** were blossoming in Waupaca County.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 10, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	1	4	17	58	20
Soybean	1	4	20	61	14
Oat	1	3	13	66	17
Winter Wheat	1	3	15	52	29
Pasture	1	8	27	54	10

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 week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Average corn height (in.)	33	25	25	45	40	27	54	50	52	43	27	57	51
Soybeans Blooming	6	1	4	5	5	4	8	31	23	13	3	19	18
Oats headed	48	57	79	92	92	68	94	97	91	81	62	97	93
Second cutting hay	42	47	64	47	28	52	59	78	52	53	18	47	44

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.:** Sandy soils are needing moisture. There is evidence of some corn starting to burn up in the heat. Overall weather conditions have made this week good for crop growth.

**CLARK-R.H.:** In one week the small grains are heading and second crop hay harvest is beginning in earnest. I have seen some potato leafhoppers in alfalfa. Corn was knee high by July 4th, unless late planted, and in the next week will probably see some blossoms on soybeans.

**ONEIDA-B.E.:** Cranberry crop is looking very good here, with all varieties, both early and late, at about 80 - 100% bloom. Dry, hot conditions and abundant sunlight have really helped out a lot. We only had a little rain here this past week, less than 0.4 inches, but have been able to irrigate on several nights to keep adequate soil moisture in the cranberry beds. Insect pest pressures are way down, but we have noticed an increase in weed pests, particularly golden rod and arrowhead.

**MARINETTE-S.R.:** First sweet corn tasseled early in the week.

**EAU CLAIRE-A.B.:** A large variety of garden produce are showing up at the farmers markets. Numerous acres of corn have curled the past week. Over the weekend we received two showers for a total of 0.5 inches of rain, it was very welcomed. This past week with the dry conditions many acres of hay both first and second crop were harvested. The second crop is yielding normal to above average and the quality is great. The small grain crops are turning color but two weeks or more from harvest.

**LA CROSSE-I.H.:** Corn has grown quite rapidly this last week, in some places over 3.0 feet. The heat and humidity made working outside uncomfortable for farmers, still they continued to finish up first cut, which had become tall and coarse and worked on second cut. In some cases peas and tritical were cut and harvested. Some areas in pastures are starting to show the strain of lack of moisture, a small amount of rain would be welcome.

**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** All crops are growing well with more favorable weather conditions. Some corn and beans have become very weedy. Second crop hay harvest is in full tilt.

**DOOR-T.S.:** Peas look very good. Some green beans still getting planted as field conditions improve. Winter wheat is 100% headed out. Sweet cherries are getting picked and the tart cherry crop is looking good overall but not ready for harvest yet. Second crop hay is seeing average yields.

**FOND DU LAC-B.B.:** Winter Wheat is well on the turn. Second crop alfalfa was of high quality and average yield.

Insect pressure is fairly low. For the first time this season, we could use an inch of rain.

**GRANT-D.W.:** The corn crop continues to develop rapidly. Second crop hay has given us good yields and excellent quality. We are getting a little dry, so an inch or two of rain would be welcome.

**VERNON-K.L.:** Crops getting the necessary heat degrees to grow, but in need of a little rain. Early sweet corn is showing progress. Grape vines have fruit developing. Farmers finishing up first crop hay, while others onto second crop. Small grains for forage being cut.

**GREEN-M.M.:** Finally received some much needed precipitation this morning. The majority of the county had received less than 0.1 inches of rainfall over the past 30 days and most corn fields were rolling and showing stress due to lack of moisture. Second crop hay harvest is nearing completion with decent yields, but third crop yields will be reduced due to lack of moisture for regrowth. Winter wheat harvesting will likely start within a week.

**ROCK-R.S.:** Need rain terribly bad. Hay fields are now starting to crack even in the bottom. Late planted corn is really stressed out. So hot not sure if wheat heads will fall. The wheat looks great, but not sure.

**RACINE-K.I.:** It's getting really dry. We could use some rain badly.

**WAUKESHA-C.W.:** Very dry and no rain in last week. Corn starting to curl. Strawberry harvest about done.



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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 July 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 *	Mar. 1 to July 9	Mar. 1 to July 9 normal*	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	87	61	91	55	74	4	1105	1090	0.02	7.51	2.07	18.01	2.22
Green Bay	84	61	89	58	73	4	976	989	1.44	6.56	2.10	21.27	7.19
La Crosse	88	64	92	57	76	3	1248	1234	0.00	8.63	3.37	21.71	5.51
Madison	86	60	89	56	73	2	1190	1208	0.03	3.67	-1.57	15.51	-1.16
Milwaukee	82	63	91	59	73	2	977	n.a.	0.01	3.49	-1.16	19.15	1.59

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.