



Wisconsin Crop Progress

May 21, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 7

Ideal Weather for Fieldwork

A dry, sunny week across the state saw tractors rolling as producers worked to till fields, plant crops and harvest hay simultaneously. The heat caused the hay crop to mature quickly, forcing farmers to multitask. Wet soils dried out dramatically, allowing farmers to make good progress on corn, soybean, potato and vegetable planting. However, short soil moisture was becoming a concern in some areas where fieldwork stirred up dust and soil crusting hampered emergence. There were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 5 to 7 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 74 to 81 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 47 to 52 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Eau Claire, Green Bay and La Crosse to 0.07 inches in Milwaukee. 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 83 percent planted and 37 percent emerged this week. Producers in central Wisconsin were replanting corn drowned or washed out by heavy rains.

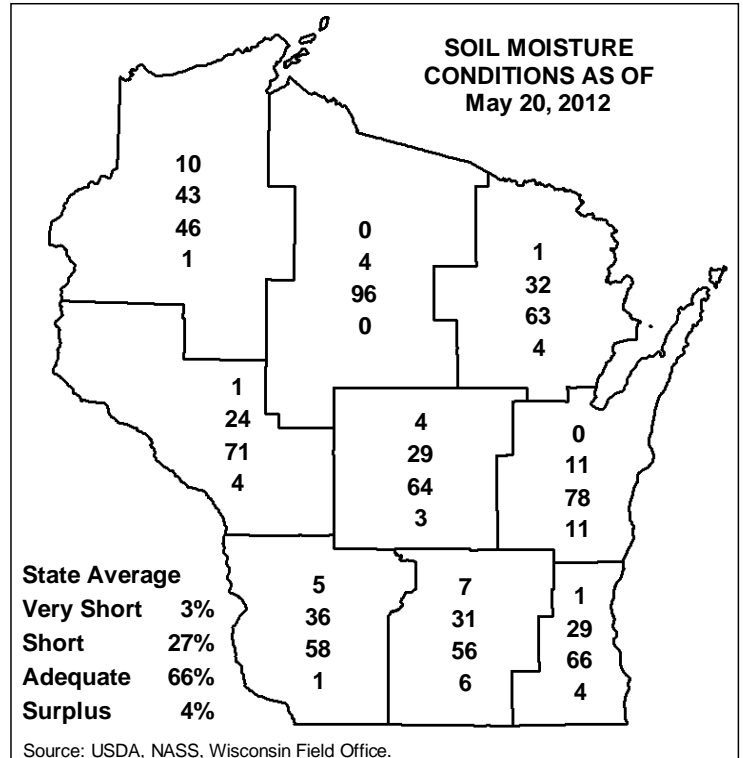
Soybeans were 47 percent planted and 6 percent emerged. A few reporters in Southeast Wisconsin noted soybeans being replanted due to storm damage.

Oats were 89 percent emerged this week, with 85 percent of the crop in good to excellent condition.

First cutting hay was 34 percent harvested this week. Reporters noted that first crop hay quality and yield varied greatly. Some reporters noted that the second crop was starting to grow up through the first crop in frost damaged areas.

Spring tillage rose to 91 percent complete. Farmers were applying liquid manure to cleared hay fields.

Reporters in Fond du Lac, Dane and Waukesha Counties noted **winter wheat** was starting to head out earlier than normal. **Squash and pumpkin** planting was reportedly in full swing in Waupaca County. **Strawberry** plants were blooming this week, with reports of frost impact varying. **Grape** producers were planting vine starts in Vernon County, and grapes across the state reportedly suffered patchy frost damage. Preliminary reports on fruit trees indicated severe frost damage to many crops including **pears, peaches, plums, currants** and **tart cherries**. Reported damage to **apple** trees varied, but was typically less severe than to other fruits.

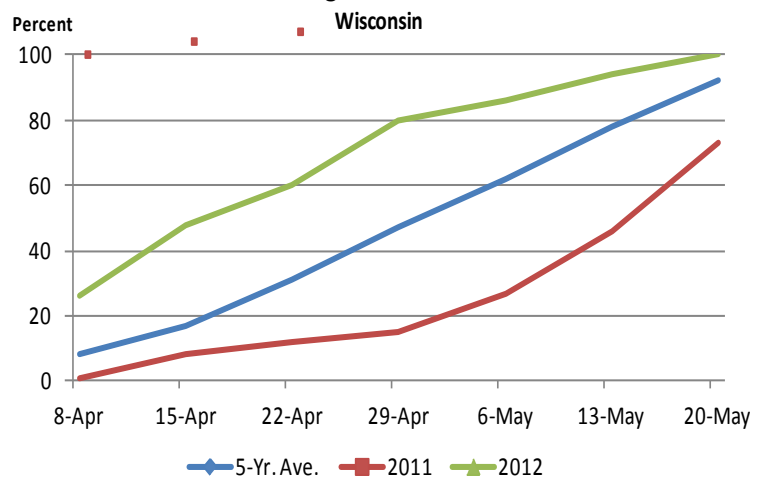


Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 20, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	5	28	56	10
Oats	0	1	14	70	15

