



# Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



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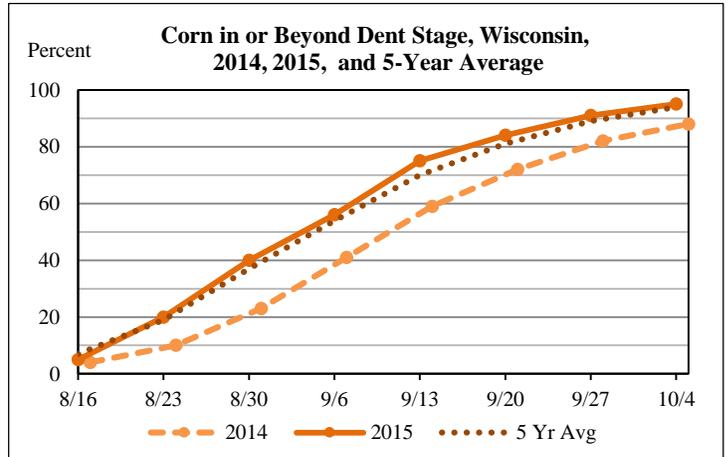
## Harvest Ramps Up as Frosty Weather Sets In

There were **6.0 days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending October 4, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The summer-like conditions Wisconsin has enjoyed throughout September came to an end this Monday, as a cold front brought temperatures down to more seasonable levels. Fieldwork stalled due to widespread rain associated with this front, but resumed quickly. The remainder of the week was dry, chilly, and windy, with the first frosts of the season reported in many areas. Farmers were working overtime to harvest fourth and fifth crop hay, corn silage, high moisture corn, and soybeans. Reporters noted that soybean yields were above average and that plant moisture was falling quickly as the colder weather pushed crops toward maturity. Fall tillage, manure hauling, and winter wheat planting continued as fields were prepared.

**Topsoil moistures** were 10 percent short to very short, the same as the previous week. **Subsoil moistures** held steady at 12 percent short to very short.

As of October 4, sixty-five percent of the **corn** crop had reached maturity, 8 days ahead of last year but 1 day behind the five-year average. The corn crop was rated 78 percent good to excellent, 1 percentage point down from the previous week. Corn harvested for silage was 83 percent complete, nearly 3 weeks ahead of last year and 6 days ahead of the five-year average. Eighty-nine percent of the **soybean** crop was dropping leaves, 8 days ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of the five-year average. Eighty-one percent of the soybean crop was rated good to excellent. Eighty-eight percent of **potatoes** had been harvested statewide, 3 days ahead of last year. Fifty-one percent of **winter wheat** planting was complete, 5 days ahead of last year. **Fall tillage** was at 19 percent complete, the fastest pace in 15 years.

**Pasture** condition was rated 63 percent good to excellent. The **fourth cutting of alfalfa** was 89 percent harvested, the second fastest pace in more than 35 years, trailing only 2012. A reporter in Juneau County commented that **cranberry** producers needed to irrigate to prevent frost damage on a couple of nights.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 4, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn.....	1	4	17	52	26
Pasture & Range..	3	10	24	47	16
Soybeans.....	1	4	14	54	27

## Wisconsin Crop Progress as of October 4, 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			
Alfalfa hay, fourth cutting.....	89	71	85	93	96	87	95	91	74	89	82	76	81
Corn in or beyond dent stage....	92	92	93	90	97	96	99	98	94	95	91	87	94
Corn mature.....	70	50	36	64	65	62	66	74	69	65	44	50	67
Corn harvested for grain.....	6	10	6	5	6	3	9	11	3	7	3	3	14
Corn harvested for silage.....	86	67	82	88	85	81	90	90	81	83	63	45	74
Fall Tillage.....	14	19	19	20	25	22	21	13	16	19	11	12	11
Potatoes harvested.....	54	99	95	99	86	n.a.	71	70	n.a.	88	77	82	n.a.
Soybeans dropping leaves.....	93	84	98	92	92	88	88	86	85	89	69	75	80
Soybeans harvested.....	25	33	24	29	18	21	14	18	14	21	4	6	24
Winter wheat planted.....	51	79	42	41	78	61	63	36	24	51	33	35	n.a.
Winter wheat emerged.....	29	45	11	10	32	22	31	13	8	20	7	15	n.a.

