



# Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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For the week ending October 5, 2014

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## Cold Rain, Frost and Snow

Rain and snow slowed fieldwork this week as cold air swept across the state. Though temperatures were above average early in the week, overnight lows dropped into the 30s by the weekend. Areas of northwestern Wisconsin received an inch or more of snow and flurries were reported statewide. The Eau Claire weather station observed a new record for earliest measurable snowfall, with 0.6 inches in the early morning of October 4. The previous record early snowfall there was 0.8 inches on October 9, 1932. The weekend also brought widespread frost, with scattered reports of a killing freeze. This week's precipitation exacerbated wet field conditions in the northern part of the state, delaying fieldwork and slowing crop drydown. Northern Wisconsin reporters commented that fall plantings may be prevented because fields are inaccessible. However, drier conditions in the south allowed harvest activities to progress well. Reporters noted high moisture corn was being harvested for feed and corn silage cutting was going strong. Soybeans harvest had begun and work continued on hay, potatoes, apples, and cranberries. Winter wheat planting and manure hauling continued as fields were cleared.

There were 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork statewide.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 2 degrees below to 1 degree above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 61 to 67 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 43 to 49 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.85 inches in Milwaukee and Madison to 1.46 inches in La Crosse. 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/>

As of October 5, eighty-eight percent of **corn** was in or beyond the dent stage and 52 percent was mature. Corn intended for silage was 47 percent harvested. Corn condition was rated 73 percent good to excellent.

Ninety-six percent of **soybeans** had leaves turning color and 78 percent had leaves dropping. Seven percent of soybeans had been harvested. Soybeans condition was rated 72 percent good to excellent.

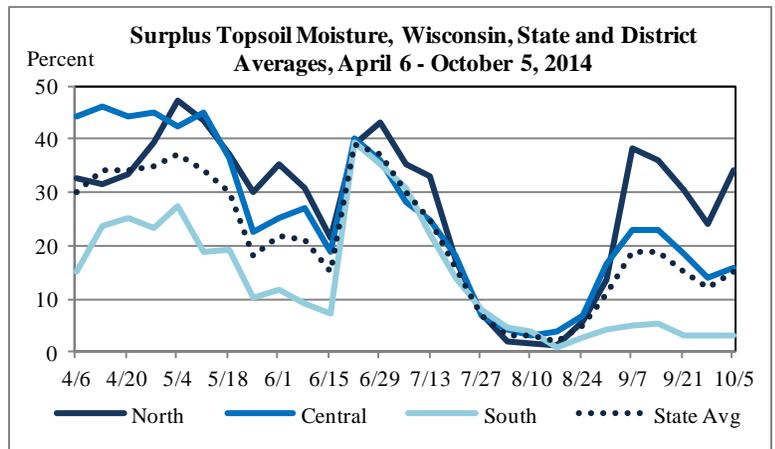
**Winter wheat** was 38 percent planted and 17 percent emerged.

**Potatoes** were 85 percent harvested.

The **fourth cutting of alfalfa** was 77 percent complete.

**Pasture** condition was rated 63 percent good to excellent.

**Fall tillage** was 13 percent complete.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 5, 2014

|                 | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-----------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
|                 | Percent   |      |      |      |           |
| Pasture & Range | 1         | 5    | 31   | 51   | 12        |
| Corn            | 1         | 6    | 20   | 49   | 24        |
| Soybeans        | 1         | 4    | 23   | 48   | 24        |

