



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



Upper Midwest Region - Wisconsin Field Office · 2811 Agriculture Drive · Madison WI 53718-6777 · (608) 224-4848
fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov

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For the week ending April 19, 2015
Media Contact: Greg Bussler

Warm Week Sees Planting Progress

Sunny skies and above normal temperatures meant there were **5.1 days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending April 19, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Spring fieldwork began in earnest across southern Wisconsin, with oats, alfalfa, spring wheat, potatoes, and processing vegetables being planted. However, farmers were holding off on fieldwork in the northern portions of the state due to continued frost danger and low soil temperatures. Manure and fertilizer spreading were in full swing, and last fall's corn fields were being cleared of standing stalks. There were a few reports of early **corn** being planted.

Though soils were reportedly too soft to support machinery in some areas, most reporters noted conditions in their area were dry. **Topsoil moistures** averaged 20 percent short to very short statewide, compared to 16 percent last week. **Subsoil moistures** were slightly drier, with 23 percent short to very short this week compared to 21 percent last week. Much of the state needs rain to support germination and keep soils in good condition for tillage.

As of April 19th, **spring tillage** was 18 percent complete statewide, 17 days ahead of last year but matching the five-year average.

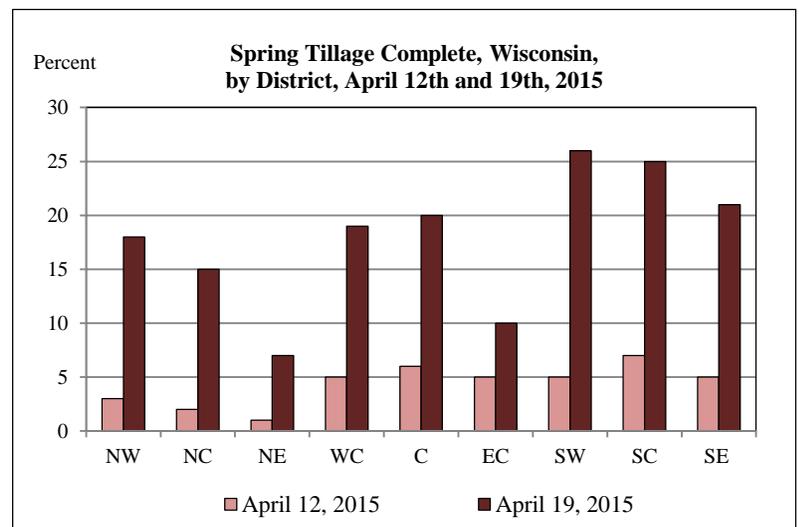
Oats planted was at 26 percent, 18 days ahead of last year but in line with the five-year average. Above average temperatures and mostly dry conditions allowed oat planting to make rapid progress in all districts throughout the state.

Potatoes planted also progressed rapidly, reaching 23 percent.

Pasture condition improved from last week, with 38 rated percent rated very good to excellent compared to 29 percent last week. Warmer temperatures helped to bring more pasture out of dormancy during the week.

Winter wheat also improved, from 57 percent in good to excellent condition statewide last week to 65 percent this week. Several reporters noted that wheat appeared to have come through the winter well in most fields and is off to a good start.

The **maple syrup** harvest is now complete in most counties. A Wood County reporter noted **cranberry** vines were in the "budswell" to "cabbagehead" stage. A Vernon County reporter commented that **grape** producers were beginning to prune vines. Several reporters mentioned winter kill damage to existing **alfalfa** ranging from mild to severe. However, it remains too early for a final assessment of winter damage to be made.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 19, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture & Range	6	20	36	33	5
Winter Wheat	0	6	29	57	8

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of April 19, 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
	Percent									Percent			
Oats planted	22	23	10	23	28	14	40	40	24	26	5	2	26
Potatoes planted	2	3	2	5	32	n.a.	17	20	n.a.	23	2	n.a.	n.a.
Spring tillage complete	18	15	7	19	20	10	26	25	21	18	4	3	18

