



Wisconsin Crop Progress

May 7, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 5

Severe Weather Slows Planting

Severe thunderstorms brought heavy rain to much of Wisconsin this week, with hail and high winds affecting some areas. Localized flooding damaged homes and prompted road closures in Winnebago, Calumet and Manitowoc Counties on May 3rd. Reporters across the state noted water standing in fields, and commented that a few days of dry weather will be necessary before fieldwork can resume. Significant soil erosion to tilled fields was reported where rains were heaviest. Hail damage to hay and small grains was reported in Buffalo, Trempealeau and Jackson Counties. There were 2.7 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 4 to 7 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 64 to 69 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 45 to 51 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.45 inches in Milwaukee to 2.01 inches in Eau Claire. 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 34 percent planted this week. Days of rain kept farmers out of fields, and may force some to replant washed out or flooded areas. Reporters in southern Wisconsin noted early corn beginning to emerge.

Soybeans were 5 percent planted, in line with the 5-year average.

Oats were 86 percent planted and 51 percent emerged this week. Damage from flooding and hail was a concern in the central parts of the state.

First cutting hay was 1 percent harvested this week, compared to 0 percent last year. The 5-year average start date for the first crop is May 20th. Wet field conditions halted haying just as it was starting to gear up. Reporters in northern Wisconsin noted that April's frosts will impact the yield and quality of the first crop.

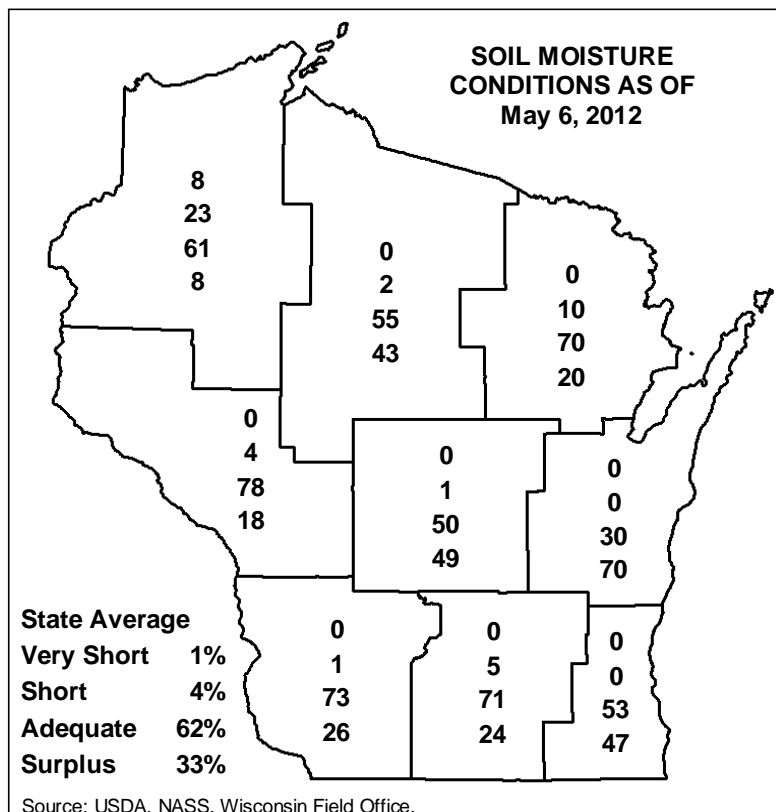
Spring tillage rose to 67 percent complete.

Winter wheat reportedly benefited from additional moisture in many areas, though frost and hail damage have taken their toll in some parts of the state.

Potatoes were being planted in Oneida and Langlade Counties, and starting to emerge with the rain.

Cranberry vines are reportedly budding in Oneida County. A reporter from Door County noted that the tart **cherry** crop was predicted to be very light due to freeze damage, though the sweet cherry crop was not as hard hit. Frost damage to the **apple** crop was reportedly being monitored across the state.

Strawberries have reportedly started blooming in Dane County. Frost damage to **ginseng** was reported in Marathon County.

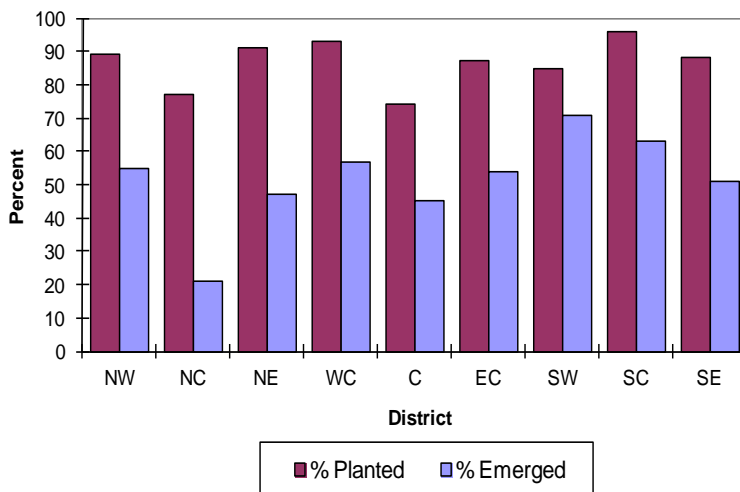


Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 6, 2012

| Item | V.-poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---------|---------|------|------|------|-----------|
| | Percent | | | | |
| Pasture | 0 | 3 | 27 | 58 | 12 |
| Oats | 0 | 1 | 12 | 73 | 14 |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Oats Planted and Emerged Wisconsin by District, May 6, 2012



