



Wisconsin Crop Progress

July 18, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 15

The Heat Is On

This past week had optimal weather for progress in the field, with 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork statewide. All crops received ample heat to aid in growth and development this past week. Many southern and eastern counties remained somewhat dry as precipitation was spotty. The Madison reporting station remained below the normal precipitation for the year.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1 degree below normal to 3 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 79 to 84 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 63 to 66 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.12 inches in Madison to 2.77 inches in Eau Claire. Growing degree days reached above normal at all reporting stations, except Madison. 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/>

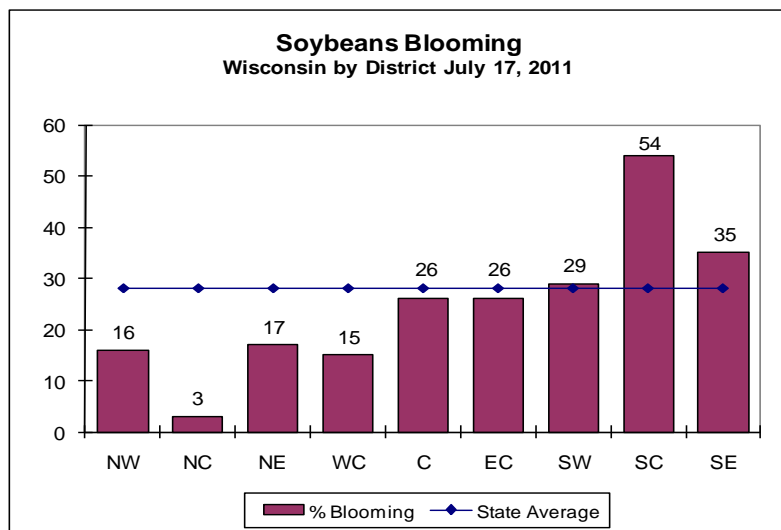
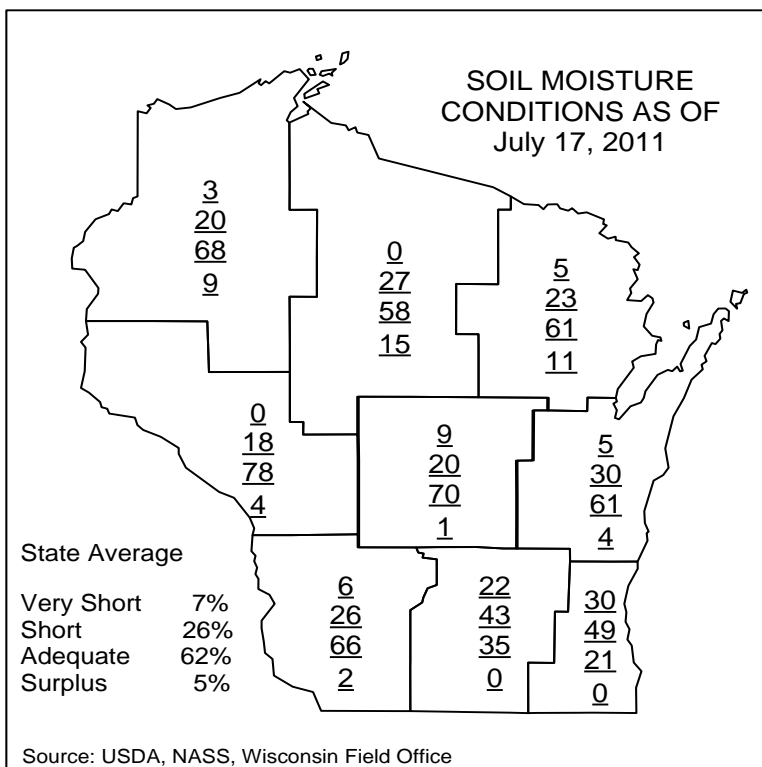
Strong winds early in the week caused **corn** fields in some parts of the state to flatten. Some corn is standing back up where stalks were not broken. Counties that reported wind damage included: Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Rock, and Walworth. Corn yields were predicted to be lower in these counties due to this set back. There was considerable variability in corn height due to such a long planting season. Statewide, average corn height was 56 inches. Many fields have started to tassel. Corn was showing signs of stress from lack of rain in the eastern and southern counties. Statewide, corn was 11 percent silked.

Statewide, there were 28 percent **soybeans** blooming. A Waukesha reporter noted that young soybeans may burn up from the heat and lack of rain.

Farmers were attempting to finish second crop **hay** harvest this past week with the good weather conditions. Second crop hay harvest was at 73 percent complete, compared to 62 percent last year. Second crop hay yields were reported as average to good on yield and quality.

A reporter in Juneau County stated that **oats** were headed out but looked short, and as a result there may not be as much straw. Oats for grain harvest has begun with 2 percent harvested statewide, compared to 12 percent last year and the 5-year average of 4 percent. **Winter wheat** harvest was underway in Rock and Green counties. Statewide winter wheat harvested was at 4 percent complete.

