



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 May 3, 2015
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Dry, Sunny Week Meant Record Corn Progress

There were 6.7 **days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending May 3rd, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Clear, sunny skies saw farmers take to the fields statewide. Some reporters noted that frosty nights near the beginning of the week threatened overwintered crops. But temperatures reached the upper 70s over the weekend, warming soils and boosting growth in pastures and hay stands. Producers worked into the night to plant oats, corn, potatoes, and a few fields of early soybeans during this window of excellent weather.

Wind and sun dried out soils throughout this week, with some reporters noting dusty field conditions. A large storm system swept across much of the state late Sunday night, with 0.5 to 1.0 inches of rain reported. **Topsoil moistures** ended the week with 29 percent short to very short compared to 22 percent last week. **Subsoil moistures** were 29 percent short to very short, compared to 23 percent last week. More rain is needed as precipitation totals at the major weather stations remain behind normal for both the spring season and the year to date.

As of May 3rd, **spring tillage** was 66 percent complete statewide, 20 days ahead of last year and 15 days ahead of the five-year average.

Thirty seven percent of the **corn** crop was planted during the week, the most planted during this week in more than 30 years. Corn planting stands at 42 percent complete, 11 days ahead of the five-year average.

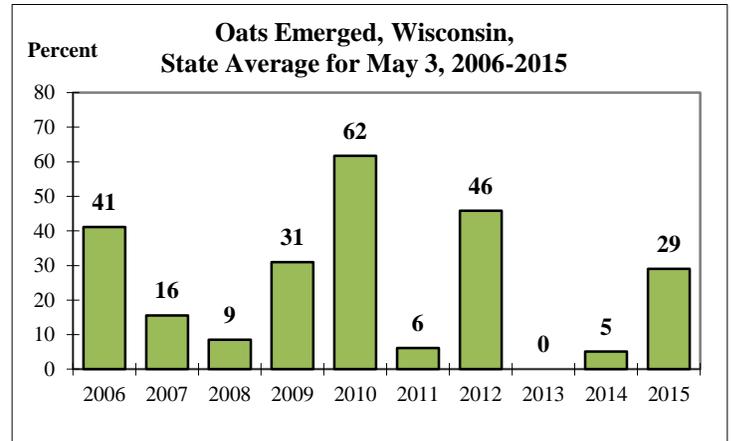
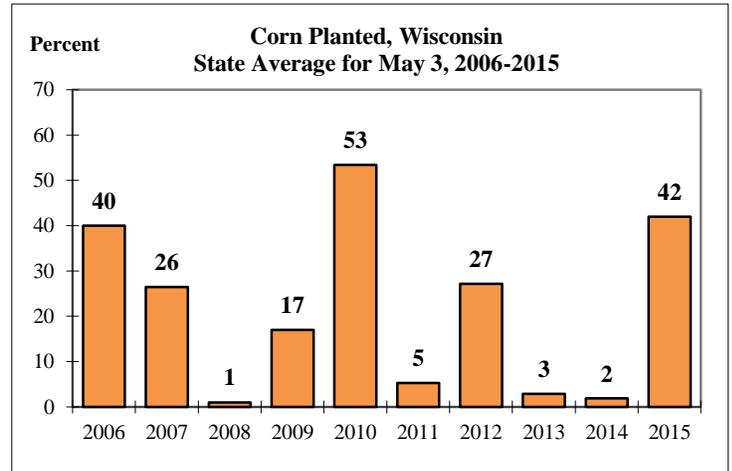
Oats planted was at 80 percent, 22 days ahead of last year and 17 days ahead of the five-year average. Statewide, 29 percent of oats had emerged.

Potatoes planted continued to progress, reaching 75 percent.

Pasture condition continued to improve week-over-week, with 53 percent rated good to excellent compared to 44 percent last week.

Winter wheat condition was 66 percent in good to excellent, virtually unchanged from the previous week.

