



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 20, 2002

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Cold Temperatures Pausing Crop Progress

Cold and wet conditions continue to delay planting activities in northern Wisconsin. Planting and emergence in the northern two-thirds of the state continue to lag behind the state average. Locations throughout Wisconsin continue to report farmers unable to get into fields. Farmers in northern Wisconsin who were able to get into their fields reported planting in less than ideal conditions. The southern districts continue to see most of the field activity for Wisconsin, raising the state average.

Last week's relatively dry conditions allowed Wisconsin farmers 3.9 days suitable for fieldwork. Wisconsin soil moisture was rated 1 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 28 percent surplus. Temperatures were 8 to 10 degrees below normal last week, with the low average temperature near or below freezing for the week. Farmers commented on soil temperatures ranging from 40 to 50 degrees, with frost on the ground several mornings last week.

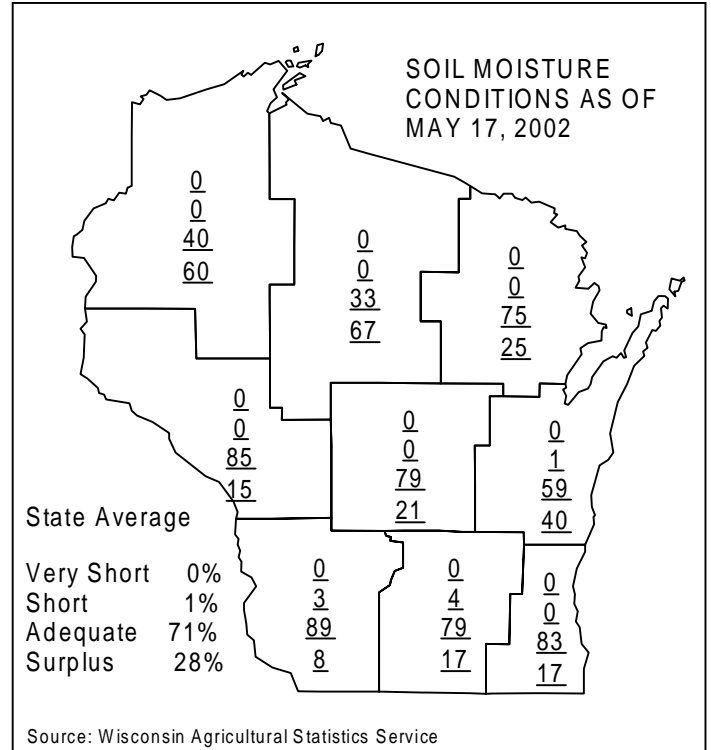
As the cool weather continues, more farmers are reporting replanted **corn** acres. Reports from Pepin and Grant counties noted corn slowly emerging and looking yellow. Farmers throughout southern Wisconsin reported uneven corn stands. Dane and Washington counties reported frost damage to emerged corn.

Soybean emergence was reported in several locations in southern Wisconsin. A farmer in Rock County reported replanting soybeans due to poor germination.

A Price County farmer reported grass growth as very slow and pastures behind normal years. **Alfalfa** fields throughout the state continue to grow slowly; several farmers reported injury showing up after several nights of freezing temperatures. Grant County was the first to report hay harvested. A Jefferson County farmer reported **oats** looking wonderful and **winter wheat** beginning to show flag leaf.

Strawberries are in bloom in Pierce and Waupaca counties. A Waupaca County farmer reported strawberries were irrigated for frost control several days last week. **Asparagus** in low lying areas froze before it could be harvested in Pierce County. Blossoming **apple** trees were reported in Waushara and Walworth counties. **Cranberry** acreage is coming out of dormancy in Wood County.

Waushara County reported **potato** planting near completion. Wood County reported potatoes emerging slowly due to cold soil temperatures.

