Crops Stalled by Cold Snap

Though crops made some progress early in the week, a cold snap reportedly stalled crop growth in many areas over the weekend. Daytime highs plunged from the 80s to the upper 50s and low 60s and overnight lows dipped into the low 40s in the far north. Cities across the state recorded record low daytime highs for July 27. Rainfall was scattered, with some areas receiving a good soaker and some areas missed entirely. Reporters commented that late plantings, along with the wide swings in temperature and precipitation experienced this season have produced enormous variability in crop progress and condition. Early planted corn was tasseling and silking across much of the state, and regular rain was needed to ensure good pollination. Late planted corn badly needed additional heat to mature. Small grains harvest had started, though reporters commented that moisture content was still too high for combining in many areas. There were 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork statewide.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 4 to 7 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 74 to 78 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 53 to 60 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.43 inches in Eau Claire to 2.32 inches in Madison. 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 68 inches tall on average with 43 percent silking. Corn was reportedly curling in areas where rains have been insufficient.

Soybeans were 50 percent blooming and 9 percent setting pods. Like corn, soybeans on light soils were reportedly showing stress in some areas.

Oats were 95 percent headed and 8 percent harvested for grain, with most harvest activity occurring in the southernmost parts of the state. Bailing and harvest for oatlage continued.

Second cutting alfalfa was 75 percent harvested and the third cutting was 5 percent harvested. Yield reports were variable, though reporters noted that the second crop has yielded better than the first in most areas.

Winter wheat was being harvested for grain across the south. Yield reports varied from 70-80 bushels per acre this week. Apples were reportedly looking good, with a much better crop than last year expected.
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.: Need rain. Dry in this area. Had some rain in Polk County this weekend, but we need some here.


SAWYER-K.S.: Lack of rain, earlier extreme heat and now cooler temps are causing a lot of stress on crops. Seeing more variability in crops. Some are still looking good, others not so good.

CLARK-A.K.: No oats harvested, some wheat is being harvested. Potato bugs in garden. Garden doing well. Apples have good set, looking good compared to 2012. Second crop of hay needs rain.

VILAS-R.K.: Potato crop has advanced quite nicely. Grain is starting to mature. We are very optimistic about the crop potential.

LANGLAD-A.K.: Second crop and new seeding yields and quality were very good. Nothing happened last week with rain and cool temps, turn the heat back on.

EAU CLAIRE-D.J.: Various corn heights, depends on when planted. Corn bumed on sand. Lots of late-planted corn and beans.

MONROE-M.Y.: We got 1.75 inches of rain last Sunday, July 21st and 0.25 inch yesterday afternoon. The people are starting to cut oats with the binder and shocking.

ST CROIX-D.K.: Need some rain.

WAUSART-A.R.: Central sands still short of water. Some light rain and cooler temps are helping crops. Hay crops have nearly stopped growing due to dry weather.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Up until late this past week, some parts of this area were getting very dry. This changed with the good amount of rain that fell. Most producers saw at least an inch of much needed rain. Some corn on the more shallow soils had been curling. Now, all crops are doing and looking good. The corn has continued to grow and some is tasseling, Winter wheat harvest is a little later this year, but should be in high gear very soon.

WASHINGTON-G.S.: Crops looking pretty good considering the late start from the wet spring. Heat and spotty rains have really pushed crops along although it was unusually cool and cloudy this past weekend. Second crop hay, wheat and oats being harvested, or will be soon.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Haven’t had rain in one and a half weeks.

WISCONSIN WEEKLY WEATHER, SELECTED CITIES, ENDING AS OF 7:00 A.M. ON JULY 28, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Bay</td>
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<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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