

April 8, 2013

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A Slow Start to the Growing Season

The new growing season is upon us, which means that it is once again time for USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office to begin reporting the progress of crop planting, growth and development, harvesting, and current crop conditions.

Spring was arriving slowly this week, with average highs in the 40s statewide and minimal precipitation. These below average temperatures continued the trend from last month; March average temperatures ranged from 5 to 9 degrees below normal in stark contrast to last year's warmest March on record. Nighttime temperatures dipped into the teens and twenties in northern Wisconsin, where snowcover reportedly remained up to a foot or more deep in fields and woods. Warm, sunny days had melted much of the snowcover across the south, though reporters commented that the ground is still frozen in most areas. There were a few reports of meltwater ponding in fields, but the slow melt and dry subsoil conditions have reportedly minimized flooding. There were 0.3 days suitable for fieldwork statewide.

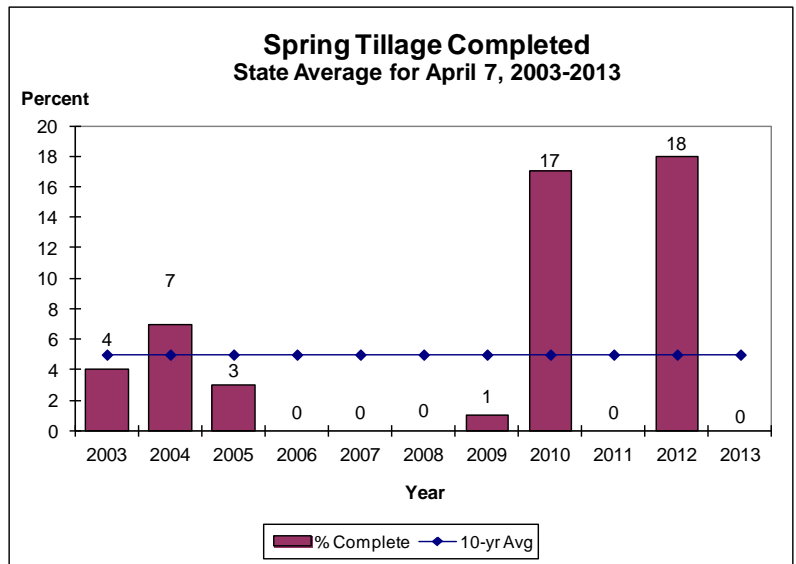
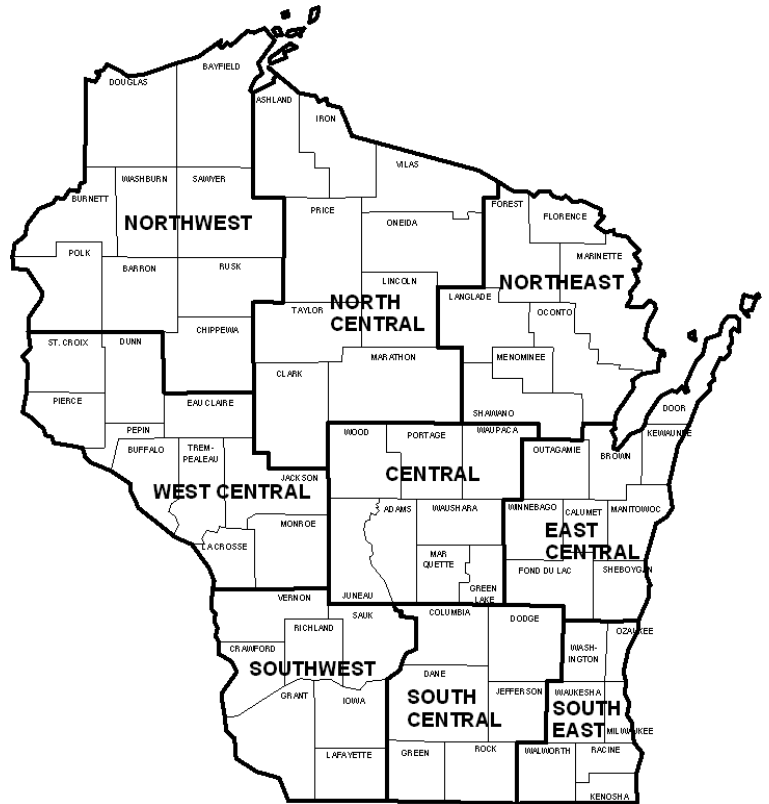
Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1 to 7 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 40 to 48 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 22 to 29 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.05 inches in Milwaukee to 0.25 inches in Eau Claire. 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, **spring tillage** had not yet begun. **Manure spreading** was reportedly beginning in some areas where conditions permitted.

Alfalfa remained dormant this week. Reporters statewide noted that it was too early to tell how much winterkill has occurred. Some reporters commented that ice sheets under snowcover were expected to contribute to winter damage.

