



Wisconsin Crop Progress

July 25, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 16

Hot and Humid

Above normal temperatures this past week put stress on crops that were short on moisture. Statewide, farmers had 5.1 suitable days for fieldwork. All crops received ample heat to aid in growth; however, some reporters stated that too much heat has held crops at a stand-still for growth. A Dane County reporter noted that extreme heat may reduce fertilization. Many southern and eastern counties remained dry as precipitation was spotty, but western counties received a fair amount of moisture to keep up with the heat. The Madison and Milwaukee reporting stations recorded below normal precipitation for the year.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 8 to 11 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 90 to 92 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 69 to 75 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.18 inches in Green Bay to 2.18 inches in Eau Claire. Growing degree days reached above normal at all reporting stations. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

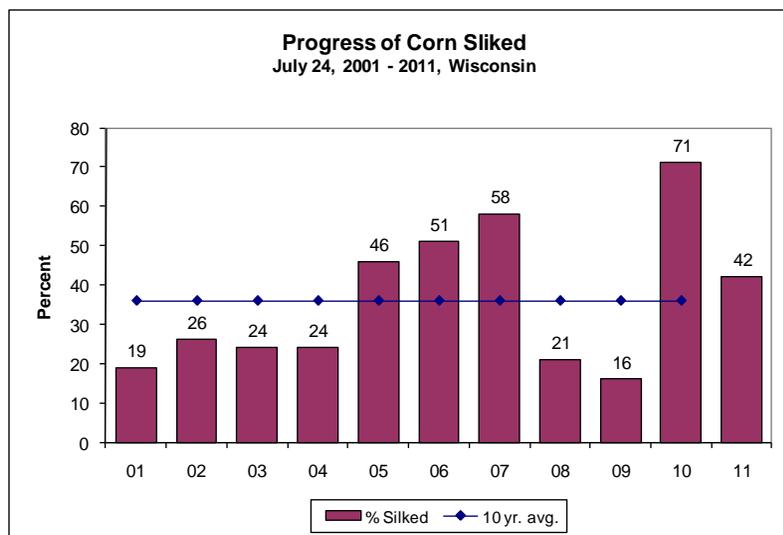
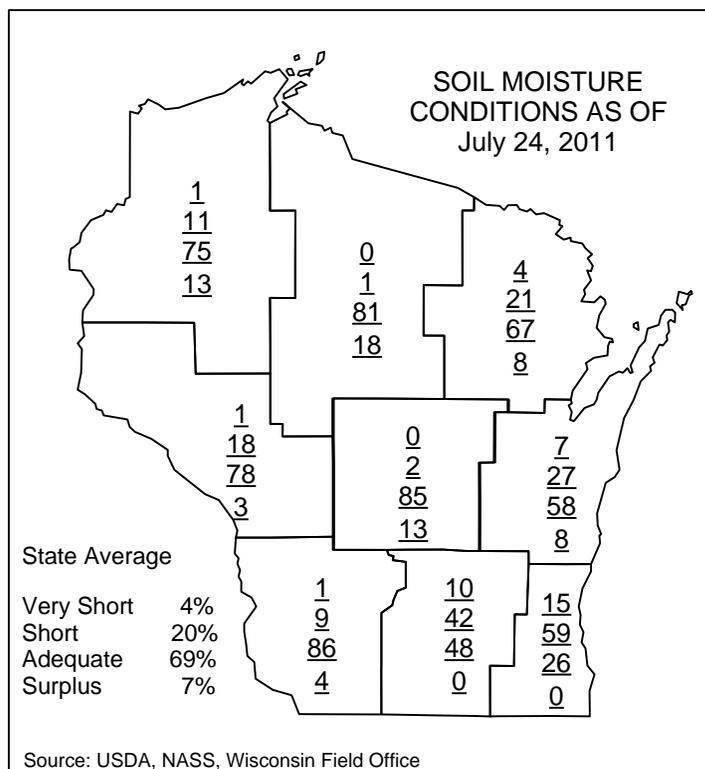
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn made great strides with the hot, humid weather, catching up after the slow start in the Spring. Strong storms with high winds and moderate rainfalls continue to hit corn fields, with most recent reports in Waupaca, Portage, Brown, Manitowoc, Clark, La Crosse and Shawano counties. Most corn fields seem to have recovered from being flattened and returned to the vertical position in time to tassel. Statewide, corn was at 42 percent silked, compared to 71 percent last year. Statewide, corn height averaged 69 inches. A Kewaunee County reporter noted some corn was only a little over knee high in height.

Soybeans were growing well with 55 percent blooming, statewide. Soybeans were showing signs of stress due to weather conditions. A Dunn County reporter commented that the crop was way behind schedule and most fields have a long way to go if they are to make it to maturity. There has been some planting of soybeans after wheat in Green County.

Higher humidity made it more difficult to produce dry second or third crop **hay**. In Chippewa County second crop hay yields were above average and third crop was looking great. Second crop hay harvest was at 86 percent complete. A few producers were already harvesting third crop hay.

