



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 April 5, 2015
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Early Spring Brings Balmy Temperatures but Little Moisture

There were 2.8 **days suitable for fieldwork** on the week ending April 5, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Sunny, balmy days midweek helped rid fields of any lingering snow, though much of the state has been snow-free since mid-March. The unusually warm and dry weather of the past couple of weeks has allowed farmers to spread manure and chop last year's corn stalks where they remain in fields. Some reporters noted that tillage and oat planting has already begun, while others report that the soil is still thawing in their area.

Though the winter months saw a roller coaster of unusually high and low temperatures, an overall lack of precipitation has left soil moistures low. Both **topsoil and subsoil moisture** were 32 percent short to very short statewide, down significantly from 3 percent short to very short on December 7, 2014. Reporters commented that spring rains are needed to promote growth in crops and pastures.

As of April 5th, **spring tillage** was 2 percent complete statewide, 11 days ahead of last year and equal to the five-year average.

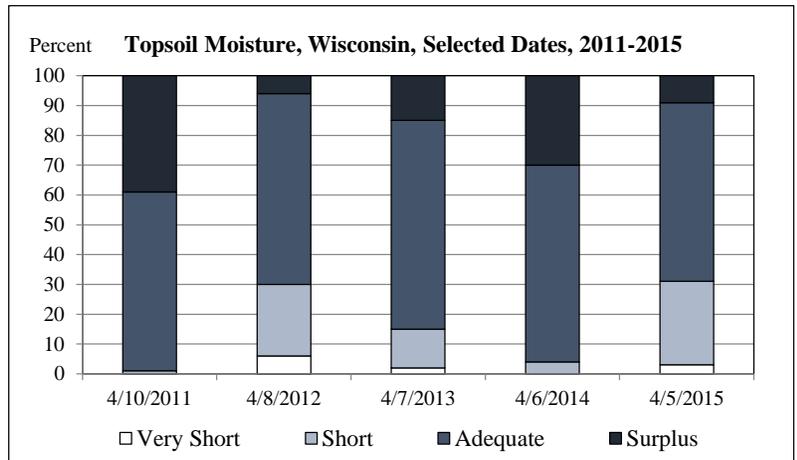
Oats seeding was under way across much of the state, with progress well ahead of last year.

Scattered reports of **potatoes** being planted were received.

Pasture condition was rated 42 percent very poor to poor compared to 68 percent last year. Some pastures were beginning to green up, though it was too early to fully assess conditions in some areas.

Winter wheat was 52 percent in good to excellent condition statewide compared to 28 percent the previous year. In some areas winter wheat was still dormant, while in others it was beginning to green.

Several reporters noted that **maple syrup** season was shorter than usual, but that yields have been above average with good sugar content.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 5, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture & Range	14	28	35	21	2
Winter Wheat	0	11	37	50	2

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of April 5, 2015

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
Days Suitable	Days									Days		
	1.6	2.6	0.2	3.2	4.4	2.7	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.8	n.a.	0.2
Topsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
	Very Short	3	0	0	3	1	0	4	9	2	3	n.a.
Short	29	1	3	32	39	5	49	46	25	28	n.a.	3
Adequate	61	82	76	60	47	78	47	40	64	60	n.a.	71
Surplus	7	17	21	5	13	17	0	5	9	9	n.a.	26
Subsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
	Very Short	3	0	0	2	1	3	6	10	2	3	n.a.
Short	31	1	14	35	28	5	51	43	25	28	n.a.	11
Adequate	60	82	65	59	63	78	43	45	67	62	n.a.	75
Surplus	6	17	21	4	8	14	0	2	6	7	n.a.	14

n.a.= Not available

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.: Frost is out. Pastures are starting to green up but little new forage available.
RUSK-G.P.: Spring seems to be coming earlier this year than in the last few but still little activity to report. Snow is mostly off except where piled up or in the woods. Very little field activity except on the lightest ground. Frost is still coming out, so too soft even to spread manure. Maple syrup is still going on but winding down, season was OK.
ASHLAND-C.B.: Dry spring so far. No field work started yet. Should be starting soon if we don't get any rain.
PRICE-D.E.: Maple sap seems to be running about average this year. No field work has been done to date.
FLORENCE-T.B.: Non-shaded areas have no frost. Just received 6 inches of snow. Temps below normal.
LANGLADE-A.K.: Not dry enough to start any field work; cover crops look good. Need a rain to loosen ground up and pull out any remaining frost. Good maple syrup season.
DUNN-M.B.: There is very little wheat to rate its condition. Have not had enough rainfall with warm temperatures to make progress on hay and pasture fields.
JACKSON-T.W.: Some manure hauling took place last week with frost keeping ground firm during morning hours. Some manure was stacked on field edge until spreading on fields is feasible.
PIERCE-G.A.: A very small number of fields have been planted to spring cereals. Manure injection and hauling just beginning.
JUNEAU-J.F.: Need some rains to get things popping.
WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Maple syrup season is going very well. There has been a good run of sap - sugar content has been very good overall. Weather has not been suitable for any tillage or planting. Heavy soils are still saturated from last year's excessive moisture.
WOOD-M.L.: Fields are soft. Some manure is being applied. Conditions are better than normal for this time of year.

FOND DU LAC-B.P.: Too early here for spring fieldwork. Just some logs being loaded on State roads and some manure being hauled on high ground. Winter wheat and rye greening up. Lots of turkeys out and about. Most farmers getting equipment ready.
MANITOWOC-M.R.: Still too early for any activity around here.
CRAWFORD-J.B.: Farmers with 2014 corn remaining in the field are attempting to harvest that crop. Farmers are spreading manure and have been working on farm equipment to prepare for spring tillage, etc. Small grains and pastures are beginning to come out of dormancy and starting to green up. At this point Crawford is abnormally dry for this time of year so some nice spring rains would be very welcome.
SAUK-C.N.: Not very much activity yet. Quite a bit of manure hauling.
DODGE-R.J.: Conditions are cool and dry.
ROCK-C.O.: Too early to rate conditions on wheat and pasture, but maybe the rain will come and bring things back to life.
KENOSHA-K.I.: Not much going on yet - still chilly.
WALWORTH-N.W.: Seems to be on the dry side going into spring. We did have a rain on Thursday morning. Wheat is starting to green up and seems to have come through the winter in good shape.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 5, 2015

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. 4	Mar. 1 to Apr. 4 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	57	31	80	25	44	+7	78	5	0.44	0.87	-1.30	1.46	-2.59
Green Bay	55	32	63	25	43	+6	52	7	0.24	0.86	-1.52	1.85	-2.77
La Crosse	63	35	82	30	49	+8	108	17	0.26	1.04	-1.32	2.27	-2.27
Madison	60	33	75	27	47	+8	85	20	0.10	0.78	-1.90	2.19	-3.02
Milwaukee	56	33	66	23	45	+6	60	n.a.	0.09	0.89	-2.17	2.63	-3.94

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. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more 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/>

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