## Wisconsin Crop Progress as of October 5, 2014

| 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 |
|                             | Percent          |    |    |    |    |      |     |     |      | Percent       |           |           |                |
| Fall tillage                | 12               | 18 | 14 | 9  | 14 | 9    | 12  | 19  | 12   | 13            | 9         | n.a.      | 11             |
| Corn in or past dent stage  | 81               | 80 | 74 | 95 | 83 | 73   | 98  | 99  | 88   | 88            | 82        | n.a.      | 95             |
| Corn mature                 | 45               | 19 | 15 | 55 | 30 | 29   | 64  | 85  | 62   | 52            | 36        | n.a.      | 66             |
| Corn harvested for silage   | 33               | 25 | 21 | 69 | 49 | 28   | 83  | 83  | 67   | 47            | 31        | n.a.      | 77             |
| Soybeans turning color      | 94               | 93 | 93 | 99 | 94 | 92   | 98  | 100 | 92   | 96            | 89        | n.a.      | 97             |
| Soybeans dropping leaves    | 75               | 78 | 60 | 86 | 63 | 69   | 86  | 89  | 72   | 78            | 58        | n.a.      | 82             |
| Soybeans harvested          | 9                | 4  | 1  | 10 | 4  | 2    | 5   | 17  | 3    | 7             | 2         | n.a.      | 27             |
| Winter Wheat planted        | 44               | 54 | 32 | 30 | 63 | 37   | 36  | 40  | 27   | 38            | 20        | n.a.      | n.a.           |
| Winter Wheat emerged        | 21               | 13 | 16 | 13 | 37 | 18   | 13  | 15  | 14   | 17            | 4         | n.a.      | n.a.           |
| Potatoes harvested          | 72               | 75 | 79 | 98 | 86 | n.a. | 100 | 100 | n.a. | 85            | 67        | n.a.      | n.a.           |
| Alfalfa hay, fourth cutting | 72               | 50 | 73 | 73 | 81 | 78   | 85  | 94  | 66   | 77            | 67        | n.a.      | 79             |

## Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of October 5, 2014

| Item             | District average |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | State average |           |           |
|------------------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------|-----------|
|                  | NW               | NC  | NE  | WC  | C   | EC  | SW  | SC  | SE  | This week     | Last week | Last Year |
|                  | Days             |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Days          |           |           |
| Days Suitable    | 3.5              | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.7 | 3.6 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.3           | 6.2       | n.a.      |
|                  | Percent          |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Percent       |           |           |
| Topsoil Moisture |                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |               |           |           |
| Very Short       | 0                | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 2   | 0   | 0             | 0         | n.a.      |
| Short            | 5                | 0   | 0   | 3   | 1   | 3   | 9   | 13  | 13  | 5             | 8         | n.a.      |
| Adequate         | 74               | 52  | 65  | 87  | 85  | 71  | 86  | 84  | 83  | 80            | 80        | n.a.      |
| Surplus          | 21               | 48  | 35  | 10  | 14  | 26  | 4   | 1   | 4   | 15            | 12        | n.a.      |
| Subsoil Moisture |                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |               |           |           |
| Very Short       | 0                | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 2   | 0   | 0             | 0         | n.a.      |
| Short            | 3                | 5   | 9   | 7   | 4   | 2   | 14  | 16  | 21  | 8             | 10        | n.a.      |
| Adequate         | 80               | 57  | 68  | 87  | 79  | 75  | 82  | 80  | 78  | 80            | 80        | n.a.      |
| Surplus          | 17               | 38  | 23  | 6   | 16  | 23  | 3   | 2   | 1   | 12            | 10        | n.a.      |

Due to a lapse in federal funding in October 2013, the Crop Progress reports for the weeks ending October 6, 2013 and October 13, 2013 were cancelled. Therefore, previous year estimates for the corresponding weeks will not be available. Five-year average estimates will reflect the years 2009-2013 using published estimates for 2009-2012 and imputed estimates for 2013.

# 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.:** Areas south of us had better crop conditions this summer.

**WASHBURN-P.H.:** A few soybeans were harvested the first of the week. Then rain, so that fields are very saturated and will take time to dry out before any more harvest. Some are trying to chop corn silage and rutting up fields. We even had an inch of snow on the ground Saturday morning. The snow bent over much of the immature late corn. But temps have gotten down to 32 so only patchy killing frost in places.

**ASHLAND-C.B.:** Rains have returned throughout the area again. Very little harvest progress has taken place. Temperatures were above normal this past weekend, but currently temperatures are below normal with highs only in the 40s.

