



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 12, 2015
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Much-Needed Rains Limit Fieldwork

There were 2.2 **days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending April 12, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Soaking rains and thunderstorms mid-week provided much-needed moisture to soils across the state. Reporters in northern Wisconsin noted several inches of snow followed by rain, which kept snow cover minimal. Days of scattered showers, overcast skies, and fog also contributed to wet field conditions. Manure hauling, tillage, and fertilizer application continued where conditions allowed, but most reporters noted that field operations were prevented by the weather and lingering frozen ground.

Topsoil moisture improved to 1 percent very short, 15 percent short, 63 percent adequate and 21 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated at 2 percent very short, 19 percent short, 66 percent adequate and 13 percent surplus.

As of April 12th, **spring tillage** was 4 percent complete statewide, 9 days ahead of last year but 3 days behind the five-year average.

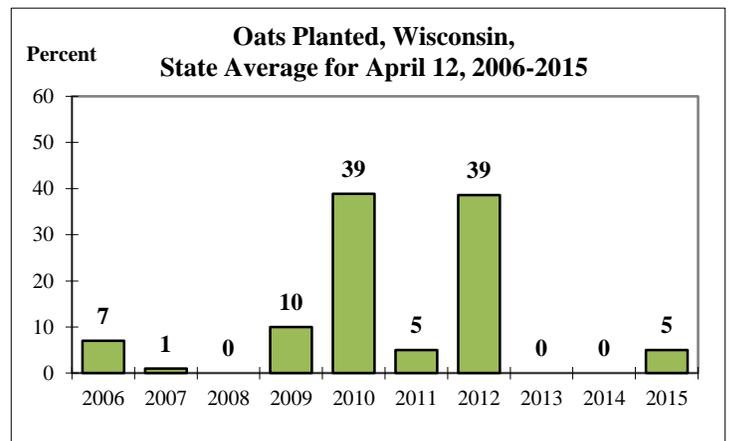
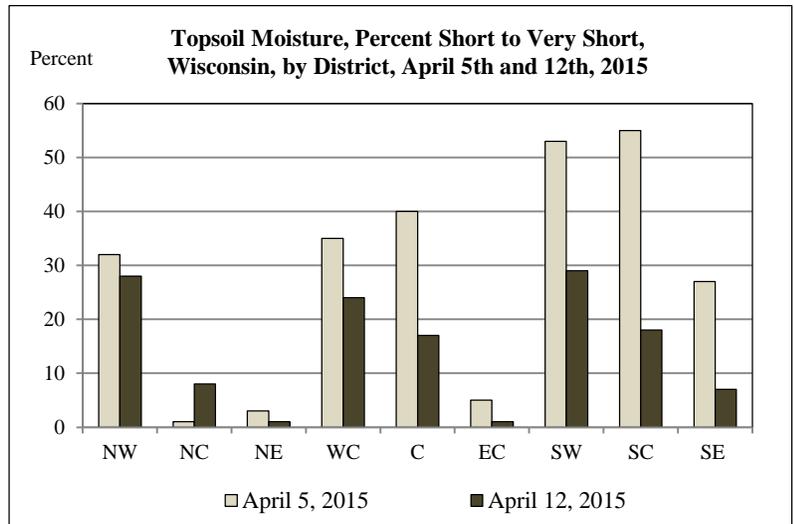
Oats planted was at 5 percent, 10 days ahead of last year. There were a few scattered reports of oats emerging.

Potato planting was underway statewide.

Pasture condition was rated 35 percent very poor to poor compared to 42 percent last week. More pasture came out of dormancy thanks to spring rains, though there were several reports of frost in the northern counties.

Winter wheat conditions improved slightly, from 52 percent in good to excellent condition last week to 57 percent this week. Many farmers reported that wheat was greening up, however cold weather and frosty nights hurt the crop in some counties.

