

Cold Weather Boosts Maple Syrup Season, Delays Planting

Yet another soggy, frigid week delayed the start of fieldwork and planting statewide. Some areas of northern Wisconsin received significant snowfall, while cold rain left water standing in fields across the south. Temperatures were well below average and growing degree days lagged behind normal. Hay and winter wheat reportedly remained dormant across much of the state. A reporter from Ashland County noted that calf losses have occurred for many cow-calf beef producers calving outdoors. **Maple syrup** season was winding down this week. Reporters commented that it has been an excellent year, with higher than normal sap production and sugar content. There were 0.1 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 3 to 12 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 40 to 51 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 26 to 35 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.79 inches in Green Bay to 2.93 inches in Milwaukee. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

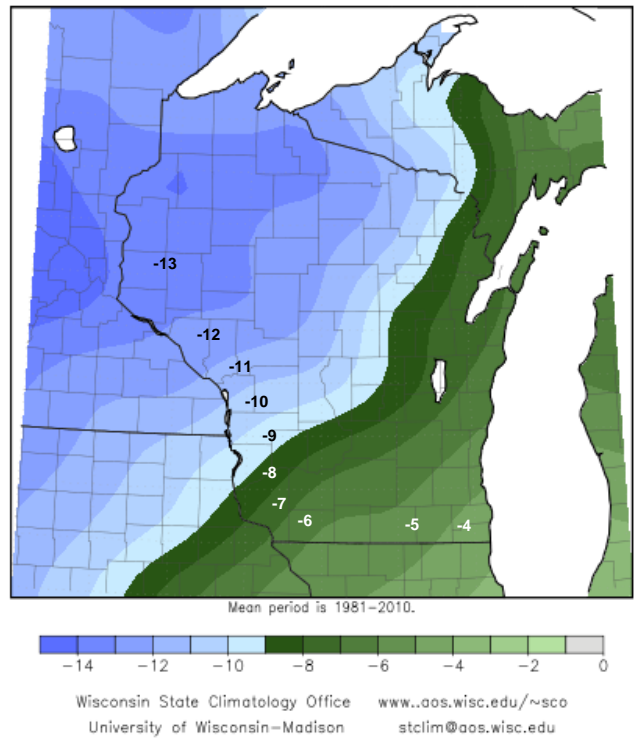
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Statewide, **spring tillage** was 1 percent complete, compared to 42 percent last year and a five year average of 25 percent. This represents the latest start to spring tillage in the past 30 years of Crop Progress data. The previous record low was 2 percent on April 21, 1983. **Manure spreading** was slowed by muddy field conditions.

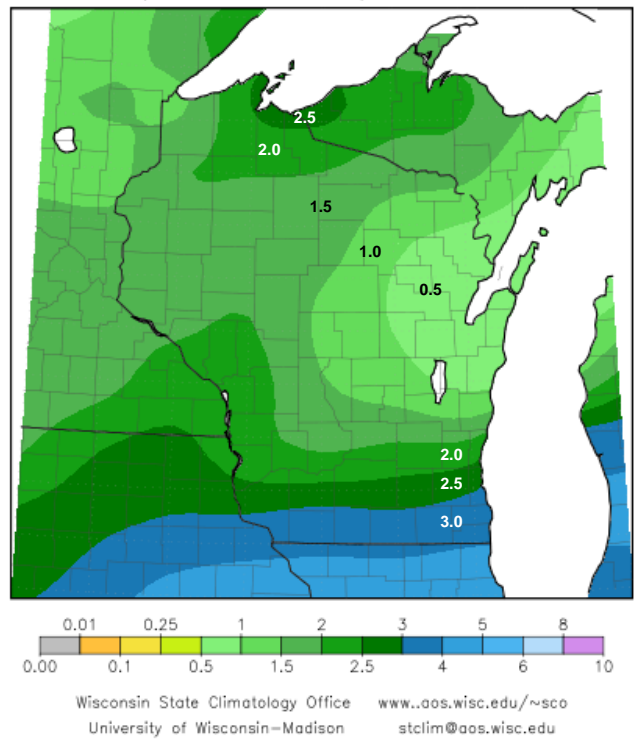
Alfalfa has reportedly not shown much growth over last week. Freeze and flooding damage remained unclear due to hay stands' extended dormancy.