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of April 19, 2015

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	5.4	4.9	4.6	4.4	6.5	3.8	6.1	5.6	4.6	5.1	2.2	1.5
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	5	2	1	1	0
Short	33	16	0	22	19	6	35	22	7	19	15	3
Adequate	57	65	60	68	67	61	62	64	76	66	63	63
Surplus	10	19	40	9	13	33	1	9	15	14	21	34
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short	0	0	0	2	1	0	6	7	2	2	2	0
Short	36	4	9	29	18	7	38	23	11	21	19	9
Adequate	56	87	72	63	78	65	55	63	77	68	66	75
Surplus	8	9	19	6	3	28	1	7	10	9	13	16

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

BARRON-L.H.: The weather last week was excellent and allowed many producers to begin their spring tillage. With the threat of cooler temperatures this week, producers avoided any planting of corn. Moisture in the latter part of the week replenished the dry ground and will help pasture land grow.

POLK-A.M.: A lot of spring wheat, barley, and oats went in the ground. Hauling fertilizer and manure.

WASHBURN-P.H.: Manure was hauled. Some small grains and forage seedings done. Waiting for insurance date to start corn. Winter rye is looking good. Older alfalfa fields are spotty.

CLARK-A.K.: Manure hauling going good. Some oats planted. Combined the last of the corn I had. If the weather holds off, next week will be busy.

PRICE-D.E.: Spring tillage started off this week on a good note with small grains and even some corn planted. Hay fields are greening up and winter small grains are off to a good start.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Some of the sandier soils could have been planted this past week, but held off due to the cold wet weather forecast for next week. Alfalfa fields appear to be severely damaged.

EAU CLAIRE-A.B.: Livestock producers took this window to spread manure. Stalk chopping was the major activity for the week. Many pieces of machinery were in shops getting ready for spring work. I am starting to see machinery sitting along roads with for sale signs.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Some manure and fertilizer being spread this last week. Farmers are starting spring work, planting some oats. Weather report says this area is almost an inch short of moisture, even with the rain we had the week before.

TREMPEALEAU-L.N.: Some tillage and grain/alfalfa seeding. Road bans will lift Monday to enable some fertilizer and lime spreading.

JUNEAU-J.W.: The soil temps have not warmed up too much, so there has not been a lot of planting (if any) going on the past week. There was a lot of fertilizer application that went on last week.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Oats and alfalfa seeding progressing. Potato acres are past the half way mark. Wet fields firming up nicely allowing for manure spreading. Even a couple of individuals putting in a couple of acres of corn.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: Dormancy continues to break as fields dry out. Just a few manure applications late in the week.

SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: Waiting for fields to dry out following the big rains of last week.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: Small grains, alfalfa and cool season grasses are coming out of dormancy. Good week for field work. Some farmers applying fertilizer, manure, seeding oats and performing some spring tillage. Also, some 2014 standing corn is being harvested. Buds on apple trees are beginning to swell. Rain would be welcome to replenish subsoil moisture.

GREEN-M.M.: Alfalfa and winter wheat have come through the winter well in most fields. Several farmers started on corn planting last week.

WALWORTH-N.W.: A few planters were rolling towards the end of the week. Some just testing it out. Field conditions are good, but just a little early for most producers to start. Alfalfa and wheat starting to look good.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 19, 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. 18	Mar. 1 to Apr. 18 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	71	40	76	29	56	+12	166	56	0.11	1.61	-1.89	2.20	-3.16
Green Bay	67	39	75	34	53	+10	118	48	0.10	2.08	-1.50	3.07	-2.72
La Crosse	74	45	81	36	60	+13	217	79	0.02	4.05	+0.12	5.27	-0.85
Madison	70	40	79	33	55	+10	182	83	0.11	4.18	-0.04	5.59	-1.14
Milwaukee	63	42	76	36	53	+9	118	n.a.	0.05	4.85	+0.00	6.59	-1.75

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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