

July Heat Wave Dries Out Soils

Temperatures were 7 to 10 degrees above normal statewide this week, with high humidity compounding the stress on livestock and farm workers. Nights brought little relief, with average minimums in the upper sixties and low seventies. A third week of minimal precipitation saw widespread reports of corn curling on light soils, even in areas where soil moisture was excessive less than a month ago. Topsoil moistures were 41 percent short to very short this week compared to 16 percent last week. In spite of this, corn reportedly grew rapidly in response to the heat. Corn was starting to tassel and soybeans starting to bloom in some areas; many reporters commented that rain is needed to ensure good pollination. Farmers braved the extreme heat indexes to make second crop hay, with average to good yields reported. Winter wheat was being harvested for grain in the southern parts of the state. There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork statewide.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 7 to 10 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 89 to 94 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 68 to 74 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Madison and Milwaukee to 0.68 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/>

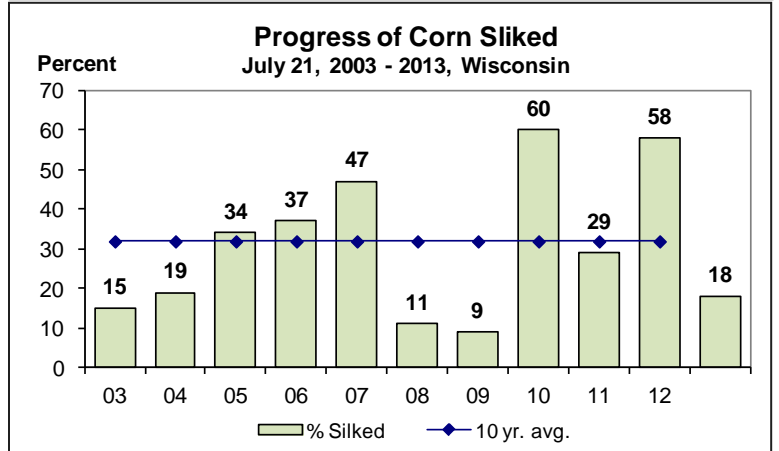
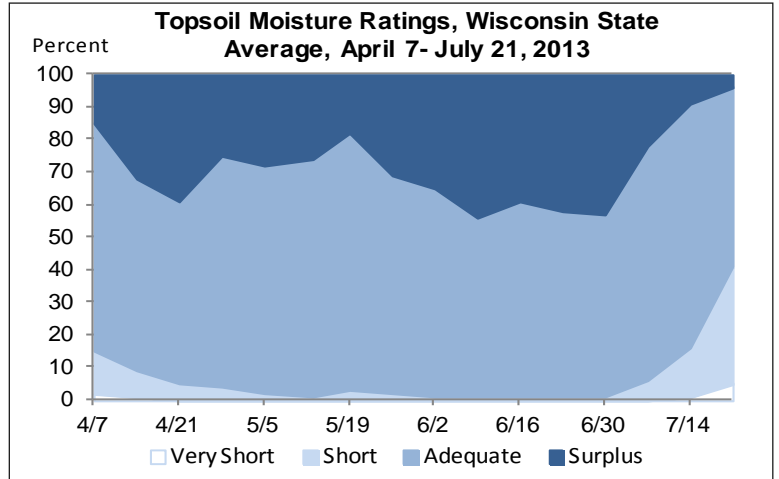
Corn was 58 inches tall on average with 18 percent silking.

Soybeans were 31 percent blooming. Soybeans on light soils were reportedly showing stress in some areas.

Oats were 91 percent headed. Statewide, 4 percent was harvested for grain, compared to 46 percent last year and a five year average of 14 percent. Oats were reportedly turning rapidly in response to the hot and dry conditions.

Second cutting alfalfa was 60 percent harvested. A few reporters noted that hay and pastures have stopped growing in response to dry conditions.

Winter wheat yield reports varied from 60-90 bushels per acre this week. **Sweet corn** was reportedly tasseling in Trempealeau County. Early **potatoes** were reportedly being dug in Portage County.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 21, 2013

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	3	9	29	47	12
Corn	3	9	26	40	22
Soybeans	1	8	26	47	18
Oats	1	7	25	51	16

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

Wisconsin Crop Progress, July 21, 2013

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.)	45	39	65	49	56	54	64	72	67	58	44	69	67
Corn silked	1	0	5	3	12	6	35	38	39	18	2	58	33
Soybeans blooming	12	24	43	13	24	46	23	46	44	31	13	60	45
Oats headed	76	83	99	81	99	97	95	100	86	91	85	100	98
Second cutting hay	54	27	73	54	38	70	68	83	53	60	34	100	75

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions, July 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		
	6.7	6.6	6.0	6.4	6.7	6.4	6.6	6.3	6.4	6.5	5.9	5.8
Topsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
Very Short	10	2	2	14	1	0	5	4	2	5	1	47
Short	33	70	17	49	29	21	37	27	13	36	15	30
Adequate	54	26	76	35	70	72	57	59	82	55	75	22
Surplus	3	2	5	2	0	7	1	10	3	4	9	1
Subsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
Very Short	2	2	0	8	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	n.a.
Short	26	30	2	31	18	9	16	18	10	20	7	n.a.
Adequate	70	66	93	59	79	87	81	71	86	74	83	n.a.
Surplus	2	2	5	2	3	4	1	10	4	4	9	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.

