



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

July 16, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 15

## Rain Badly Needed

Temperatures remained above average this week, though daytime highs were significantly cooler than in the first week of July. Spotty rain and scattered thunderstorms did little to maintain soil moisture with hail damage reported in Oneida and Shawano Counties. Soil moisture was over 50 percent short in 8 of the nine reporting districts, 95 percent or more short in five districts, and topped 90 percent very short in the Southeast and South-Central districts. Crops were growing well in northern Wisconsin and where irrigation was available, but additional moisture is urgently needed for pollination. Pasture condition ranged from 77 to 100 percent poor to very poor in the five driest districts. Reporters in these areas noted that livestock operations were considering reducing their herds due to lack of forage. The small grain harvest, however, was well underway with good yields reported on winter wheat and rye. Several reporters noted that straw harvested was very clean and of good quality. There were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 3 to 5 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 84 to 90 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 61 to 67 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.01 inches in Madison to 0.74 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/>

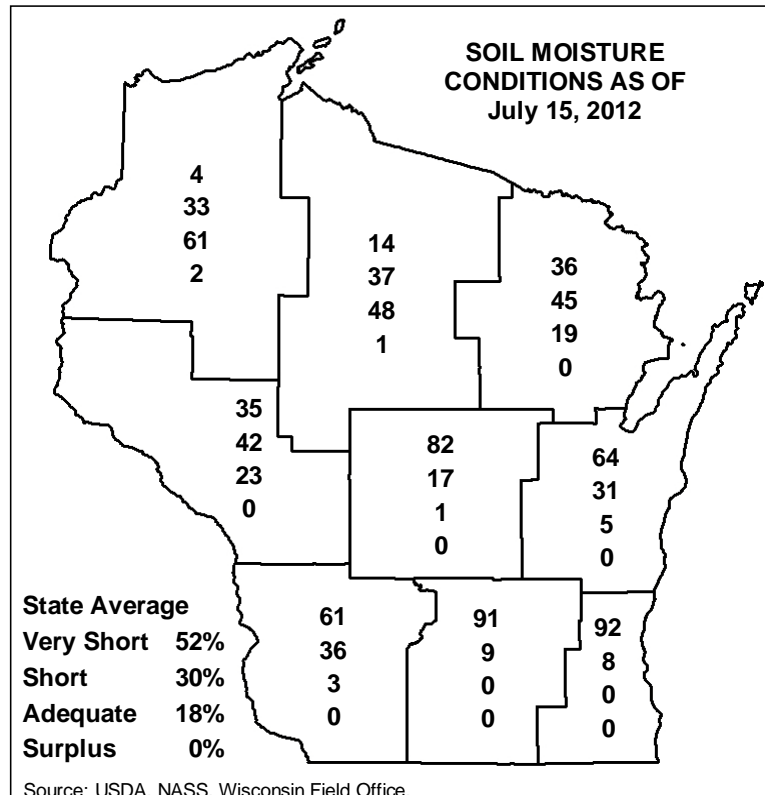
**Corn** was 36 percent silked statewide, with an average height of 63 inches. Reporters from the driest parts of the state commented that some corn was tasseling without producing silks. A reporter from Rock County noted corn being chopped for silage.

**Soybeans** were 39 percent blooming and 5 percent setting pods this week, with the greatest percentage blooming in northern Wisconsin.

**Oats** were 30 percent harvested for grain. Reporters expected harvest to accelerate in the coming week.

**Second cutting hay** was 94 percent harvested and the **third cutting** was 25 harvested. Yield was reportedly varying quite a bit with the timing of the third cutting. In some areas, the third crop has not grown back due to lack of moisture.

Reporters commented that **winter wheat** yields were better than expected. Yield reports this week ranged from 40-100 bushels per acre. **Vegetable** and **fruit** crops were suffering along with field crops where moisture was inadequate, though a Waupaca county reporter noted that this year's **raspberry** crop was excellent. The **cranberry** crop was reportedly looking strong in Oneida County, due to well timed rain and irrigation.

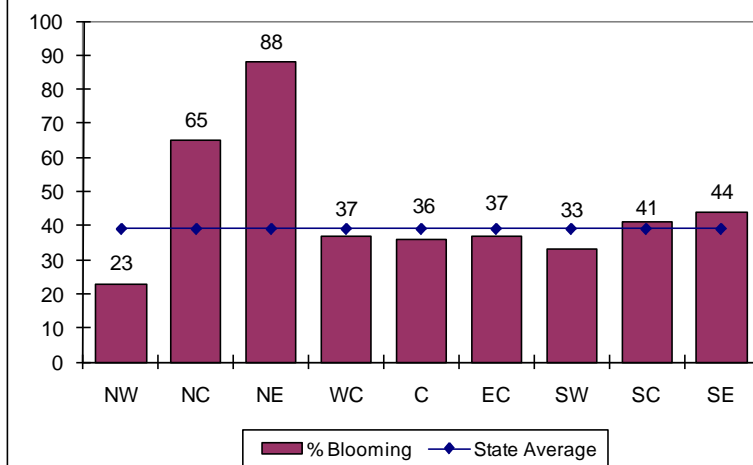


## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 15, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	36	27	22	14	1
Oats	11	8	27	44	10
Corn	19	24	27	25	5
Soybeans	16	23	31	25	5

