



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

April 23, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 3

## Rain and Snow Slow Fieldwork

This week brought much-needed rain across the state, with some snow reported in Northern Wisconsin. Alfalfa, oats and winter wheat benefited from additional moisture, but fieldwork was slowed by the wet weather. A series of frosty nights continued to impact tender fruit crops. Reporters noted that it is too early to evaluate the full extent of damage to berry and vine crops. Further damage to blossoming fruit trees was reported in some areas and producers remained concerned about possible frosts in upcoming weeks. The average last frost dates for Wisconsin range from April 26 in the southeast to June 6 along Lake Superior and the Michigan border. There were 3.4 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1 to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 58 to 62 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 36 to 41 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 1.49 inches in Madison to 2.25 inches in La Crosse. 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/>

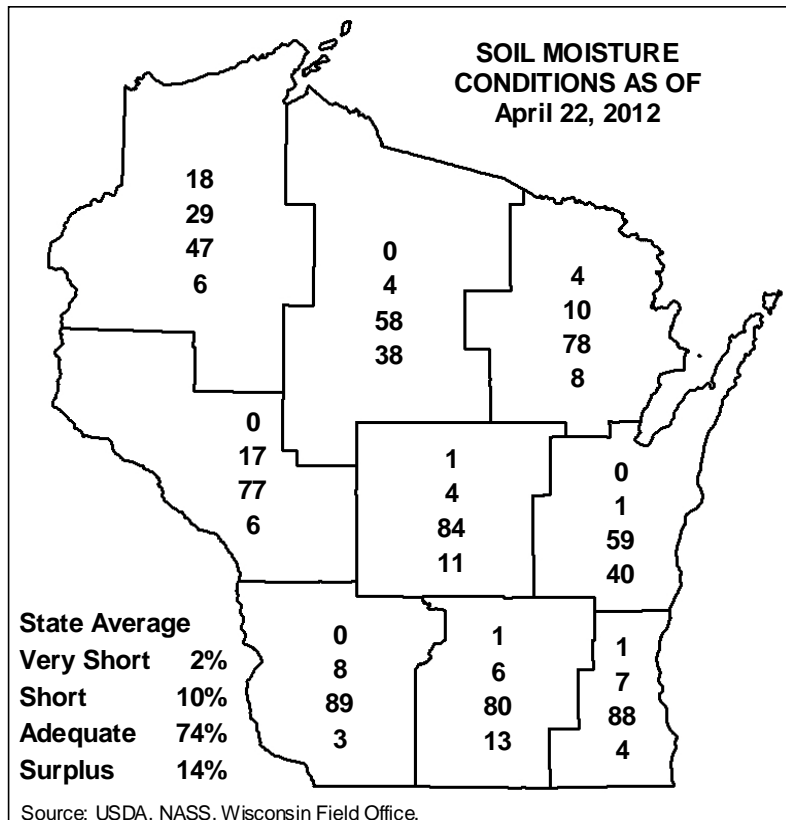
Statewide, **corn** was 6 percent planted this week, only 2 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Cold, wet soil conditions reportedly kept planters out of fields.

**Oats** were 60 percent planted and 21 percent emerged this week, with development continuing well ahead of average.

**Spring tillage** was at 44 percent complete. Snow and rain slowed tillage and planting, but the moisture alleviated dry soil conditions.

**Hay and alfalfa** greened up with added moisture, and many reporters noted fields were bouncing back after the frosts and freezes of the past few weeks. First crop hay was reportedly being cut in Iowa and Green Counties, and development remains ahead of normal across the state.

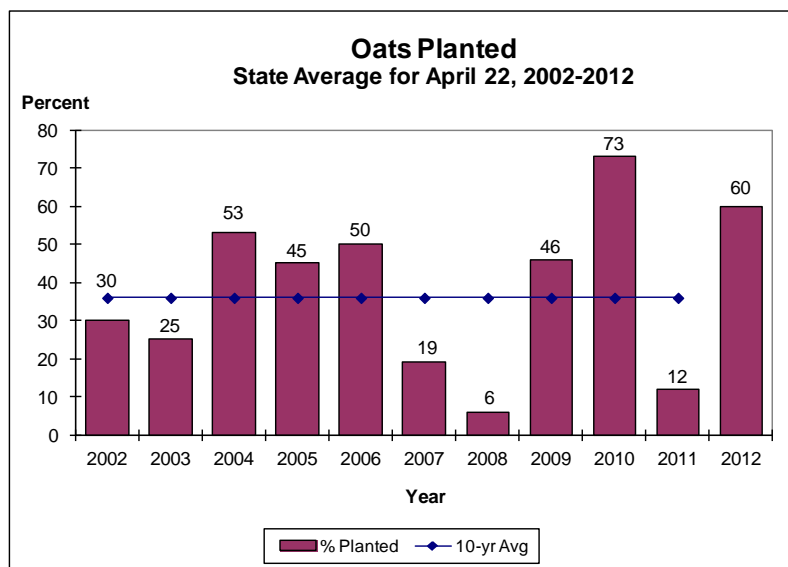
**Winter wheat** growth was widely reported to have slowed due to frosts and freezes, though winterkill remains minimal. Early **peas** were being planted in Trempealeau County. **Potato** planting continued in Oneida, Dunn, Portage, Waupaca and Dane Counties. Reported damage to **apple, cherry, pear** and **plum** blossoms varied statewide. Damage to **strawberries** was reported in Waupaca, Dane, Dodge and Washington Counties. Concern for early growth in **asparagus** was noted in Oconto and Waukesha Counties.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 22, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	5	35	49	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
Corn planted	2	1	1	2	5	3	12	7	13	6	2	0	4
Oats planted	49	31	52	71	60	57	76	84	64	60	48	12	31
Oats emerged	2	3	9	18	10	14	45	41	25	21	10	0	6
Spring tillage	36	30	28	55	42	25	64	52	36	44	32	7	20

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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## 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-T.P.:** A nice rain slowed field work progress. Some small grain fields have emerged. Alfalfa remains at least two weeks ahead of normal.