CHIPPEWA-J.M.: Hot and dry week, corn and soybeans on light soils showing stress.

WASHBURN-E.M.: Crops are in serious need of rain and showing stress!

ONEIDA-B.E.: Average to slightly above average temperatures, very little rain, cranberry crop is now mostly out of bloom and setting fruit. Very little insect pest activity this year. Some black spanworm and gypsy moths, but not black headed fireworm, and very little spargnothis or cranberry fruitworms.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Some second crop hay is being harvested, but most are just finishing first crop. There were still some fields planted to forage crops last week, with some fields that are still fallow. Small grains are heading out. Earlier planted corn, small grains and soybean fields are spotty where they were too wet or washed out. Some fields ended up with replanting in many areas of fields.

FLORENCE-T.B.: Very hot and humid!!! Showers very spotty and at times heavy with strong winds. One farmer could be baling hay and the next farm a quarter mile down the road was drowned out.

PIERCE-G.A.: The first tassle and silking for field corn in Pierce County was observed on June 19 and this was a field planted on May 15 that was a 105 day RM hybrid.

TREMPEALEAU-J.H.: Field conditions changed from very wet to dry this week.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Peas harvested, good yields. Snap bean harvest under way, good yields. Sweet corn and potatoes look good. Cranberries setting fruit. Finishing up first cut hay. Some fall seeding starting.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Very warm muggy weather has allowed corn and soybeans to grow. Second crop hay harvest going full tilt - good quality and yields. Some early corn is tasseling. Crops on lighter soils showing some stress - some corn is rolling.

DOOR-T.S.: Wheat is about two weeks away from harvest with the overall expected yield slightly below average due to some thin stands. One third of the canning pea crop is off

with yields as high as 5500 pounds. All the snap bean acreage is planted with the first acres coming off in another week and a half. Tart cherry harvest is starting this weekend.

FOND DU LAC-M.R.: Hot, dry weather last week really pushed crops along. Not much corn tasseling yet, but some early planted fields are close. A lot of second crop hay made. Some previously wet fields were finally worked and planted to a late-season forage crop.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: Hot dry and high humidity made a big difference in corn and soybeans. Overall corn and soybeans look very good. Second crop hay is on the light side but quality seems good. Oats and winter wheat look good. Wheat for grain should be harvested in the next week and a half or so, oats for grain should be harvested in the next two and a half weeks. Overall crops look pretty good. Yesterday's rain shower was welcome.

VERNON-K.Y.: Corn starting to tassel. Winter Wheat harvest started. Second crop alfalfa very short. Crops could use a good soaking rain. Diseases starting to affect fruit crops from wet spring. Spotted winged drosophila showing up in the raspberry crop.

DODGE-R.H.: Got 3.75 inches of rain last night in about three hours time. Last rain before this was July 9th. Lots of wind damage on corn. Some oats are lodged.

GREEN-J.T.: There was some replanting of corn and beans on land flooded in the river bottoms. The acres affected are very minor, but substantial to some individuals. The northern part of the county received some rain, but the southern half is very dry. Corn is curling on the shallower soils.

KENOSHA-R.R.: Started to harvest the winter wheat. Yields are good, 70 bushels per acre so far. Hot winds and 90 degrees before noon.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: Hot! Seen some corn leaves curling up. One month all rain, next month no rain. Wheat is turning fast due to the heat.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 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 Jul. 20	Mar. 1 To Jul. 20 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	91	68	97	62	79	+7	1366	1322	0.03	5.98	-0.81	26.02	+8.91
Green Bay	89	68	93	61	79	+9	1335	1210	0.68	5.81	+0.17	19.57	+4.29
La Crosse	94	71	98	64	82	+8	1535	1489	0.02	6.11	-0.67	25.03	+7.28
Madison	90	69	93	60	80	+8	1491	1450	0.00	12.52	+5.94	32.61	+14.60
Milwaukee	90	74	95	66	82	+10	1332	n.a.	0.00	6.40	+0.53	25.91	+7.14

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.



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