**PRICE-D.E.:** Large amounts of rain, not to mention some snow, put a halt to any field work. Some corn is coming off for silage. Fall crops are planted and look good so far. Need it to dry off to get crops off and manure hauled.

**FLORENCE-T.B.:** A cold, wet week! Not much of anything was done as far as harvesting or field work. Need some drier conditions to get into the fields.

**MARINETTE-N.S.:** Some corn silage harvesting has started but moisture levels are somewhat high at this time. Standing water in some corn and soybean fields. Frost has been spotty so far. Most soybean fields have turned color and many have dropped leaves. Wet weather in September delayed planting of winter wheat in many areas.

**ST CROIX-D.K.:** 80 degree days last weekend really ripened crops. No killing frost yet in our area. 1.5 inches of rain this week slowed up field work.

**TREMPEALEAU-D.D.:** The only corn for grain harvest that I know of is for high moisture cattle feed. The moisture there is about right. The soybeans that have been taken were dry early maturing varieties.

**JUNEAU-J.W.:** It was an uneventful week other than receiving our first real hard frost over the weekend. Some rain was also received but that soaked in real nicely. Crops should dry down and finish out nicely.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** Moisture on corn finally getting down to where silage can be made. Potatoes already 75% harvested. A couple of soybean fields should be ready with the next stretch of good weather.

**FOND DU LAC-B.P.:** Had 2 inches of rain last week. Need two weeks of sun and dry weather. Corn and beans still look good.

**CRAWFORD-J.B.:** Last week's rain has stopped fieldwork for the time being. Chopping corn for silage is pretty well complete. A couple of farming operations have harvested corn for grain. Soybeans are maturing but not harvested, a couple farming operations have harvested end rows for testing. Apple harvest has been in full swing and this year's crop is doing well. This year has also been a good year for hay in the county.

**VERNON-K.L.:** First snow flurries of the season. Rain at the end of the week slowed harvesting down and brought on fall-like temperatures. Farmers chopping corn silage and a few have started hi-moisture corn. Soybean harvest started. No real killing frost in the county to date.

**DANE-D.R.:** Frost and snow on pumpkins Saturday A.M. Locust leaves are gone.

**KENOSHA-R.R.:** Had 1.5 inches of rain this morning - water standing around. Need warm and dry days to dry soybeans that are still green.

**WASHINGTON-J.N.:** Had 1.25 inches of rain last week. Silo filling going full blast. Some beans being harvested at this time with 15% moisture.

### Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 5, 2014

| City       | Temperature |           |           |          |      |                         | Growing degree days<br>(modified base 50) 1/ |                          | Precipitation |              |                           |              |                         |
|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
|            | Avg. max.   | Avg. min. | High max. | Low min. | Avg. | Avg. dep. from normal * | Mar. 1 to Oct. 4                             | Mar. 1 to Oct. 4 normal* | Last Week     | Since Sep. 1 | Sep. 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Eau Claire | 61          | 43        | 80        | 33       | 52   | -2                      | 2575   | 2451                     | 1.00          | 6.46         | +2.38                     | 39.13        | +11.77                  |
| Green Bay  | 62          | 46        | 80        | 38       | 54   | +0                      | 2363   | 2316                     | 0.99          | 5.56         | +2.15                     | 26.28        | +2.61                   |
| La Crosse  | 65          | 48        | 85        | 38       | 57   | -1                      | 3007   | 2769                     | 1.46          | 4.09         | +0.38                     | 33.58        | +6.50                   |
| Madison    | 67          | 47        | 82        | 36       | 57   | +1                      | 2789   | 2720                     | 0.85          | 2.65         | -0.70                     | 30.45        | +3.27                   |
| Milwaukee  | 66          | 49        | 82        | 39       | 58   | +0                      | 2461   | n.a.                     | 0.85          | 1.93         | -1.71                     | 27.21        | -0.55                   |

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

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