



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 15, 2018
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Record Breaking April Blizzard

There was 1.0 day suitable for fieldwork for the week ending April 15, 2018, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Farmers in southern Wisconsin did a limited amount of fieldwork this week, mostly manure and fertilizer applications, before wintry conditions halted progress. Starting Friday, a three day blizzard dumped yet another round of heavy, wet snow across the state, with high winds and whiteout conditions in some areas. Central and northeastern portions of the state were especially hard-hit with reporters noting up to two feet of new snow on top of the existing snowpack. The storm was the second largest snowstorm ever recorded at the NWS weather station in Green Bay, more than doubling the previous records for largest April snowstorm and snowiest April. There were a few reports of barn roofs collapsing due to the sheer weight of the snow. Overwintered crops remained largely dormant. Reporters commented that it will be a few weeks before fieldwork can begin across much of the state.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 76 percent adequate and 17 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 81 percent adequate and 11 percent surplus.

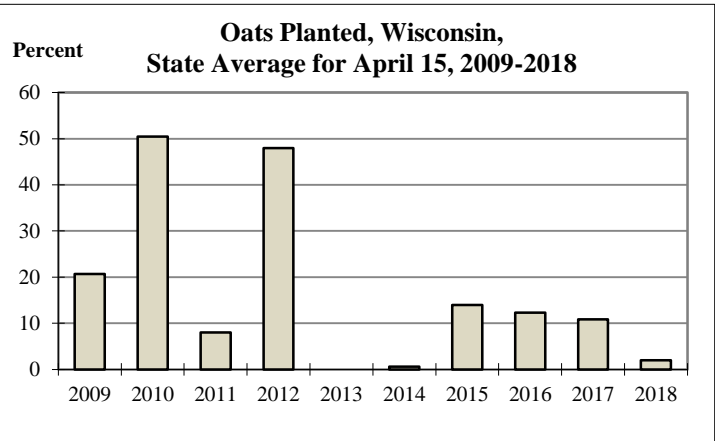
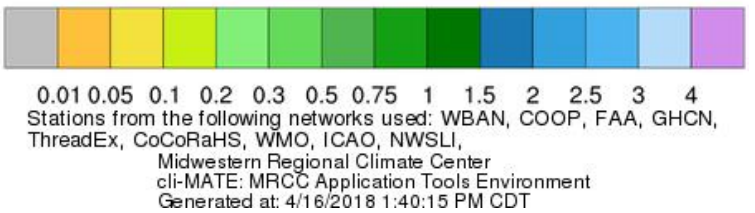
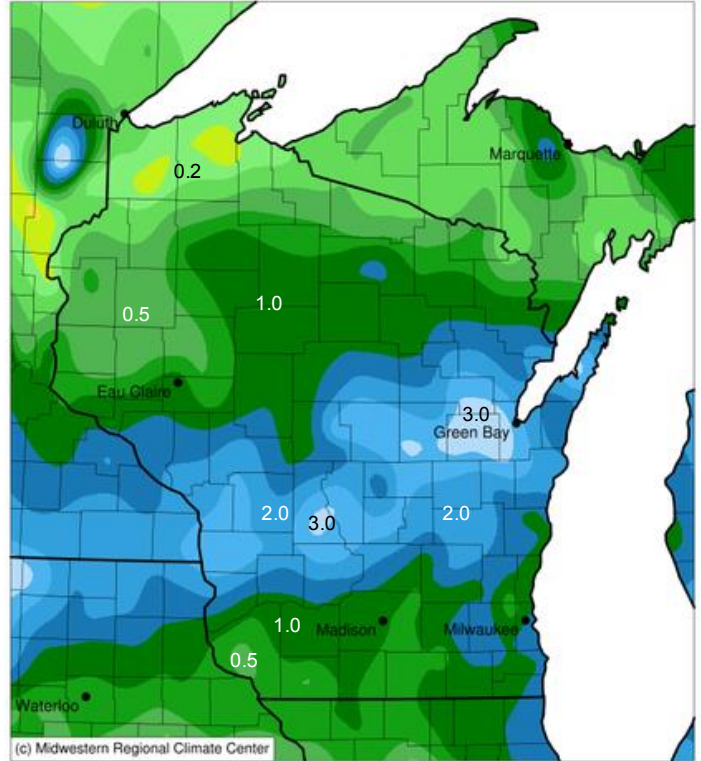
As of April 15, **spring tillage** was 2 percent complete statewide, up 1 percentage point from last week, but 4 percentage points behind the 5 year average.

