



# 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 5, 2019  
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There were 2.6 **days suitable for fieldwork** for the week ending May 5, 2019, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Below normal temperatures and rainy, overcast weather continued this week, allowing little improvement in soil conditions. Farmers took advantage of a few brief windows of sun to seed corn and oats and spread manure. Fields in many areas remained too wet to access and cold soils hampered the emergence of planted crops. Many reporters across the state noted moderate to severe winterkill was becoming evident in alfalfa, particularly in low spots where water ponded and froze. Winter wheat condition was mixed, though some commented that winter wheat was in noticeably better condition than hay. Livestock producers were reportedly pasturing early and adjusting their cropping plans in anticipation of tight forage supplies.

**Topsoil moisture** supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 0 percent short, 60 percent adequate and 40 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 0 percent short, 64 percent adequate and 36 percent surplus.

As of May 5, **spring tillage** was 29 percent complete statewide, 1 day ahead of last year but 6 days behind the 5 year average.

**Corn** planting was 7 percent complete, 4 days behind last year and 8 days behind the average.

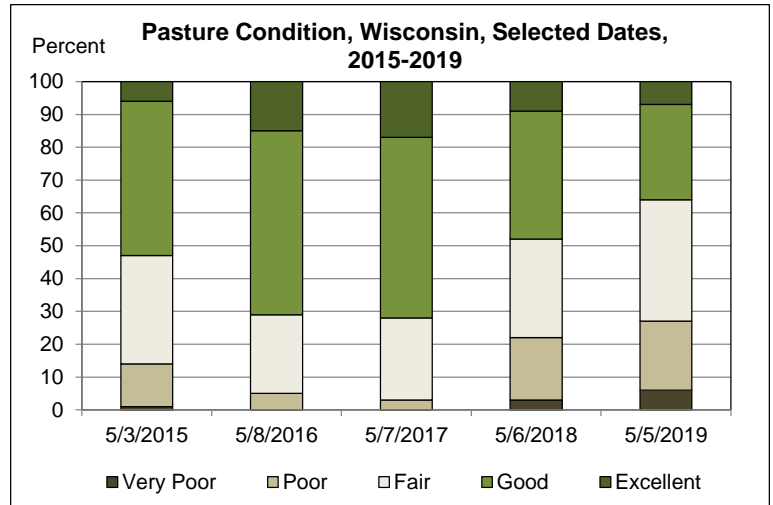
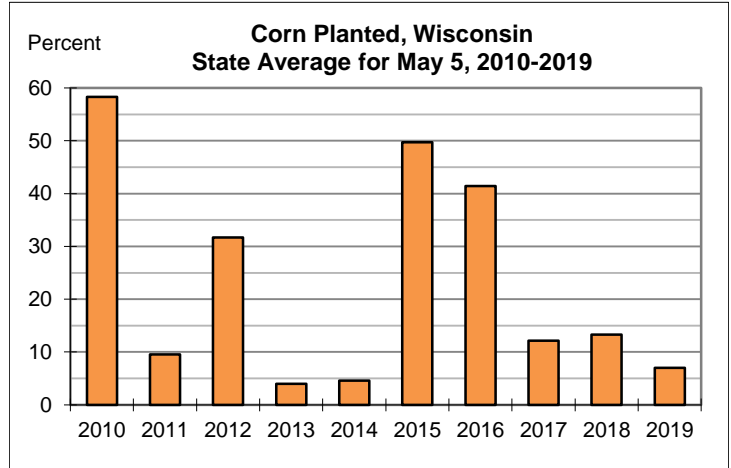
**Oats** planted were reported as 28 percent complete, 1 day ahead of last year but 9 days behind the average. Eleven percent of oats had emerged, 3 days ahead of last year but 6 days behind the average.

**Potato** planting is reported as 46 percent complete, 11 days ahead of last year but 2 days behind the average.

**Winter wheat** was 45 percent in good to excellent condition statewide, up 1 percentage point from last week.

**Pasture** condition was rated 36 percent in good to excellent condition, up 4 percentage points from last week.

*Wisconsin Crop Progress and Condition* will publish this year's alfalfa winterkill estimates on Monday, May 20.