n.a.=not available

## Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of October 4, 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	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.4	6.5	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.5	6.0	6.2	4.6
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0
Short.....	3	8	10	11	18	5	8	9	9	9	9	5
Adequate.....	88	89	82	82	76	80	63	85	84	80	77	80
Surplus.....	9	0	8	6	6	15	27	6	7	10	13	15
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	3	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	0
Short.....	3	8	9	9	14	8	16	19	9	11	11	8
Adequate.....	88	89	86	85	81	80	80	76	86	83	82	80
Surplus.....	9	0	5	5	5	12	0	4	5	5	6	12

**Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

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

**RUSK-G.P.:** A nice week this week. Soybean harvest and corn silage continue and high moisture corn is starting. Dry corn will wait a bit yet with continued nice weather as long as stalk quality holds up. Last hay of the year going up and planting of winter grains continues. If things hold, looks to be a nice harvest.

**SAWYER-K.S.:** Several nights of cold temps and frost occurred this week. Corn and soybeans that were still green are now turning brown, dropping leaves or drooping ears. Silage harvest is in full swing as is other fall harvest and field work.

**CLARK-A.K.:** Farmers are hauling manure, doing fall tillage, planting wheat, cutting hay, chopping hay, combining beans, chopping corn, and combining corn, all at the same time. Let's hope everyone does it safely.

**FLORENCE-T.B.:** Two nights of hard frost this week helped dry down corn. Many are putting corn silage in at this time. Moisture running at average around the mid-60s. Heard that corn for grain was running at around 34 percent moisture early in the week. Pastures for those rotational grazing still have enough forage. Some third crop hay being cut.

**LANGLADE-A.K.:** Crops were finished out on their own. Frost will help drydown. Soybean yields very good - some white mold though.

**LA CROSSE-I.H.:** Fairly dry week. High moisture corn starting to come off. Beans starting to be harvested. Ground hard, need some rain.

**JUNEAU-J.W.:** We received a nice rain last week that did not cause damage and was a nice recharge of soil moisture. We've had cool temps at night with only a couple of locations receiving a killing frost last week. Cranberry producers needed to irrigate to prevent frost damage on a couple of nights. Harvest is just getting started and will get in full swing in about a week. There have been some producers reporting tremendous corn yields and overall yields will be pretty good for both corn and soybeans. Final cutting of hay should be all done.

**WOOD-M.L.:** Excellent fall field conditions, soybeans coming off fast.

**FOND DU LAC-B.B.:** Not the best week for corn and bean dry down. Most of the silage is complete except for the most late of planted acreage. Close call but no frost this week. Trees are on the turn.

**VERNON-K.L.:** County received 1.0 to 1.5 inches of rain this past week. Parts of the county had light frost for the first time this week. No killing frost to date. Farmers harvesting corn silage in full force and others have started to harvest soybeans. Yields are running good. A couple of farmers have started harvesting early planted corn for grain.

**DODGE-R.J.:** Fall harvesting and fieldwork is off to a good start.

**GREEN-M.M.:** A lot of beans harvested last week with most fields running above average in yield. Corn is drying down rapidly and many farmers are struggling to get high moisture corn harvested before it is too dry. Most early yield reports on corn are also above average, but will be lower than 2014.

**WALWORTH-N.W.:** Soybeans were starting to come off towards the end of the week but rain on Saturday night put a halt to progress. High moisture corn harvest has also started.

**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 4, 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 Oct. 3	Mar. 1 to Oct. 3 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	66	41	80	33	54	-1	2748	2443	0.00	4.51	+0.52	32.07	+4.90
Green Bay	65	46	82	39	56	+2	2708	2309	0.12	5.78	+2.44	22.00	-1.65
La Crosse	70	45	82	36	57	-1	3279	2760	0.16	2.72	-0.90	25.44	-1.62
Madison	65	45	78	40	55	-1	2962	2710	2.03	6.00	+2.71	28.98	+1.90
Milwaukee	64	54	80	49	59	+0	2662	n.a.	0.63	4.44	+0.89	22.21	-5.55

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. 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/>