Oats planted were reported as 2 percent complete, 9 percentage points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5 year average.

Winter wheat was 50 percent in good to excellent condition statewide, up 2 percentage points from last week.

The **maple syrup** season continued in some parts of the state but has slowed considerably over the past week.

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
April 09, 2018 to April 15, 2018



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 15, 2018

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat.....	0	7	43	45	5

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of April 15, 2018

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
Days Suitable	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.6	2.5	2.2	2.2	1.0	0.9	2.4
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	1	2	0
Short.....	0	0	0	2	5	1	19	12	2	6	13	1
Adequate.....	68	100	70	86	58	68	72	76	97	76	75	60
Surplus.....	32	0	30	12	37	31	4	9	1	17	10	39
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	1	2	0
Short.....	1	0	1	9	3	1	10	19	2	7	16	1
Adequate.....	70	100	79	82	80	74	85	72	98	81	75	66
Surplus.....	29	0	20	9	17	25	0	5	0	11	7	33

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Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

CHIPPEWA/EAU CLAIRE-J.C.: Winter is hanging on tight. Some pen pack manure being spread. Maple syrup yields are average with good sugar content.

RUSK-G.P.: A late winter storm dumped 10+ inches of snow on what was still on the ground. Spring activities are at a standstill and will be for some time yet. Maple syrup season continues to limp along but it will not be a good year. Too early to tell how alfalfa and wheat have made it through the winter.

ASHLAND/IRON-C.B.: No changes from previous week. No field activity due to low temps and snow cover.

CLARK/PRICE/TAYLOR-D.M.: With as much as 23 inches of snow dumped in Central WI over the weekend and more forecasted for mid-week, Spring has gone into hiding. Farmers are antsy to get in the fields, but still frost in the ground as much as 5 inches according to our more northern counties. Maple sap season has been steady and long with high sugar content being reported.

MARINETTE-L.B.: The blizzard has everything covered in snow. We were fortunate to not get the huge amounts others did.

SHAWANO-S.S.: Hard to run my planter through 30 inches of snow.

MONROE-B.H.: The area received 8 to 14 inches of snow over the weekend along with plenty of sleet. There will not be much field activity until fields get back into suitable condition after the snowstorm.

TREMPEALEAU-L.N.: The snow from last week finally was starting to go away and we have a new snowstorm moving in tonight.

WAUPACA/OUTAGAMIE-D.L.H.: We've been gripped with a spring blizzard since Saturday. 24 inches of wet snow will halt any spring work for the next week.

WOOD-M.L.: We are not late yet but deep snow on the ground is unusual for this time of year.

FOND DU LAC/WASHINGTON-B.B.: Rain, sleet, snow and hail this past week. At least the topsoil will be well charged ahead of spring planting.

DOOR/KEWAUNEE-A.B.: Two feet of snow over the weekend is really going to push back the planting season. Right now operators are more concerned about removing snow off barn roofs, several collapses have been reported.

WINNEBAGO-D.M.: 16 inches of snow on Saturday and Sunday.

VERNON-K.L.: Temperatures below normal. Old man winter made a comeback. A week of wind, rain, ice, minor hail, and another 5 inches of snow. Still frost in the ground.

ROCK-B.K.: Anhydrous application was going well early in week until a late week snow and ice cover. Weekend snow and ice has brought everything to a halt.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 15, 2018

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. 14	Mar. 1 to Apr. 14 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	40	23	50	4	31	-11	2	32	0.28	1.48	-1.60	4.44	-0.49
Green Bay	40	25	50	9	33	-8	5	28	1.60	3.38	+0.13	6.18	+0.72
La Crosse	45	29	59	17	37	-8	21	52	1.87	3.47	+0.00	6.37	+0.74
Madison	44	28	59	14	36	-7	15	56	0.90	2.22	-1.54	7.25	+0.95
Milwaukee	45	32	63	23	39	-4	17	n.a.	1.21	2.72	-1.59	7.54	-0.31

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.