



Wisconsin Crop Progress

July 23, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 16

Rains Timely for Some

Wisconsin received some much-needed rain this week, though storms were spotty across the state. Many reporters commented that parts of their county received a soaking rain while other parts of their county were left dry. Rains arrived just in time to promote pollination for growers in central and northern Wisconsin, but more precipitation is needed to ensure that cobs and pods fill out. The rain proved too little too late or was missed entirely for some in southern Wisconsin, where reporters noted farmers chopping their dried out or non-pollinating corn for silage. Seasonal rainfall totals remained below average at all reporting stations and soil moistures were 95 percent or more short to very short in four of the nine reporting districts. There were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 5 to 7 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 87 to 92 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 65 to 70 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.26 inches in La Crosse to 3.28 inches in Green Bay. 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/>

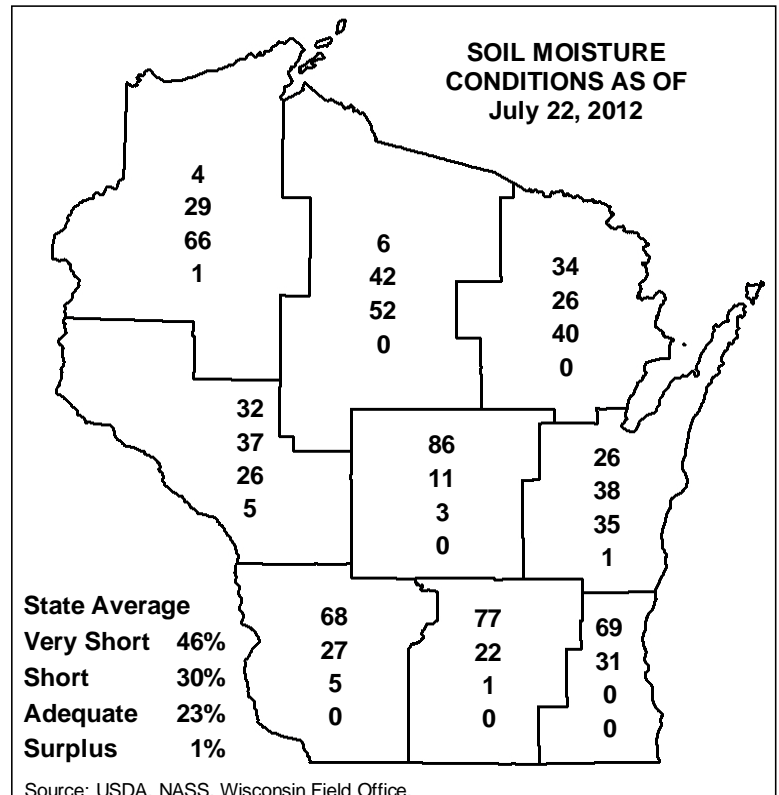
Corn had an average height of 70 inches statewide. The crop was 62 percent silked and 2 percent in dough stage, compared to 0 percent in dough last year, and a 1 percent five-year average. Reporters from across the state noted that corn on heavy clay soils was in better condition than corn on light soils.

Soybeans were 63 percent blooming and 15 percent setting pods this week. Soybeans in many areas reportedly perked up with the rain. Spider mites were reported in soybeans in Vernon, Dane and Dodge Counties.

Oats were 49 percent harvested for grain. Producers in northern Wisconsin were still waiting for the grain to fully ripen, while southern Wisconsin producers saw a wide variation in yield and quality.

Third cutting hay was 45 percent harvested. Reporters indicated that hay yields are short due to lack of moisture and high insect pressure.

This year's **winter wheat** harvest continues to be a bright spot for many, with yield reports ranging from 55 to over 100 bushels per acre. Straw was reportedly giving high tonnage as well. Early **potato** varieties were being dug in Oneida and Shawano Counties. Reporters commented that **squash, sweet corn** and other vegetables have been adversely affected by the drought.

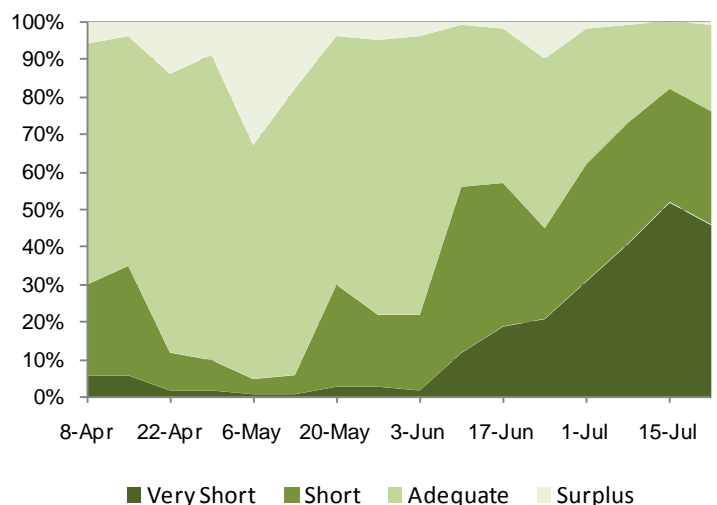


Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 22, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	42	24	20	12	2
Oats	9	6	27	48	10
Corn	19	24	26	24	7
Soybeans	12	21	32	26	9