A report from Wood County noted that **cranberry** buds have opened, and there were several reports that **apple** and other fruit trees are blooming.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 3, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture & Range	1	13	33	47	6
Winter Wheat	0	8	26	53	13

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of May 3, 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
Corn planted	Percent									Percent			
	38	42	32	45	41	41	40	45	52	42	5	2	18
Oats planted	76	75	65	86	83	72	87	91	79	80	46	17	46
Oats emerged	19	13	13	29	27	23	45	44	43	29	7	5	24
Potatoes planted	49	55	28	89	87	n.a.	61	50	n.a.	75	40	35	n.a.
Spring tillage complete	63	68	52	68	66	65	74	66	68	66	31	12	35

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of May 3, 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		
	6.4	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.3	6.7	4.1	1.5
Topsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
Very Short	5	2	0	2	2	2	4	10	1	3	2	0
Short	36	17	23	25	31	34	33	21	13	26	20	3
Adequate	56	79	72	68	62	60	62	65	82	68	68	60
Surplus	3	2	5	5	5	4	1	4	4	3	10	37
Subsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
Very Short	3	0	0	2	2	2	7	12	1	4	3	0
Short	34	7	18	31	28	26	33	25	13	25	20	5
Adequate	60	88	79	65	66	69	60	60	80	69	71	76
Surplus	3	5	3	2	4	3	0	3	6	2	6	19

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.

BAYFIELD-C.B.: Nice warmer weather towards the end of the week. Dry weather over the weekend. Farmers out in the fields.

SAWYER-K.S.: Field work and spring planting progressed steadily again this week. Weather has been near ideal. Much needed rain showers fell across most of the county late Sunday.

CLARK-R.H.: Soil temperature at 2 inches this morning: tilled soil 36 degrees, untilled 36 degrees. Soils may warm up during the day but currently not retaining the warmth. There is frost coming out on field edges and roads yet. Overall a very busy week with field work and considerable progress with small grain and corn planting. Make sure to look at alfalfa fields for heaving and winter injury.

SHAWANO-B.R.: A lot of field work done this week including tillage and planting. Fields that have heavy corn trash on them are still very wet with possible frost under the trash. Local cooperatives having a hard time keeping supplied with fertilizer as the demand is extremely heavy. A few farmers are already done with their corn planting. Still need warm rain to get winter wheat and alfalfa going.

PIERCE-G.A.: Getting a little dry but planting progress is advancing quickly.

ST CROIX-D.K.: Could use a nice rain. Lots of planting being done in the last week. Alfalfa looks great - most stands had no winterkill. They would really take off with a rain

ADAMS-D.B.: Tillage and planters ran hard all week

GREEN LAKE-L.A.: Sandland potatoes are all planted. Muckland potato planting has started.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: We received 1 inch of rain on 4/20. No additional until last evening, when we received 0.4 inches. Sand soil in central Wisconsin has become pretty dry. Grass and clover were wilting during mid-day and showing moisture stress. Farmers are able to plant through wet spots that have not been planted in the last 2 or 3 years.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: It was a perfect week of weather, and producers made the most of it by getting quite a bit planted. A lot of alfalfa went into the ground, due in part to the diminished stands present now. Some of the winter killed alfalfa is showing signs of starting a regrowth, but the plants are small and will be well behind the rest of the healthy plants. Some producers have been deciding to spray the old alfalfa with an herbicide so that the ground can be planted into another crop. A lot of corn was also planted this week, and even a small amount of soybeans. All the planting that has been done is in sharp contrast to last year when the planting was pushed off until the end of May and beginning of June. Conditions so far this spring have been ideal. Some rain would help the planted crops to germinate.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: With slightly above average temperatures it has been a very productive week. A diversity of field work is being performed, some corn is being planted. Some varieties of fruit tree are in bloom and the remainder will be in full bloom within the week. Pastures continue to improve as the weather warms up. Winter wheat, alfalfa and winter cover crops look good. A nice, easy, and steady rain for a day or so would be welcome.

DANE-F.P.: Rain is needed. Apple trees and other trees are blooming.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Good late week for planting.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 3, 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 May 2	Mar. 1 to May 2 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	70	36	80	29	53	+3	251	137	0.00	2.50	-2.50	3.09	-3.77
Green Bay	66	38	79	31	52	+3	191	111	0.00	2.57	-2.18	3.56	-3.42
La Crosse	72	40	82	29	56	+2	318	170	0.00	4.98	-0.61	6.20	-1.55
Madison	67	36	76	31	51	+0	262	169	0.00	5.13	-0.69	6.54	-1.84
Milwaukee	56	40	76	35	48	-1	147	n.a.	0.00	6.07	-0.52	7.80	-2.32

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/>

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.