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Percentage of Oats Planted



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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	90	89	81	85	83	58	91	86	86	83	57	55	72
Corn emerged	32	24	32	42	35	18	35	49	51	37	13	10	29
Soybeans planted	46	58	37	41	47	28	53	55	51	47	16	20	39
Soybeans emerged	0	3	2	4	15	5	3	12	5	6	n.a.	0	6
Oats emerged	88	81	78	97	84	89	98	97	92	89	72	36	69
First cutting hay	12	10	15	27	14	43	58	61	37	34	9	0	1
Spring tillage	93	93	92	95	90	75	95	95	88	91	79	67	81

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-R.M.: A week ago had water standing and now dry. Cherry trees 20 percent of what is normal is set. Currents are about 30 percent set the rest were frozen.

RUSK-G.P.: Lots of planting this week, ideal conditions. Small grains are done, corn is quickly closing in on being done and soybeans are in full swing. First cutting has started, lots of dandelions and the crop is short and more mature than it looks. Fruit trees have poor fruit set, too many hard frosts.

WASHBURN-R.H.: Looked at apples and cherries, will have some crop, but it won't be a big one. Grapes and raspberries are coming along. Young grapes made it through okay. Noticed some grapes got nipped from cold the other day.

MARATHON-G.M.: Some of the corn fields are going to need rotary hoeing due to crusting.

TAYLOR-D.E.: The break in the weather provided the perfect opportunity to wrap up much of the spring planting. Some soybeans are not planted but most of the balance of crops are done. Received a well needed shower on most areas on Sunday. Hay fields are looking good and some first crop has been harvested, mostly on fields that were to be plowed. Fruit trees in this area are not showing significant loss from the cold weather during flowering. Winter wheat is looking very good.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Planting season is all but done. Spraying and other related activities going on. Hay in our area needs a week to 10 days. Need nice rain, getting quite dry.

OCONTO-N.S.: The week saw a lot of planting activity. Many more acres of corn have emerged now. Just starting to see some hay being cut. Wheat fields continue to look very good, dark green.

PIERCE-G.A.: Due to the early May heavy rains and severe erosion, and surface compaction caused by land rolling and intensive tillage, some re-planting of corn has been done and more is being considered.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Frost damage to apples appears to be spotty. First crop alfalfa harvest is a light crop here, about 1 ton dry matter per acre average. Topsoils dried out dramatically so a rain would be good

MARQUETTE-D.B.: Getting dry, the center pivots are all running now.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Planting is moving ahead full tilt with the drier weather conditions this week. Some oats have yellowed due to excess moisture. A lot of hay has been cut this week.

DOOR-T.S.: Field conditions are excellent for planting and everyone is trying to finish while the conditions last. Hay harvest is occurring and it appears the tonnage is light.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: The warm weather has come. Some oats got flooded out. Corn planting is starting. We need a little rain. Some hay is being cut as needed.

WINNEBAGO-S.E.: Very good planting progress this past week. Early planted corn looks rough. Hay quality looks good.

LAFAYETTE-M.Y.: Some corn planted in late April is being replanted due to the affects of the cold nights. Around 1,000 acres at this point from what I have heard - towards the IL border.

SAUK-C.N.: A beautiful week for planting corn & soybeans. Lots of first crop hay was harvested.

DANE-F.P.: Hay harvest is going along very well.

DODGE-S.B.: Alfalfa yields are approximately 60 percent of normal tonnage. Alfalfa weevil forcing producers to harvest.

WASHINGTON-J.N.: Early planted corn has emerged and is 2 to 3 inches tall now. Top soil is dry and hard. We could use a nice shower of rain.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: A great week to farm! Much corn planted and also soybeans.



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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 May 20, 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 19	Mar. 1 to May 19 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	80	48	91	38	64	6	610	310	0.00	7.41	0.55	9.79	1.13
Green Bay	78	47	89	40	62	6	512	259	0.00	7.01	0.87	9.53	1.18
La Crosse	81	52	91	42	67	7	693	365	0.00	6.78	-0.58	9.30	-0.28
Madison	80	47	90	41	64	7	659	358	0.01	6.84	-0.67	9.27	-0.80
Milwaukee	74	49	85	44	61	5	488	n.a.	0.07	8.78	0.58	11.63	-0.11

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.