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Soil Moisture Ratings Wisconsin State Average, April 8 - July 22, 2012



Wisconsin Crop Progress, July 22, 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
Average corn height (in.)	74	75	80	78	60	67	70	65	58	70	63	65	69
Corn silked	66	60	62	73	52	48	70	65	53	62	36	33	34
Soybeans blooming	52	77	95	57	51	63	55	75	63	63	39	47	50
Soybeans setting pods	12	38	42	15	6	13	14	16	12	15	5	5	11
Oats Harvested	12	32	22	56	50	33	84	92	87	49	30	5	9
Third cutting hay	27	23	71	32	31	56	62	61	36	45	25	0	0

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Wisconsin Crop Progress

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

BARRON-C.B.: Overall crops continue to look good. Third cutting of alfalfa harvest continues.

WASHBURN-T.F.: Received rain Saturday early am; some areas received up to 0.5 inch of rain.

CLARK-A.K.: The rain we got was nice, but we could use some more.

ONEIDA-B.E.: It continues to be hot and dry here...temps are still above average, into the mid to upper 80s, lows in the low to mid 50s. Very little rainfall this week, less than 0.5 inch and we sprinkler irrigated twice this past week to retain adequate moisture in the cranberry beds. Weed pressure has been above average this year, and insect pressure has been well below average. We continue with our control measures as needed.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Parts of to whole fields have suffered from drought stress with areas of corn and soybean fields already dead. The quality of the hay crops has been poor with insects stunting plants and leaf loss abundant. Small grain harvest has been going well with yield reports all over the board from 40 to 100 bushels per acre.

BUFFALO-S.M.: Rain badly needed. Hot temperatures coupled with dry conditions have stressed crops. Corn cobs are far below average length and circumference. Corn on lighter ground is suffering. Some producers are considering beginning chopping next week. Hay is being sprayed one week after harvest due to pests (mostly leaf hoppers). Oat yields and test weights have been above average.

JACKSON-T.W.: We got a little bit of rain, but definitely need more. Rain good for people's well being, but plants need a lot more to form kernels and complete pollination.

MONROE-M.Y.: We got 0.25 inch of rain last night.

GREEN LAKE-B.K.: Extreme drought conditions are causing problems with pollination and ear fill in corn and setting pods in beans.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Stressed corn and soybeans on light soils may not make a crop. We had 0.4 inch of rain on Thursday. This was the first rain since July 2nd. Second crop hay yield is about 1/2 of normal while the third crop is standing still.

DOOR-T.S.: Much needed rain fell this past week ranging from as much as 3.0 inches in southern Door County to 1.0 inch in areas of the northern end of the county.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: The 1.5-2.5 inches of rain received during the middle of the week across the county was a crop saver. It was just starting to get noticeably dry and starting to stress the crops when the rain came. Everything looks real good now. Winter Wheat harvest is nearing completion.

LAFAYETTE-M.Y.: We did receive very spotty rains last week that should help the beans and possibly some corn that hadn't tasseled yet. The corn height varies from 4 feet and in very poor condition to 8 feet and fair condition.

RICHLAND-J.C.: The recent rain may have helped the alfalfa and soybeans to an extent, but was too late for the majority of the corn. Pastures are not likely to make enough of a recovery to provide an adequate feed source the remainder of the season.

GREEN-M.M.: County received the first rainfall in almost two months with totals ranging from 0.2 to 3.0 inches. Rain was too late for about 1/3 of the corn crop but will help hay and soybeans.

RACINE-K.I.: Received some much needed rain, will help the soybeans. Corn still hanging on in spots, but some areas completely gone. Vegetables are affected, non-irrigated sweet corn will not be great. Many vegetable yields greatly affected.

WAUKESHA C.W.: Several fires in wheat stubble. Mature trees are under severe stress and lost many leaves, some conifers have turned brown. Alfalfa is shut down. The 1.5 inches of rain a week ago settled soil, but did nothing for growth of corn or beans.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

Robert J. Battaglia
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 July 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 Jul. 21	Mar. 1 To Jul. 21 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	88	66	98	58	77	+5	1901	1364	0.58	5.17	-1.72	16.94	-0.34
Green Bay	87	65	98	58	76	+6	1817	1252	3.28	5.43	-0.28	15.98	+0.62
La Crosse	92	68	100	58	80	+6	2124	1536	0.26	3.90	-2.94	15.44	-2.30
Madison	90	68	100	62	79	+7	2049	1495	1.43	1.75	-4.98	12.83	-5.24
Milwaukee	87	70	100	66	79	+7	1860	n.a.	0.93	2.64	-3.36	15.28	-3.58

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.