Ponding in low areas was reportedly impacting **winter wheat** where rains have been heaviest. Reporters commented that **rye** was greening up more quickly than other crops.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean April 14, 2013 to April 20, 2013



Accumulated Precipitation (in) April 14, 2013 to April 20, 2013



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 21, 2013

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	43	26	24	7	0

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions, April 21, 2013

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
Days Suitable	Days									Days		
	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	3.7
Topsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
Very Short	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
Short	7	0	0	1	3	0	8	15	0	5	8	13
Adequate	68	61	27	79	61	33	62	40	32	56	59	72
Surplus	22	39	73	20	36	67	30	43	68	39	32	13
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short	3	0	0	2	0	2	1	10	0	2	3	n.a.
Short	30	19	11	30	18	3	33	13	5	21	26	n.a.
Adequate	61	80	39	66	61	61	62	54	70	62	58	n.a.
Surplus	6	1	50	2	21	34	4	23	25	15	13	n.a.

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.

BURNETT-J.D.: Thursday had 10 inches of snow.

POLK-A.M.: Maple Syrup harvest is significantly better than last year. Spring is undecided on arrival. Mixture of snow and rain for precipitation.

CLARK-R.H.: Ground is still frozen. Finally the snow is leaving and most fields have very little snow and ice cover. We need some warm weather to determine if crops have winter injury. Sap has been running well from most reports.

MARATHON-G.M.: Maple sap is real good this year.

FLORENCE-T.B.: Still 60 percent snow cover on the fields. Temperatures were 10-20 degrees below normal all week and we had periods of rain, snow, sleet and freezing rain all week long. The frost is going out and the water is going into the ground.

SHAWANO-B.R.: There is still a good amount of frost in the ground yet. A lot of water standing in the fields. Winter wheat and alfalfa are both pretty much dormant also. Maple sap is winding down now but it has been a good year for the sap.

DUNN-S.S.: Has been a very good season for maple syrup. Had 2 inches of snow Thursday.

MONROE-M.Y.: Maple syrup was pretty good. Still some spots of frost in the ground. Snowing a little this morning.

PORTAGE-J.B.: Rain/snow mix continues and cold temps so nothing happening. Vegetable growers are now very impatient as it's the last week of April and they haven't turned a wheel yet in the entire county. Maple sap did turn on nicely so it turns out to be a good year in the area for that.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Most frost out of ground - standing water now slowly absorbed by soil. Alfalfa and winter wheat have not broken dormancy yet. Maple syrup season was better than average.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: The area saw most of its snow disappear this week, and most of the frost is gone now as well. Some small areas of open fields are dry enough to drive on. These are areas that are tilled, though. One local producer on gravel soil did plant some oats already, but the rest of the crop won't go in for some time. Soil temperatures remain

cold. Some small areas of winter wheat are showing a hint of green, but as has been the case in the last few weeks, it is still too early to determine any winterkill on either the wheat or alfalfa. As temperatures would warm into the 50s and the plants begin to grow, a determination of any damage can be made. There has been one report of a very good maple syrup season. It was longer and much more productive than it was in 2012.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: Still too wet to do much of anything right now.

WINNEBAGO-S.E.: Still frost in ground. Too early to be sure about alfalfa and wheat.

GRANT-J.R.: Rain has continued to hamper tillage and planting. Cooler than normal weather is delaying the progress of fall seeded wheat and alfalfa has yet to green up.

SAUK-J.P.: Nothing has been done all spring except the moisture we did not get last year is here now. It has been the best season for maple syrup in recent memory, lots of sap and high sugar content so that not as much sap was needed to make syrup. There are still piles of snow on north facing hills so there must be frost under them. What a difference a year can make.

DODGE-R.H.: We have gotten 2.5 inches of rain this last week.

GREEN-J.T.: There are still reports of dry sub soil below 3 feet. However the topsoil has been saturated causing runoff. Alfalfa is not greening up. The frost and snow are gone, but I have not seen a dandelion bloom yet.

KENOSHA-R.R.: This morning having snow flurries on top of 3 plus inches of rain. Fields are flooded and lots of standing water, but the water is going down.

RACINE-K.I.: Wet, wet, wet. Nothing has been able to be done. Farmers are getting antsy/nervous.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 21, 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. 20	Mar. 1 To Apr. 20 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	40	26	45	20	33	-12	0	69	0.83	4.72	+1.04	7.29	+1.77
Green Bay	46	31	60	25	39	-5	5	59	0.79	5.00	+1.25	9.65	+3.66
La Crosse	45	31	50	22	38	-10	12	93	2.40	7.27	+3.12	9.67	+3.35
Madison	51	34	60	27	42	-4	32	96	2.45	8.17	+3.71	13.45	+6.45
Milwaukee	49	35	62	28	42	-3	28	n.a.	2.93	8.52	+3.42	14.72	+6.12

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.