



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

Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Vol. 17, No.1
Issued April 3, 2017

For the week ending April 2, 2017
Media Contact: Greg Bussler

Waiting for the Sun

There were 0.7 **days suitable for fieldwork** for the week ending April 2, 2017, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Fields were highly saturated this week, with a mix of frost conditions reported. Some reporters noted that overwintered crops were beginning to green up and soils were frost-free, while others reported surface frost or frost several inches deep. Record-breaking high temperatures in February left much of the state free of snowcover. Minimal snowcover continued through March with rainy, above-freezing days leaving fields exposed to occasional cold snaps. Reporters were concerned about damage to winter wheat and hay stands though it was too early to fully assess winterkill. Manure and fertilizer applications were ongoing as conditions allowed but cold, muddy soils prevented other fieldwork in most of the state. Sunny, warm days are needed to improve field conditions for planting.

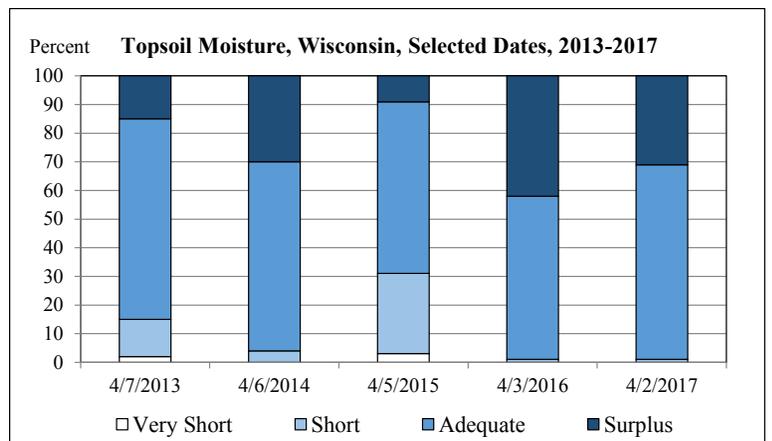
Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 68 percent adequate and 31 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 70 percent adequate and 29 percent surplus.

As of April 2nd, **spring tillage** was 1 percent complete statewide, equal to last year, and to the five-year average.

Oats planting were reported as 2 percent complete.

Winter wheat was 54 percent in good to excellent condition statewide.

Maple tapping had an early and erratic start thanks to very warm temperatures in February. March's more seasonal weather allowed for good sap production in some areas, particularly in the northern portions of the state. Some reporters noted that sap was still running, while others saw the season end weeks ago. Production and quality were highly variable.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 2, 2017

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat.....	0	4	42	46	8

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of April 2, 2017

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This Week	Last week	Last Year
Days Suitable	Days									Days		
	1.1	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.4	1.6	0.7	n.a.	0.8
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	0
Short.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	n.a.	1
Adequate.....	80	91	37	76	50	31	90	73	67	68	n.a.	57
Surplus.....	16	9	63	24	50	69	9	24	31	31	n.a.	42
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	0
Short.....	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	n.a.	2
Adequate.....	72	91	42	88	49	29	98	77	57	70	n.a.	57
Surplus.....	24	9	58	12	51	71	0	22	43	29	n.a.	41

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.

BURNETT/WASHBURN-P.H.: Still frost in the ground. Some manure hauled and lime spread.

RUSK-G.P.: Snow cover is off, but not much spring-like about the outdoors yet. Too wet to even haul manure on most ground and definitely no tillage yet. Still too early to tell how much winter damage to wheat and alfalfa. Sap season is winding down, an OK year, but nothing great. Spring wildflowers have not even peeked up out of the forest floor yet. Just waiting.

CLARK-R.H.: No field work as of today. Soil conditions are at best described as mud season. Drier weather today will help, need to have some warmer dry weather before considering any field work. Have heard good reports from maple sap collection. Alfalfa and winter wheat may need a week or so to have a better idea on conditions.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Ground conditions are very wet. We are concerned about alfalfa winter kill and the condition of winter wheat.

PIERCE/ST CROIX-R.F.: Most frost appears to be out of the ground. Manure is being hauled where the ground will carry the equipment. Some scattered lighter ground being tilled. We are still waiting for a good spring shower.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Winter cover crop rye is greening up, as is some south slope alfalfa. Horse farmers are plowing and some manure pumping has begun

WAUPACA/OUTAGAMIE-D.L.H.: The final week of March was mostly cloudy, rainy, and blustery, except for the taste of spring that occurred on Tuesday. No spring tillage has occurred due to very soggy weather. There are reports of an excellent maple sap season. It is too soon to determine winter kill of alfalfa. So far winter wheat appears to have survived with very little damage.

FOND DU LAC/WASHINGTON-B.B.: Very quiet in the fields owing to the sound of frequent rains.

SHEBOYGAN/OZAUKEE-M.B.: Has been very cool and wet the last several weeks. No field work.

LAFAYETTE-B.L.: Some producers have gotten an early start to field operations but a wet last week has slowed things down now. Looks like rain through mid-week. Hopefully back in the fields by late this week.

VERNON-K.L.: Sporadic rain throughout the week. Very muddy conditions and little opportunity to do any field work.

DODGE-M.P.: We have had enough rain to prevent fieldwork from beginning.

GREEN-T.Z.: Gray and hazy days with some early morning fog. Manure hauling and cleaning out of barns continues, but very little if any field work completed this week.

KENOSHA-R.R.: On Thursday, it rained all day with 2.05 inches of rain; ponds everywhere.

WALWORTH-N.W.: A few producers have been putting on fertilizer and anhydrous.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 2, 2017

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. 1	Mar. 1 to Apr. 1 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	53	31	64	26	42	+7	27	1	0.06	1.08	-0.84	5.15	+1.37
Green Bay	47	33	63	31	40	+4	19	5	0.57	2.07	-0.06	5.43	+1.09
La Crosse	53	36	67	29	44	+5	49	12	0.42	1.68	-0.42	5.53	+1.28
Madison	49	34	60	27	42	+4	35	14	0.94	2.84	+0.46	7.54	+2.65
Milwaukee	46	36	59	32	41	+3	34	n.a.	1.90	3.73	+1.03	7.74	+1.55

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/>