



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 9, 2017
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Small Grain Seeding Begins on Light Soils

There were **2.5 days suitable for fieldwork** for the week ending April 9, 2017, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. In spite of a warm, breezy weekend, reporters commented that spring tillage has not yet begun in earnest. Farmers in much of the state were still waiting for muddy grounds to firm. Southern Wisconsin experienced heavy rains midweek, keeping farmers out of fields. There were scattered reports of oats, alfalfa and spring wheat being planted on light soils. Manure and fertilizer applications were going strong as field conditions allowed. Winter wheat and hay stands were reportedly greening up in some areas. Farmers remained concerned about overwintered crops, but it was still too early for a full assessment of winterkill.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 69 percent adequate and 30 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 72 percent adequate and 27 percent surplus.

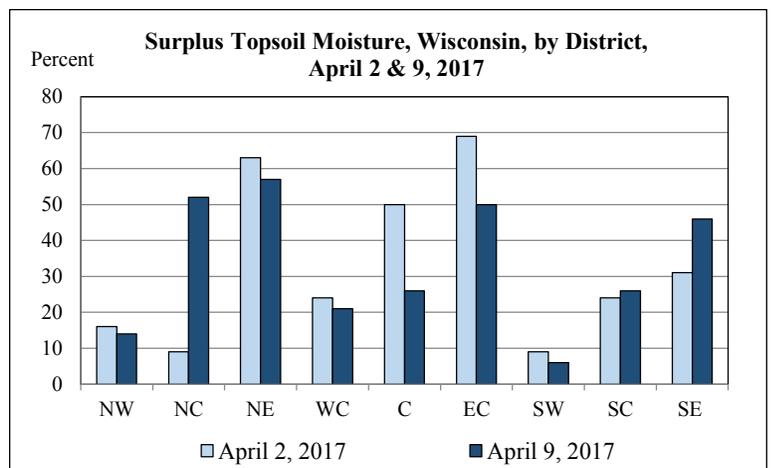
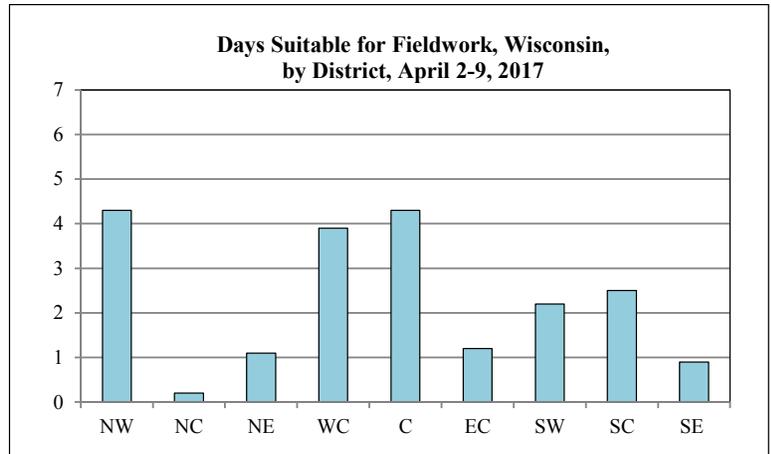
As of April 9th, **spring tillage** was 2 percent complete statewide, equal to last year, but 3 percentage points below the five-year average.

Oats planting is reported as 4 percent complete, slightly ahead of last year, but 3 percent points behind the 5 year average.

Winter wheat was 59 percent in good to excellent condition statewide, up 5 percentage points from last week.

Pasture condition was rated 45 percent in good to excellent condition, compared to 48 percent in good to excellent condition last year.

Maple syrup season finished up this week in many areas, as warm overnights and budding trees halted the sap run. Reports on the quality and quantity of syrup production were mixed.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 9, 2017

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture.....	7	11	37	40	5
Winter Wheat.....	0	5	36	48	11

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of April 9, 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		
	4.3	0.2	1.1	3.9	4.3	1.2	2.2	2.5	0.9	2.5	0.7	1.0
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short.....	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1
Adequate.....	82	48	42	79	74	50	93	72	53	69	68	54
Surplus.....	14	52	57	21	26	50	6	26	46	30	31	45
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short.....	4	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	1
Adequate.....	80	48	44	88	78	43	98	76	53	72	70	62
Surplus.....	16	52	56	10	22	57	0	23	47	27	29	37

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-T.J.: Farmers are spreading manure on fields that are dry enough, but very little other activity taking place.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Manure spreading occurring on scattered fields. Some fertilizer applications in areas where road bans have been removed.

ASHLAND/IRON-C.B.: No field activity yet. Nice weekend was drying fields up, but then rain on Sunday delayed field activities.

FLORENCE/FOREST/LANGLADE-D.E.: Cold wet weather has hampered any attempts to do spring field work. Some manure is being topdressed. Maple sap reports are average to below average at this point. Many beekeepers report severe losses to hives.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Although there has been some work done on farms this week, a majority of it has been repairing fences in anticipation of pasturing animals that have been semi-confined. Other areas of work revolve around getting machinery ready for spring work. There was a rain event on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday that prevented field work. A large concern this week focused on dairy operations who were sent a letter saying the dairy plants they had been selling to for a number of years are no longer going to take their milk. These people are looking for plants to sell their milk to. Apparently they are hard to find, leaving farmers with the idea of going out of business. While this seems to not have an impact on crop production, it may cause these operators to change their minds about what to plant this year.

MONROE-B.H.: There is some activity starting to happen on the sandy soils and manure being applied in fields where they can go. Some fields are still a little too wet to do much.

PORTAGE/WOOD-J.B.: The race is on to plant potatoes. Started in full swing with the reds early last week but now the rains have shut that down for early this week.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Some early plowing on sand soils. Saw a couple of fields seeded down already.

CALUMET-T.S.: Farmers are very concerned about winterkill.

VERNON-K.L.: Farmers still waiting for some nice days to dry up mud. Late in week a couple of sunny days, but need more. Beef producers starting to get calves.

COLUMBIA-G.K.: Soil is drying out. Farmers should be able to get some fieldwork done this week as long as it doesn't rain too much. Winter wheat looks good except for near hilltops and knolls. Alfalfa is greening up, need another week to evaluate.

OZAUKEE/WASHINGTON-B.B.: Had a very wet week. No activity happening in the fields this week. The wheat is starting to greening up. The late planted wheat is struggling to get a good start.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 9, 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. 8	Mar. 1 to Apr. 8 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	57	33	70	23	45	+6	52	13	0.47	1.59	-0.97	5.66	+1.28
Green Bay	56	37	67	33	46	+7	43	12	0.45	2.75	+0.00	6.10	+1.15
La Crosse	60	41	77	30	50	+8	86	27	1.44	3.20	+0.40	7.05	+2.09
Madison	55	38	69	33	46	+5	57	31	0.87	3.70	+0.60	8.40	+2.77
Milwaukee	54	39	66	32	46	+5	52	n.a.	1.42	5.14	+1.60	9.15	+2.12

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.