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 6, 2012

| 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 | 33 | 22 | 18 | 45 | 31 | 13 | 44 | 36 | 49 | 34 | 18 | 14 | 30 |
| Soybeans planted | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Oats planted | 89 | 77 | 91 | 93 | 74 | 87 | 85 | 96 | 88 | 86 | 80 | 27 | 62 |
| Oats emerged | 55 | 21 | 47 | 57 | 45 | 54 | 71 | 63 | 51 | 51 | 39 | 8 | 31 |
| Spring tillage | 60 | 65 | 65 | 81 | 60 | 49 | 78 | 70 | 60 | 67 | 58 | 26 | 47 |

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.: May 2nd and 3rd we got 1.7 inches of rain.
POLK-A.M.: Nice rains received this week. Alfalfa crop is growing well. Some producers anticipate first cutting in the next 2-3 weeks. Reports of a few producers completely done planting. Ahead of schedule with this nice weather.
ASHLAND-C.B.: Not very much activity in the past couple of weeks. Light rains part of the week, however topsoil moisture is still short through much of the area.
MARATHON-S.N.: Spring tillage is nearly complete. The clay soils in SW Marathon County have dried out enough to be worked. Ginseng popped through the beds with the warm weather in April. Frost damage reported in ginseng as temperatures dipped to 21 degrees in April as well. The county received 2.5 inches of rain this week. Corn planting and some soybean planting underway.
FLORENCE-T.B.: Still not much activity in the area. We did get much needed moisture the past week and temperatures have been more towards normal. Would expect to see more activity in the fields now that soils have moisture and have warmed up. Pastures are starting to improve but most are still concerned with how slow forages are growing.
ST CROIX-D.K.: With the rain we have gotten and the warm weather the hay has started to really take off now.
TREMPEALEAU-C.O.: A severe storm with high winds, hail and heavy rains affected the county this week. Low lying fields were subject to flooding and significant field erosion occurred. Some hay and oat fields were damaged from the hail.
WAUPACA-D.H.: Rainfall totals of 2.5 up to 5.5 inches were received this past week. The heavy rains did wash out some areas in recently planted fields. Wet conditions will require some time to dry out before planting may resume.
WAUSHARA-K.W.: Rained 0.7 inches on May 2, 3.4 inches on May 3, 0.3 inches May 5, 0.9 inches May 6. Total 5.3 inches. Wet.
KEWAUNEE-T.S.: This past week was a very wet one and did not allow much field work to be done. Quite a bit of corn went into the ground last weekend as conditions were nearly perfect. After that, the rains came and all work came to a halt. A lot of rain fell, with amounts in this area ranging from 1.8 inches to 2.0 inches. For the crops that were just planted and did not emerge yet, there will be some concern for a crust forming on the soil, especially in those areas where clay is the major soil type. Those crops on sandy soils should be fine. The heavy rain may cause some replanting to take place, but this will not be known for a week or two. The alfalfa is still growing and is showing signs of stress because of the repeated frosts that came in the

past few weeks. The older stands are looking short and are not as dense as the newer stands. These plants may come around yet, but warmer weather will be needed to fully assess any frost related damage. The newer stands have been better able to withstand the cold. These fields are looking okay. There are a lot of fields with dandelions. The more of these plants you see, the weaker the stand of alfalfa. Scissor clippings are going to be starting this week in this area to let producers know how the alfalfa crop is progressing and how long it may be until the first crop should be cut and harvested. Dry and warmer weather will be needed for the spring work to continue.
MANITOWOC-M.R.: Four plus inches of rain this week has brought everything to a standstill. It will probably be a week to 10 days until we dry out enough to even think about going in the fields again.
RICHLAND-J.C.: There was not a lot of opportunity to get in the field last week. We need some dry weather and sun to get the corn and soybeans in the fields and off to a good start.
SAUK-J.P.: Too wet for anything.
GREEN-M.M.: Winter wheat started to head out on April 30th. Alfalfa has grown rapidly in height due to warm weather. A few fields cut last week and 1st cutting will be in full swing this week if weather allows as fields have reached late bud stage and weevils are abundant in many fields. Corn planting about 65 percent done and some beans already planted.
OZAUKEE-K.A.: Some corn planted and oats and wheat looking good, nice dark green color. Alfalfa fields are looking better, thanks to a little warmer weather and sun light.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 6, 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 May 6 | Mar. 1 to May 6 normal* | Last Week | Since Mar. 1 | Mar. 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Eau Claire | 69 | 48 | 81 | 36 | 59 | 7 | 433 | 171 | 2.01 | 6.47 | 1.21 | 8.85 | 1.72 |
| Green Bay | 65 | 45 | 80 | 29 | 55 | 4 | 351 | 139 | 2.00 | 6.20 | 1.20 | 8.72 | 1.52 |
| La Crosse | 68 | 51 | 83 | 37 | 60 | 5 | 496 | 211 | 1.32 | 5.98 | 0.06 | 8.50 | 0.41 |
| Madison | 67 | 49 | 81 | 34 | 58 | 6 | 476 | 208 | 0.94 | 5.78 | -0.36 | 8.22 | -0.43 |
| Milwaukee | 64 | 48 | 83 | 38 | 56 | 5 | 344 | n.a. | 0.45 | 6.10 | -0.83 | 8.95 | -1.45 |

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.