



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

September 19, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 24

## Early Frost Hard for Some

Hard frost brought an early halt to the growing season in parts of northern Wisconsin on September 14, 15 and 16. The low for the week was 29 degrees at the Eau Claire weather station, with reports of temperatures in the 20's from Barron, Rusk, Washburn, Oneida and Florence Counties. Elsewhere in the state the frost was patchy and localized, and reports of crop damage varied. While spared a killing freeze, crops in southern Wisconsin were still contending with moisture shortages. Four of the five weather stations reported 0.00 inches precipitation for the week, exacerbating ongoing dry conditions. There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 3 to 5 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 69 to 70 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 44 to 52 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Madison, Milwaukee, La Crosse and Green Bay to 0.01 inches in Eau Claire. Growing degree days for corn remain above normal for all reporting stations. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

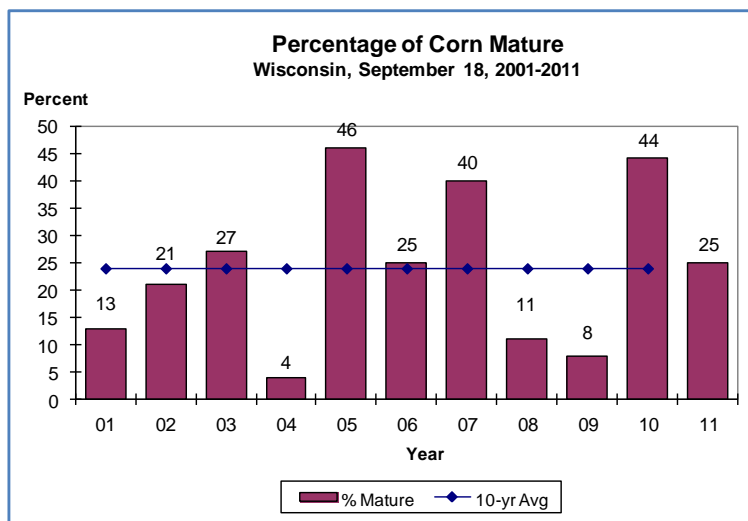
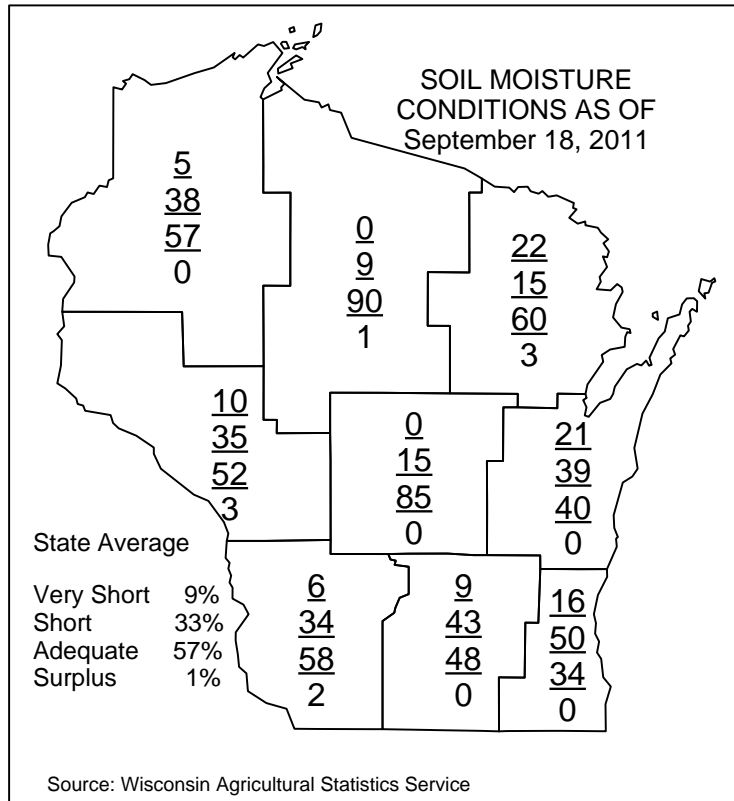
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

**Corn** was 98 percent in dough stage, 80 percent dented and 25 percent mature this week. Corn in some areas has stopped developing either due to frost or dry conditions. Corn **silage** was 38 percent harvested. Farmers in many areas are spreading manure on fields where silage has been cleared.

Statewide, 70 percent of **soybeans** had leaves turning color, with 24 percent dropping leaves. Late-planted soybeans were hardest hit by the frost, and there were reports of soybeans damaged in low lying areas across the state.

Third crop **hay** was 98 percent harvested, and the fourth crop harvest was 66 percent complete. Lack of moisture has adversely impacted yields in some areas.