The **maple syrup** season was ending in many counties, with reports of good to average yields. **Fruit** trees continued to bud. A reporter from Portage County also noted that farmers were preparing **pea** ground for planting. Several reporters mentioned that **alfalfa** stands are still in dormancy and that frost has damaged some of the older crops.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 12, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture & Range	11	24	36	27	2
Winter Wheat	0	8	35	52	5

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of April 12, 2015

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
Oats planted	Percent									Percent			
	3	0	0	4	2	4	12	11	7	5	2	0	16

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of April 12, 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		
	2.5	3.2	0.6	1.9	3.4	1.3	2.2	2.1	2.7	2.2	2.8	1.4
Topsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
Very Short	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	1	1	3	0
Short	25	8	1	23	17	1	28	15	6	15	28	4
Adequate	57	65	59	67	55	56	66	61	72	63	60	63
Surplus	15	27	40	9	28	43	5	21	21	21	9	33
Subsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
Very Short	2	0	0	1	0	0	4	7	2	2	3	1
Short	27	5	13	27	18	6	33	20	11	19	28	10
Adequate	56	79	68	65	72	61	57	62	79	66	62	72
Surplus	15	16	19	7	10	33	6	11	8	13	7	17

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-R.S.: Frost just came out about a week or two ago.

SAWYER-K.S.: Spring is slowly arriving, snow showers coated the ground briefly and lake ice continues to disappear. Little field work happening, some early oats being planted, and where soil conditions allow, manure is being hauled. Pastures and other perennials just starting to green up.

CLARK-R.H.: Received 4-5 inches of snow overnight. With yesterday's rain, it will stop any activity related to field work. There was some activity hauling manure during the week though limited. Overall field conditions are not ready for field work or planting. Get your equipment ready as it will be soon.

MARATHON-S.N.: Fair and windy weather this week. 5.4 inches of snow reported on Friday followed by 1.5 inches of rain. Some manure hauling and discing on sandy ground. Maple syrup production was average year.

SHAWANO-B.R.: The winter wheat that was greening up is now looking brown with all of the frosty nights that we had recently. Almost two inches of rain on Thursday and Friday so maybe that will start to wake things up a little. We do still have a fair amount of frost in the ground here.

MONROE-B.H.: Wet weather kept farmers out of the fields for the majority of the week

ST CROIX-D.K.: Cold damp week. Very little work done. Some rain early Wheat is starting to grow.

GREEN LAKE-L.A.: Planting potatoes just started end of week. What a difference 3 inches of rain makes in soil moisture.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Received 2 inches of rain this past week. Grass is starting to green up.

DOOR-T.S.: Some manure hauling taking place and some fields getting worked on the better drained soils. Many are anticipating starting field work next week.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Very little field work was completed in the last week. The ground is still cold and wet. Even though the top may be on the drier side, the ground underneath is quite wet. This is the moisture that was present last fall after the enormous amount of rain came. There has been some spreading of fertilizer on hay and wheat fields, attempting to get this job done while the crops are still in dormancy. Winter wheat is just starting to get green, but has grown very little. Alfalfa has yet to come alive yet this spring. The rain that fell last week and the warmer and drier weather forecast for this week should get things growing. Some field work may begin this week, as long as the soil is dry enough and so compaction won't be an issue.

VERNON-K.L.: Received 3.5 inches of rain and some hail in areas. Cold rain, but well needed. Temps warmed up late in week, with sunshine and gusty winds. Grass slowly greening up.

COLUMBIA-G.K.: 3 inches of rain this past week, most was absorbed into the soil, very little runoff, except from paved surfaces. Lots of manure being applied to the landscape.

DANE-F.P.: We had 3.5 inches of rain this past week and there was some soil erosion. There are wet spots in fields and not much fieldwork has been done.

OZAUKEE-G.S.: Rained all last week, about 3.5 to 4 inches fell on average.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 12, 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. 11	Mar. 1 to Apr. 11 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	50	34	66	30	42	+2	91	21	0.48	1.50	-1.33	2.09	-2.55
Green Bay	46	34	61	32	40	0	58	19	1.02	1.98	-1.02	2.97	-2.24
La Crosse	55	36	67	34	45	+1	130	39	2.99	4.03	+0.91	5.25	-0.05
Madison	56	36	64	28	46	+4	110	42	3.29	4.07	+0.63	5.48	-0.47
Milwaukee	50	36	63	32	43	+1	72	n.a.	3.91	4.80	+0.87	6.54	-0.89

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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