Statewide **oats** were at 97 percent headed, with some oats just starting to change color. **Winter wheat** harvest was underway in several counties.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 24, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	1	5	18	52	24
Soybean	2	4	18	54	22
Oat	1	3	16	63	17
Winter Wheat	1	3	15	52	29
Pasture	1	7	29	57	6

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.)	67	63	53	71	66	54	80	78	69	69	56	78	72
Corn silked	35	30	8	47	40	14	74	49	52	42	11	71	43
Soybeans Blooming	48	44	42	47	62	43	54	72	55	55	28	62	57
Soybeans Setting Pods	3	1	1	8	11	4	4	10	11	7	n.a.	18	17
Oats harvested for grain	1	0	0	3	1	1	22	12	25	6	2	23	12
Second cutting hay	79	86	87	85	70	83	93	98	92	86	73	73	76

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.

BURNETT-J.D.: Some corn damage due to rain.
RUSK-M.K.: Corn has made great strides in this heat to catch up after the late slow start.
ONEIDA-P.L.: Second crop is looking very good, especially the alfalfa. I haven't seen anyone making second crop yet. A lot of first crop hay was made during the extreme heat. The corn seems a little short, but is really growing. The fields that are tasseling will be pretty well set for growth where they are now. We got 0.5 inches of scattered showers again this week and it sure was what was needed especially with the corn, alfalfa, and potatoes. The crops planted east and west seemed to fare better in the wind than the crops planted north and south. I think most of the corn was able to stand back up again. This was because much of it was still growing at the time and not tasseling. Some blueberries are beginning to ripen.
VILAS-R.K.: Potatoes are coming on strong. Rain was needed. Some oats were flattened by the storms intensity but should still be harvestable.
FOREST-L.O.: Areas of small grain fields flattened due to strong winds and rain.
LANGLADE-A.K.: Good quality and quantity for second crop hay.
EAU CLAIRE-D.J.: Corn looks very good.
ST CROIX-R.F.: Fortunately most of the county received a couple inches of rain before the hot, sticky weather set in. Corn and soybean growth advanced significantly. Most crops seemed to get through last week in good condition. Some producers are harvesting their third cutting of hay. Lots of corn has tasseled, but still some to go. Most oats are turning color. Overall, crops are looking nice.
JUNEAU-J.W.: Despite the extreme heat, corn and soybeans did very well. Spotty rains provided just enough moisture to get through the week. There was a storm over the weekend that provided a much needed shot of moisture with up close to 1.0 inches received in some areas. All crops are looking good. Winter wheat harvest is under way and yields and test weights are good.
WOOD-M.L.: Flooding occurred in the northern portion of the county beginning Tuesday night. The southern part of the county received half an inch or less from the same thunder storm.
FOND DU LAC-M.R.: Several rain events have kept crops in decent shape during intense heat. Winter wheat harvest has begun with many yield totals in the 80-100 bushels/acre range. Third cutting had been slow to come back, but recent rain should help.

WINNEBAGO-S.E.: Wheat starting to be harvested in this area. Average crops. Rain has corn and beans looking good. Spraying is done.
CRAWFORD-J.B.: Quality and yield of second crop hay normal. Overall crop looked very good, weed and crop disease seems to have been controlled. So far so good and cross our fingers, no storm damage. Today (Friday, July 22, 2011) the county is receiving a nice rain. In the northern third of the county, vegetable and fruit crops are also doing well.
DODGE-R.H.: Winter wheat is yielding around 75 - 85 bushels/acre, and will test as good too.
GREEN-J.T.: The corn was flattened or bent by the July 11 storm across the county. Some fields were flatter than the hay or beans growing next to them. Most is goosenecking up and has tasseled unevenly. It will still make a crop, but some doesn't look good. The heat and dry weather also took a toll on the crops this week. Curled leaves and firing have occurred on the shallow soils. 1.0 – 2.0 inches of rain on Friday, July 22 will help. The small grain stood amazingly well through the wind that flattened the corn. Winter wheat yields have been 65-93 bushels/acre with good straw yields. There has been some planting of soybeans after wheat. A few started third crop hay this week.
WALWORTH-E.M.: Extreme heat--crop stress. Rain on Friday-- 2.0 to 4.0 inches along IL/WI areas. Wind damage of leaning corn on state line. Wheat harvest, yields are 70-80 bushels/acre.
WAUKESHA-R.F.: Need rain bad.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 24, 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 23	Mar. 1 to July 23 normal*	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	90	69	96	62	80	8	1443	1387	2.18	12.46	5.30	22.96	5.57
Green Bay	90	70	95	62	80	10	1330	1272	0.18	7.02	1.08	21.73	6.21
La Crosse	92	75	98	69	84	10	1623	1560	1.33	12.02	4.87	25.10	7.05
Madison	92	73	97	69	83	11	1564	1518	0.34	4.13	-2.87	15.97	-2.38
Milwaukee	91	73	98	71	82	10	1352	n.a.	0.82	5.35	-0.87	21.01	1.91

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.