Winter wheat was just beginning to green up in far southern Wisconsin. As with alfalfa, reporters commented it was too early to judge the extent of freeze damage. The **maple syrup** season was ongoing, with reports of sap flow ranging from slow to excellent.



Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions, April 7, 2013

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
Days Suitable	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	5.0
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short	6	0	0	1	0	0	4	5	0	2	3	6
Short	23	0	0	12	10	0	37	15	0	13	18	23
Adequate	64	100	53	71	72	60	51	73	94	70	65	65
Surplus	7	0	47	16	18	40	8	7	6	15	14	6
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short	20	0	0	17	0	5	10	19	0	9	8	n.a.
Short	27	21	13	45	33	8	64	20	40	32	39	n.a.
Adequate	50	79	72	35	56	67	26	57	58	53	48	n.a.
Surplus	3	0	15	3	11	20	0	4	2	6	5	n.a.

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-B.D.: Snowcover still remains. Frost still in the ground. Maple sap is excellent this year.

CHIPPEWA-R.M.: We still have 9-10 inches snow on the ground. Ground is still frozen. Temperatures are still much below normal.

SAWYER-K.S.: Slow start to any spring cropping or pasturing. Rains over the weekend and forecast in the coming week will melt any remaining snow out in open areas. Frost going out slowly. No green up showing. Soil and air temperatures still too cold. Maple sap is starting to run, preliminary reports are varied from poor to average.

MARATHON-S.N.: Three to six inches of snow cover remains on the ground. Temperatures remain below 46 degrees during the day and remain cold at night. Maple sap is starting to run. Needs warmer days to have robust production. Some farmers are plowing snow on their fields to clear a path so that they can haul manure. Road weight limits have been posted. This may hinder manure hauling.

ONEIDA-B.E.: Still have 1-2 foot snowbanks. Two inches to a foot of ice on cranberry beds.

VILAS-R.K.: Eighteen inches of snow in fields. Expecting 2-6 more inches this weekend. No end to winter in sight.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Fields still are 70 percent snowcovered up to one foot depth. Very good maple syrup season.

SHAWANO-J.N.: We had about 2 inches of snow on the ground Saturday morning. The frost is just about out of the ground.

EAU CLAIRE-D.J.: Things are slow. Waiting for spring.

PEPIN-T.M.: Sixteen to twenty inches of snowcover on steep north slopes.

ST CROIX-R.F.: Snow cover remains at 25-50 percent.

MARQUETTE-D.B.: Nothing happening yet

WAUPACA-D.H.: Twenty percent of the snow cover remains and frost is still in the ground in some areas. It is still to early to determine the survival rate of the winter wheat and alfalfa.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Still have about 20 percent snow cover. Frost still in the ground in many areas. Maple syrup reports

indicate a good year. Dandelions are starting to grow.

DOOR-T.S.: Fields are mostly bare and frost is out in many places in the open. Too early yet to determine winterkill on alfalfa and wheat but some is expected in areas where ponding occurred. Maple sap flowed this past week and sugar content is running above average.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Waiting for spring.

OUTAGAMIE-J.B.: Snow covered and frozen.

GRANT-G.M.: I saw a stripped gopher today, so spring has arrived. Almost all snow gone.

IOWA-L.M.: Frost still in ground.

RICHLAND-J.C.: Snow still remaining on north facing slopes and in shaded areas. Still frost in the ground and very greasy soil conditions. A little early to tell the extent of winter kill as there is not enough growth started. Reports of good maple sap flow.

DANE-D.R.: Large banks of snow remaining. Snow melt going into ground on lawns. Grass slow in starting growth due to snowcover and cold temperatures. A warm rain needed.

GREEN-M.M.: Snow and frost is mostly gone except on north facing slopes. Welcome rain being received today (4/8) that will help recharge subsoil moisture levels which are still extremely dry. Winter wheat looks to have survived the winter fairly well, too early to tell about alfalfa. Many livestock farmers running out of feed and bedding as a result of the 2012 drought.

KENOSHA-J.H.: No snow cover. Some frost in ground. Nothing showing with wheat


WASHINGTON-K.R.: Most snow is gone. Some wheat is green some is still brown. Still too early to tell if winter killed.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Alfalfa, winter wheat no idea yet. Its wet and cold and rainy

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 7, 2013

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. 6	Mar. 1 To Apr. 6 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	40	22	47	12	31	-7	0	9	0.25	2.19	-0.19	4.76	+0.55
Green Bay	43	27	50	24	35	-3	0	10	0.10	1.92	-0.64	6.57	+1.78
La Crosse	47	27	59	18	37	-5	7	23	0.20	2.33	-0.25	4.47	-0.04
Madison	48	28	61	20	38	-2	11	25	0.07	2.49	-0.40	7.77	+2.34
Milwaukee	48	29	61	25	39	-1	16	n.a.	0.05	1.69	-1.62	7.89	+1.09

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.

	USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field office P.O. Box 8934 Madison, WI 53708-8934	(608)224-4848 http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/ Greg Bussler, State Statistician	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.
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