The **apple** harvest continued across the state with quantity and quality looking good. Sunny days and cool temperature helped the **cranberries** ripen, with harvest in Oneida County expected to begin in the next week or so. **Potatoes** were being harvested across the state, though dry areas could use rain to soften the soil. **Winter squash** and **pumpkins** were beginning to appear at roadside stands. A reporter in Outagamie County noted that a soil-borne virus has damaged the squash crop there.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 18, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	2	7	17	47	27
Soybean	2	5	18	49	26
Pasture	5	22	32	38	3

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
Corn silage harvested	28	20	27	40	46	27	57	51	57	38	16	62	40
Corn in dough stage	98	100	91	98	98	92	100	99	98	98	94	99	95
Corn in dent stage	69	78	71	82	80	62	87	89	83	80	66	92	78
Corn mature	26	14	21	28	21	11	12	41	34	25	10	44	26
Soybean leaves turning	70	80	66	70	76	54	73	70	84	70	38	83	78
Soybean leaves dropping	21	36	23	23	14	18	17	28	38	24	6	46	38
Third cutting hay	94	99	100	98	99	98	100	95	100	98	96	95	96
Fourth cutting hay	58	68	79	56	63	63	72	75	74	66	46	53	40

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.:** Light frost this past week.  
**WASHBURN-P.H.:** Dry weather had dried corn from the bottom up and now the frost (28.8 degrees) killed the top. Frost also took care of the soybean leaves. Most corn was far enough along that yields will not be impacted much. Some soybeans had dropped most of their leaves and won't be hurt much. Some soybeans were fairly green yet though.  
**CLARK-A.K.:** Corn and soybeans are progressing very well. Fourth cutting hay had very good quality, but quantity was short.  
**ONEIDA-B.E.:** Average to below average temperatures this past week, with highs only reaching the low 60's, and lows down into the low 20's on several nights. Many nights of sprinkler irrigation to protect from frost, but the cooler temperatures and sunny days are helping the cranberries ripen. Soil and plant tissue samples sent in this past week, and fruit samples will be sent in this week. Expect to begin harvest sometime between September 26 and October 1.  
**FLORENCE-T.B.:** Three nights of frost (two nights in low to mid 20's) has stopped corn crop. No tillage being done or fall crops being planted because it is too dry for anything to grow.  
**BUFFALO-R.S.:** Frost came, but not a total kill. Four-tenths inch rain for the week. Corn and beans matured a lot with the hot weather this week. Corn silage harvest is happening but moistures are pretty high - 60-70 percent. Tree leaves starting to turn color. A lot of fourth crop hay made this week. Tilling some ground for winter wheat and finding no soil moisture in the top 7.0 inches - it's dry  
**JACKSON-J.D.:** Probably 60 percent of the corn and beans had frost damage or a killing frost last Thursday morning.  
**MONROE-P.B.:** Winter wheat planting has begun. A great week for corn silage harvest.  
**MARQUETTE-D.B.:** Wide spread frost stopped the growing season. Potatoes going into storage now.  
**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** Frost on grass and rooftops Thursday and Friday morning nothing major. 30-31 degrees. Some sweet corn still being harvested. Fall potato harvest underway  
**CALUMET-B.L.:** Finally 12 hours of a slow soaking rain!!!. This will stop field work for a day but will soak in nicely. Corn silage harvest will be in full gear this week. Winter wheat planted on the earlier chopped corn silage will benefit from the soaking rain. Fourth cutting is about over except for the later October cuttings. I see more small spots where corn was lodged when the choppers have passed through, but most is standing very well. Soybeans are turning and leaves are dropping. Pod fill seems quite variable due to moisture stress. Pumpkins and apples are showing up by the roadsides so the growing season is coming

to a close.  
**SHEBOYGAN-M.B.:** Dry weather is probably going to limit corn and bean yields a bit. Need rain to establish winter wheat.  
**CRAWFORD-J.B.:** Apples are doing well, however they did suffer more than normal drop during the hot weather. Chopping corn silage has been going on for the last couple of weeks and seems to be winding down with normal production. It seems to have been a pretty good year for the organic vegetable growers as there was no severe or adverse weather during the growing or harvest season. Some minor frost was present Thursday morning. It would be nice to have a few more weeks of nice weather so the corn for grain and soybeans could mature. Some fall tillage is taking place.  
**GRANT-G.M.:** Soybean harvest has started in the area.  
**DODGE-R.H.:** Corn tested for moisture was at 35 percent.  
**GREEN-M.M.:** Some corn fields with short season varieties have reached black layer, but the majority of fields are still about ten days from reaching full maturity. Corn silage harvest has been going strong over the last week with good yields. Most soybean fields are around the R6.5 with leaves turning. Temps got down to 27 degrees in a few low lying fields in the northern portion of the county last week that ended the growing season for some beans.  
**WALWORTH-N.W.:** Corn silage harvest is wrapping up. Soybeans are starting to drop leaves.  
**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** Too dusty to work in the fields. Hay land is very dry. Corn and soybeans need rain very, very bad. No pasture now, nothing there. It is totally dried up. We have to do all feeding inside at 82 degrees. Don't remember ever having no pasture left at this time of the year.



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 Director

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 18, 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 Sep. 17	Mar. 1 to Sep. 17 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	70	44	89	29	57	-4	2484	2320	0.01	0.33	-2.02	27.82	2.30
Green Bay	69	44	84	36	56	-4	2345	2182	0.00	1.35	-0.60	28.18	6.00
La Crosse	70	48	88	35	59	-5	2768	2609	0.00	0.99	-1.16	29.10	3.35
Madison	70	45	84	36	58	-4	2660	2550	0.00	1.06	-0.97	21.36	-4.37
Milwaukee	70	52	87	40	61	-3	2518	n.a.	0.00	0.51	-1.53	23.80	-2.35

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.