



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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Spring Weather, Anxious Growers

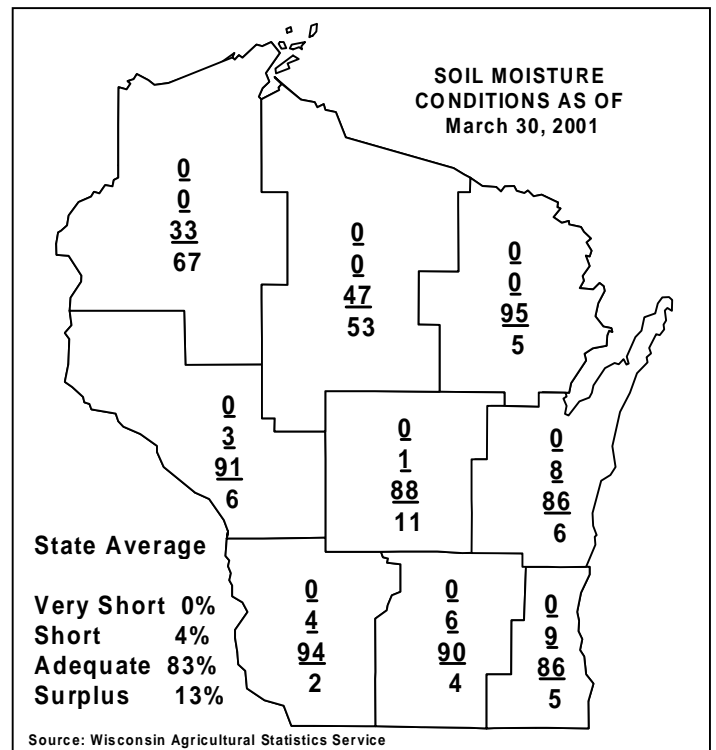
The 2001 growing season has started with field activity limited to manure spreading, tillage, and fertilizer application. Soil moisture is said to be adequate, with the snow melt going into the ground, instead of running off. For the week ending April 1, there were 1.8 days suitable for fieldwork across the state. Soil moisture was 4% short, 83% adequate, and 13% surplus.

The northern two-thirds of the state is still covered with snow. Many reports stated the frost was out of the snow-covered ground. Due to the snow cover, the main agriculture activity in the north is maple sap flow. Many reports called for warmer temperatures to increase the sap flow.

Scattered locations in the southern two-thirds of the state started spring tillage, where the snow has melted and fields dried out. Manure spreading and nitrogen application are the main field activities for this part of the state. Tile lines were reported running well, with warmer weather melting snow.

Alfalfa and winter wheat fields are still dormant due to the cool weather throughout the state and snow cover in the north. Apple tree pruning has started in Sauk County. The east central part of the state reported oats being planted last week.

Nitrogen supplies seem to be adequate for the state. Reports stated nitrogen fertilizer supplies are 85% of the of the normal across the state.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 1, 2001

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Percent of normal nitrogen supply	95	96	87	79	80	78	87	86	89	85	n.a.	n.a.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-R.C.: Most fields are still snow covered. There appears to be no frost in the ground, as snow melt is going down rather than running off. I have not heard of anyone wanting fertilizer that could not get it.

BURNETT-R.B.: Still a complete snow cover, except where it has been plowed off. All that has melted went into the ground; no run off.

MARATHON-K.B.: There is still snow on many fields in our area, so no field activity has occurred. Have not heard much about the maple syrup season so far.

PRICE-M.K.: Most fields are still snow covered. Some manure spreading taking place. Maple sap flow has been very slow so far, but is picking up somewhat this week.

MARINETTE-S.R.: Still frosty. No growth visible on anything, yet. Maple sap flowing pretty well from preliminary reports.

SHAWANO-J.S.: Ground still frozen and partially snow covered. No fieldwork started.

DUNN-J.F.: Some farmers were able to spread manure last week, but had to be careful where they traveled. Frost is still in the ground. Snow still covering 50 percent of the fields. Maple syrup season was above average this year.

JACKSON-J.W.: You guys are rushing the season! Do you live in Florida? The only plowing in Jackson County is snow plowing. On land facing north there is a foot or more of snow. There will be no fieldwork for at least 3 weeks, maybe more.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Nitrogen supplies depend on suppliers. Some indicate no shortages, while others indicate a concern. A small amount of lime spreading just getting underway. Already two weeks behind where we were last year.

WAUPACA-D.H.: There is still a lot of snow on some fields. Very little frost in the ground. Maple syrup season still going much better than in recent years.

WAUSHARA-A.S.: Purchased fertilizer at about \$60 per ton more than last year. People are closely taking credit for nitrogen already out there.

WOOD-F.M.: Lots of snow on the fields; good for seedings, but not getting manure spread. Cold temperatures at night causing problems. Maple syrup reported is very good run.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: No fieldwork done at this time. Too early to tell much about alfalfa. Winter wheat looks good.

MANITOWOC-D.S.: Only field activity is the application of nitrogen fertilizer to wheat fields.

SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: This has been a very cool spring. Alfalfa and winter wheat fields have not broken dormancy yet, so it is difficult to assess the winter survival. No field activity yet, but the frost is out.

GRANT-L.F.: No fields being worked; still snow on the ground. Frost is still in the ground mostly lying to the north. Hayfields are very brown, but winter wheat fields are starting to green up. Some manure hauling and very little, if any, spring tillage. Maple syrup is flowing at a slow pace. Need a nice warm rain.

SAUK-D.H.: We still have some snow. Pruning apple trees.

DANE-D.F.: Winter wheat fields started to show a little color. The rain earlier in the week should help speed the green-up. Snow cover remains in drifts and shaded areas only.

GREEN-F.Z.: Neighbor started chisel plowing. Still some frost in the ground. Hauling manure.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: Rain and snow Wednesday night stopped fieldwork. Only fieldwork thus far has been stalk chopping for bedding.

RACINE-L.F.: The remaining few acres of standing corn have finally disappeared this week. Looks like oats planting will start soon.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Able to haul manure beginning of week. Frost coming out. Spread fertilizer on wheat; it was green with some plants still brown. No tillage done in the area.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Fields are too wet. Some frost still in the ground. Nothing green yet. Need rain.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 1, 2001

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. 22	Mar. 1 to Apr. 22 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	34	20	42	7	27	-9	n.a.	n.a.	0.21	1.15	-0.54	2.75
Green Bay	39	24	48	13	31	-4	4	-4	0.14	0.46	-1.63	2.91
La Crosse	38	23	47	12	31	-8	11	-11	0.38	1.13	-0.85	3.30
Madison	42	25	55	14	34	-4	12	-8	0.27	0.60	-1.54	4.23
Milwaukee	38	27	47	17	32	-6	n.a.	n.a.	0.30	0.87	-1.76	5.46

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 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.