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

## Soybeans Blooming Wisconsin by District July 15, 2012



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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.)	63	68	75	71	54	57	61	63	60	63	54	53	58
Corn silked	32	35	36	45	23	15	48	41	37	36	11	7	13
Soybeans blooming	23	65	88	37	36	37	33	41	44	39	16	23	29
Soybeans setting pods	2	10	5	6	2	5	1	8	0	5	n.a.	0	2
Oats Harvested	3	25	8	30	26	17	59	68	51	30	14	0	2
Second cutting hay	86	87	98	94	94	92	98	100	94	94	87	67	57
Third cutting hay	15	7	35	17	17	34	38	38	17	25	5	0	0

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.

**BURNETT-J.D.:** We got a nice half inch of rain last night.

**POLK-A.M.:** Overall crops are looking well. A rain shower at the end of the week helped with needed moisture. Alfalfa and hay yields have been favorable.

**ASHLAND-C.B.:** Corn is recovering from previous flooding. A week of hot weather and dry conditions has helped. Lots of first crop hay baling activity throughout the area.

**MARATHON-S.N.:** It continues to be sunny and hot. Corn needs rain. Lots of leaf curling. Good quality second and third crop. Poor quantity due to lack of rain and munching insects.

**FLORENCE-T.B.:** Conditions are very dry!!! Fast moving thunderstorms late in the week but very scattered and very little rain. Digging post holes for fence and had to use a hand digger behind the digger because the dirt won't stay on the auger as it is lifted out of the hole. Second crop hay and pastures are very poor and corn is starting to struggle. Lawns and gardens are brown. Haven't seen any wild berries anywhere along the roads or in the woods.

**EAU CLAIRE-D.S.:** Wheat yield was good, 72 bushels per acre. The rye yield was excellent 74 bushels per acre. Looks like we might get rain Friday. Sure do need rain.

**PIERCE-G.A.:** Quality and yield of third cutting alfalfa good to excellent as reported by dairy farmers. High temps have stressed crops but we are not in a drought scenario yet. Crop progress well ahead of average.

**PEPIN-G.A.:** We are thankful for the rain.

**JUNEAU-J.W.:** Some rain was received but it was incredibly spotty. Amounts varied from nothing to over an inch within a few miles. Most of the county received between a 1/4 and 1/2 inch. Just enough to keep some crops green for a few more days. It was too little too late for a lot crops on the lighter soils. Major concern is the pollination of the corn. Some producers are thinking about reducing livestock numbers because of a lack of feed. Some producers are looking for hay in several states and are having a hard time finding any for sale because the drought is so extensive.

**WAUSHARA-K.W.:** DRY!! 2012 is looking to be worse than 1988. We received a couple of showers on Saturday, enough to get your shirt wet. No more. Corn is starting to tassel. Dryland corn looks pretty tough. Irrigated corn looks like corn!

**OUTAGAMIE-J.B.:** Wheat 80-100 bushels per acre.

**SHEBOYGAN-E.P.:** Yield of second cutting hay very low making it expensive to harvest. Lack of rain and high temperatures now.

**CRAWFORD-J.B.:** Crawford is now in a D1 Drought. Last Saturday most of the county received a half inch to just over an inch of much needed rain. Any precipitation helps but we are far from out of the woods. Corn planted in sandy or light soils is pretty well done, soybeans and hay has stopped growing although the rain on Saturday will help. Most of the corn in the county is now tasseling so the next week or so will be extremely critical.

**GRANT-G.M.:** Got 12 drops of rain this morning.

**DODGE-R.J.:** Vegetable conditions are as poor as other crops. The apple crop was already poor due to spring frosts. It is extremely, extremely dry. Weeds are still growing. Alfalfa has many bug problems (army worms and weevils). The second crop alfalfa yield was reduced and third crop will be extremely low. The wheat crop was very good with most of the harvest complete.

**OZAUKEE-K.A.:** Very dry - nobody seems to listen to our prayers. Very little third crop hay. Wheat harvest is almost done while the yield is all over the board from 50-85 bushels per acre.

**WASHINGTON-K.R.:** Some areas received rain, ours did not.



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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 July 15, 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 Jul. 14	Mar. 1 To Jul. 14 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	89	61	91	56	75	+4	1724	1212	0.10	4.59	-1.44	16.36	0.00
Green Bay	88	61	92	56	75	+5	1648	1107	0.07	2.15	-2.85	12.70	-1.89
La Crosse	90	63	92	58	77	+3	1936	1369	0.40	3.64	-2.32	15.18	-1.68
Madison	90	62	92	55	76	+5	1864	1336	0.01	0.32	-6.08	11.40	-5.87
Milwaukee	84	67	91	62	75	+3	1671	n.a.	0.74	1.71	-3.47	14.35	-3.81

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.