In the Central District, **sweet corn** was tasseled and **potatoes** were flowering. **Peas** looked good and were being harvested in Dane County. A Clark County reporter commented that **strawberry** harvest was wrapping up.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 17, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	2	6	19	54	19
Soybean	1	5	21	57	16
Oat	1	4	15	66	14
Winter Wheat	1	3	15	57	24
Pasture	2	9	28	53	8

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.)	48	44	40	57	54	43	68	66	60	56	43	71	64
Corn silked	2	1	0	8	7	1	37	13	6	11	n.a.	43	20
Soybeans Blooming	16	3	17	15	26	26	29	54	35	28	13	46	37
Oats headed	59	84	95	96	97	89	98	100	97	91	81	100	97
Second cutting hay	65	66	79	69	54	72	82	96	75	73	53	62	61

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.M.: Some minor wind damage to corn last weekend but the accompanying 2.0-3.0 inches of rain really gave a boost to the corn and soybeans.

WASHBURN-T.F./E.M.: Corn in light soil is in need of rain.

ASHLAND-C.B.: Hot weather this last week has really helped the corn and beans. Small grains also look good so far.

CLARK-J.B.: Crops look good. Quality good, low yield on second cutting hay. Producers are cutting pastures to get rid of weeds.

FLORENCE-T.B.: Dry Dry Dry!!! We have finally gotten the heat we need but we haven't had a significant rain since mid June. All crops at this point are showing stress and possible loss in production if we don't get a good rain soon.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Could really use some moisture. It's getting dry on the sandy, lighter soils, and with the heat wave the corn is starting to show stress. Winter wheat is turning fast and the start of harvest is getting close. Second crop hay is wrapping up with average yields.

DUNN-S.S.: Getting rain today. Corn and soybeans were showing stress before the rain.

MONROE-P.B.: Winter wheat is standing fairly good and is ripening quickly.

PORTAGE-J.B.: The green pea harvest this year is low. Looking at 4,000 lbs per acre. The snap bean harvest also looking low. Cool, wet spring and then heat was hard on those crops as plants are small. Corn and soybeans are coming along well, but need a lot of good weather. Sweet corn is very late this year but now coming along. Second crop hay coming off but no drying weather with all the humidity.

BROWN-B.S.: Wheat is short.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: With the warmth the past week, the crops are really growing. Corn has really shot up. Most of it doesn't look too bad, but there still are fields that are uneven, showing signs of nitrogen deficiency. Some producers were having nitrogen tests performed on their soil to determine if additional nitrogen is needed. Local applicators have been busy doing just that this week. Other corn fields that do not show nitrogen deficiency are looking very good and are not that far from tasseling. Obviously, it will take longer for some of the later planted and replanted corn to get to this point, but even that corn is growing fast too. Some rain would be welcome at this point, however. The warm temperatures have been removing moisture from the soil. Soybeans have been growing, but are behind as most crops are this year. Herbicide application has begun on the beans to get rid of

the weeds. Second crop hay harvest is moving along. The hay is maturing faster now with the heat and humidity. A lot of the remaining hay will be taken off this week. Yields have been average to slightly better than average this year. The winter wheat is really turning now, but the harvest has not yet started. Oats are looking good, but they really have not started to turn. Harvest of this crop is still a few weeks away.

LAFAYETTE-M.Y.: Small grain harvest began over the weekend. No yields reported yet. The storm on July 11 that went through with 75 mph winds took down a number of corn fields, however they have rebounded amazingly for the most part. Oat fields did not fare as well.

SAUK-J.P.: Corn made remarkable progress since Independence Day. Raspberries are big and plentiful. Some tomatoes starting to turn. Weeds seem to be under control.

DANE-D.R.: We need moisture. Lawns turning brown.

ROCK-C.O.: Wind on July 11 flattened most of the corn and it has come back, but with a considerable gooseneck. The rainfall was minimal, so this week's heat will cause severe yield loss. Wheat is just not ready, but the heat should bring it along. Soybeans are showing signs of drought stress and yield loss is occurring. Sure not like last year.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Extremely dry. Corn will silk this week. Farmers very worried. No forecast of rain.

WASHINGTON-J.N.: Spraying beans. Most corn is excellent, but needs rain.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 17, 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 16	Mar. 1 to July 16 normal*	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	79	63	89	52	71	0	1253	1235	2.77	10.28	3.98	20.78	4.16
Green Bay	81	64	88	56	73	3	1135	1127	0.28	6.84	1.62	21.55	6.79
La Crosse	81	65	88	56	73	-1	1409	1393	2.06	10.69	4.48	23.77	6.67
Madison	84	64	89	53	74	2	1356	1359	0.12	3.79	-2.32	15.63	-1.93
Milwaukee	82	66	91	61	74	2	1143	n.a.	1.04	4.53	-0.92	20.19	1.84

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.