**WASHBURN-R.H.:** Some frost damage to fruit trees. Cherries are ok. Wild plums were frost bit. We had 2.5 to 3.0 inches of snow. Slowed down field work, but we needed the moisture. Fire ban west of hwy 53. Grapes are slow this year. Some grapes are budding.

**ONEIDA-P.L.:** We are seeing little evidence of winterkill in the alfalfa and winter wheat this year. Weather has been very good for spring tillage and planting. We have nice day temps in the fifties, but cold night temps down in the twenties. Farmers are really excited to get crops in but are waiting for the weather to warm up a little more. We only got 0.75 inch of rain and the evaporation/transpiration rate has been great due to the plant growth and wind with low humidity. We will need some more moisture or we will be going backward quickly. I think potato planting will take off this week in real earnest with the idea that they can irrigate if needed to get things off to a good start.

**TAYLOR-D.E.:** Have not had any reports on fruit tree damage to date. No reports on winterkill. Manure pits are being emptied. Fields are drying out.

**SHAWANO-J.N.:** A few acres of corn went in on the lighter sandier soil in the past week. Last Thursday we had 1.5 inches of rain and 2.0 inches of snow, this has slowed things down. Manure is being hauled, preplant herbicides are being put down. Alfalfa is starting to come back nicely after the March green up and the April freeze.

**LACROSSE-I.H.:** Unable to detect any winterkill of alfalfa or winter wheat, however there was frost in low lying spots this week, which may have set some crops, back a bit. Rain was the norm for most of the week, culminating with over 2.0 inches on Friday. This left little time to work in the fields as they were very wet.

**PIERCE-G.A.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat look excellent even with multiple frosts that occurred after dormancy break. The apple growers and other tree fruit growers are very concerned that the buds were frost damaged.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Frosty mornings and 1.3 inches of rain slowed progress this week. Manure hauling and tillage were major activities. Alfalfa and winter wheat look good. Potato planting going slow, very cool mornings. Most of fruit trees have flowered, except apples, early flowered trees will probably not bear fruit this season, multiple hard freezes.

**WAUPACA-L.B.:** Some frost damage on strawberry crop. Questioning damage to raspberries at this time.

**FOND DU LAC-B.P.:** Things are ok. We are waiting for warm weather. No worries about drought anymore.

**OUTAGAMIE-D.F.:** Growth of alfalfa has slowed down, the frosty mornings have nipped the top leaves of the new growth but has not damaged the plant any. The same with the winter wheat, but being a grass it likes cool temps and is still coming along. The rains this week are much needed and kept the corn planters in the sheds until warmer temps come back.

**CRAWFORD-J.B.:** Average temperatures returned to the area. It appears minimal freeze damage may have occurred in older alfalfa fields. Much spring tillage has been completed. Farmers are getting ready to plant corn as soon as the ground temperatures warm up and weather breaks. Apples are in full bloom and so far it does not appear any major freeze damage has occurred. However, other blooming fruit trees like cherries and pears may have received some freeze damage; grapes may also have received minimal damage. I believe early vegetable crops have been planted and are holding their own.

**IOWA-K.M.:** Producers continue to work in the fields. Some planting corn. A few people cutting first crop hay.

**GREEN-D.M.:** Did see some evidence of tips of alfalfa and winter wheat being hit by frost in the area.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Not much tillage done last week as the ground is too wet. Some started planting corn; however, dryer ground needs to come before it will start. Wheat is not the dark green I would normally see as the repeated frosty mornings are taking their toll. Alfalfa is already a foot tall and some are planning to start harvest this week.

**KENOSHA-R.R.:** Some fields have one pass of tillage done, hoping that heavy rains would soften lumps. Some have corn in, others are waiting. Winter wheat is about 8.0 inches tall.

**WALWORTH-N.W.:** Alfalfa got off to a quick start with the warm weather in March. Some producers are talking about cutting first crop. Winter wheat also looks good. Apple producers are reporting damage due to frost and the early start to the growing season. Some corn has been planted with good tillage to the soil.



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Director

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 April 22, 2012

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 Apr. 22	Mar. 1 to Apr. 22 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	59	36	76	26	47	1	320	80	1.57	4.39	0.61	6.77	1.13
Green Bay	59	38	73	31	48	3	269	70	1.70	4.10	0.27	6.62	0.55
La Crosse	62	40	76	30	51	2	374	107	2.25	4.31	0.05	6.83	0.39
Madison	60	39	73	29	50	4	370	111	1.49	4.47	-0.13	6.90	-0.21
Milwaukee	58	41	74	33	50	4	279	n.a.	1.93	5.16	-0.10	8.01	-0.69

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.