### Crop Condition as of May 5, 2019

	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Pasture & range...	6	21	37	29	7
Winter wheat.....	3	12	40	33	12

### Crop Progress as of May 5, 2019

Item	Districts									State			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Corn planted.....	(percent) 2	(percent) 1	(percent) 1	(percent) 4	(percent) 4	(percent) 1	(percent) 19	(percent) 9	(percent) 9	(percent) 7	(percent) 4	(percent) 13	(percent) 24
Oats planted.....	9	2	9	19	18	12	60	69	40	28	19	27	49
Oats emerged.....	1	0	1	2	3	3	30	36	14	11	4	7	21
Spring tillage.....	14	4	7	27	37	14	62	36	35	29	19	28	43

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Condition as of May 5, 2019

Item	Districts									State		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
Days suitable.....	(days) 2.7	(days) 1.6	(days) 2.0	(days) 4.0	(days) 3.3	(days) 1.6	(days) 3.3	(days) 2.3	(days) 1.2	(days) 2.6	(days) 3.1	(days) 3.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Adequate.....	69	24	42	58	69	48	86	67	44	60	62	73
Surplus.....	31	76	58	42	31	51	14	33	56	40	38	23
Subsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Short.....	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Adequate.....	71	40	53	60	73	46	89	68	57	64	67	75
Surplus.....	29	60	47	39	27	54	11	32	43	36	33	18

# 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.

**NW--BURNETT/WASHBURN-P.H.:** Finally some good days to start fieldwork: manure hauling, tillage and small grain planting. Looks like considerable alfalfa winterkill. Will see just how bad as the remaining alfalfa grows taller. Winter rye looks good.

**NW--CHIPPEWA/EAU CLAIRE-K.L.:** We have been getting reports that winterkill on alfalfa is heavy in the Chippewa and Eau Claire County areas.

**NC--ASHLAND/IRON-K.R.:** Cold, overcast, and wet conditions are hindering any drying in fields and pastures.

**NC--CLARK-R.H.:** 39 degree soil temperature this morning. Really, soil temperature has not improved this week. Some manure has been hauled and very little primary tillage has been done, then we got rain most of the week and cool temperatures. Very slow start to the 2019 planting season. Many concerns on alfalfa and forage fields, again with low soil temperature, farmers will need to let forages to start growing before making decisions.

**NE--MENOMINEE/SHAWANO-E.S.:** Below normal temperatures last week and rain slowed down planting.

**WC--DUNN-S.C.:** Winterkill on alfalfa is being reported.

**WC--TREMPEALEAU-L.N.:** Alfalfa has suffered lots of winterkill. Doesn't seem to matter if it was first year planted or established stands. Cold, wet weather hampering spring planting. Continual rain events peppered with a few hours of sunshine this past week kept the planters parked.

**C--PORTAGE/WOOD-L.K.:** Reports of winterkill on alfalfa fields widespread. Still wet areas in fields that are being worked around at this time. More rain this past week.

**EC/SE--FOND DU LAC/ WASHINGTON-B.B.:** Five of seven days with measurable rain of one amount or another made for a couple of brief field work opportunities. Evaporation is on the increase but it can't keep up. It sure didn't feel like Growing Degree Days were up over 2018. March 1 through April 30 had 69 dd in '18 and 121 dd in '19.

**EC--SHEBOYGAN-T.S.** Cooler temperatures and wet weather has kept field work to a minimum. However, the weekend did provide some warmth and sunshine, allowing some progress to be made. The winterkill on alfalfa and wheat is becoming much more noticeable as things green up. More rain in the forecast will again halt any progress.

**SW--CRAWFORD/GRANT-M.D.:** Productivity down this week as wet weather kept producers out of the fields. Late Saturday afternoon, a planter or two was pulled out the shed only to be backed into the shed on Sunday with more rain. Some cattle were taken out on pasture due to low feed inventories even though the pastures are not yet ideal. Long cold winter with late spring (more rain predicted for most of the upcoming week) and depressed farm markets are starting to take a toll on morale. Morels starting to pop up though.

**SC--COLUMBIA-K.W.:** Some corn was planted over the nice weekend. Also fieldwork was being completed.

**SC--GREEN-J.T.:** A couple days allowed some activity.

**SE--OZAUKEE-M.B.:** Some damage in alfalfa fields. Winter wheat fields have been slow to green up.

### Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 5, 2019

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 4	Mar. 1 to May 4 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire.....	55	34	72	25	45	-6	133	155	0.07	4.06	-1.14	8.86	+1.83
Green Bay .....	53	37	70	31	45	-5	107	125	0.63	5.75	+0.84	10.80	+3.65
La Crosse .....	57	41	72	31	49	-5	195	190	0.45	5.27	-0.52	10.47	+2.48
Madison.....	54	37	67	25	45	-6	185	189	0.74	4.77	-1.26	10.87	+2.32
Milwaukee.....	49	38	60	32	43	-7	139	NA	1.58	5.98	-0.81	11.76	+1.45

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. NA=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more weather data, please reference the following sites:  
<https://www.noaa.gov/> <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/> <https://www.cocorahs.org/> <https://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.