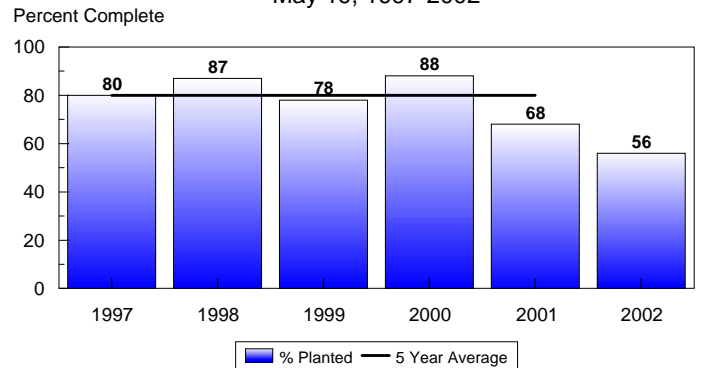


Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 17, 2002

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	2	11	27	50	10
Winter wheat	1	2	11	58	28
Oat	6	3	23	56	12

Corn Planted

Yearly Averages for Wisconsin
May 19, 1997-2002



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 19, 2002

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
Corn planted	38	17	35	50	43	42	76	76	69	56	68	80
Corn emerged	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7	5	5	24	23	12	13	31	n.a.
Soybeans planted	4	7	14	13	10	16	46	40	39	28	32	42
Oats planted	50	46	65	82	85	62	99	98	100	76	89	97
Oats emerged	25	20	26	40	43	34	87	84	88	48	61	82
Spring tillage	41	35	61	63	47	50	78	71	80	59	81	89

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Everyone up here says it is the worst spring they can ever remember. Highs get up in the 50s and down to freezing most every night. No fieldwork done yet.

BURNETT-R.B.: If there's any low spots in fields, have to go around or get stuck. Not much of anything planted yet. Spent three days this week planting trees.

WASHBURN-B.S.: We had reports of 22 degrees again on Monday, and we have a long way to go before we will see a lot of emergence.

TAYLOR-D.E.: A couple dry days have enabled farmers to get into most of the fields. Small grains and corn are going in as fast as the farmers can plant.

VILAS-L.K.: Oats about half in. Potato planting will start in a day or so. Soil moisture perfect for planting.

FOREST-A.K.: Hayfields slow-too cold and wet.

LANGLADE-A.K.: A better week; a lot of tillage and planting. Ground is very cold and a lot of it too wet. Hay growth doing nothing. Hope for sunshine and 30-degree temperature increase.

EAU CLAIRE-R.S.: Too wet to do much of any fieldwork. A little sod has been plowed. Low spots in fields have ponding water standing, need some heat!

ST. CROIX-L.M.: Field work progressing fast last couple of days. Frost several nights this past week. Hay is growing slowly. Older stands show varying degrees of damage. There won't be much hay ready by June 1. Rotary hoeing is occurring on early-planted corn. Winter wheat looks good.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Considerable variety here, as some corn is emerged on the lighter soils and many fields cannot be entered yet. Pastures have been slowed by cold.

WAUPACA-L.B.: Raspberries and strawberries about two weeks late. Irrigated for frost control Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and it looks like at least 2 more days yet; 27.

CALUMET-M.G.: Half of farmers have still not entered a field! Anyone working with heavy dry soils has at least a week to go before working land.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Oats that have emerged look good. Little, if any, corn emerged yet. Still too cold to plant soybeans. Spring wheat that was planted can be seen in rows about 2 inches in height now.

WINNEBAGO-D.U.: The last week with no rain has provided a

good opportunity for spring tillage and planting. However, cool temps have made drying out of traditionally wet areas very slow.

CRAWFORD-D.W.: Tillage is coming along very well, oat planting is over. Corn planting is coming along between rain storms, some is starting to emerge. Hay needs some heat to grow.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: Continued cool weather is resulting in slow growth of hayfields. Also, small corn seedlings are light colored.

SAUK-C.N.: Another cool and wet week. Lots of saturated fields. Some able to work up ground enough to dry it out to plant. A lot of corn sitting in the ground. Definitely need warm, dry weather, but forecast for several days of continued cool weather.

COLUMBIA-B.G.: Five out of the 7 days this week were able to move in the fields. The majority of the field corn will be planted by the end of the weekend! Corn is having a tough time emerging, with the cold temps and some crusting in the fields.

GREEN-M.M.: About 50 percent of planted cornfields have emerged, but corn is very yellow. Alfalfa fields are progressing slowly due to cold nights and cloudy days. Many fields will be reaching bud stage by the end of this week.

JEFFERSON-B.K.: Many farmers wrapping up planting completely, corn finally emerging after being in 18-20 days. Alfalfa seems to be sitting still with cool weather. Areas of the county are also very wet and are way behind on fieldwork.

WALWORTH-A.A.: Rain 11th 0.9 inches, 12th 0.2 inches. Winter wheat and alfalfa doing great. Early-planted corn and beans just starting to peek out.

WASHINGTON-L.K.: It doesn't dry out very fast because it's so cold. Spraying is useless since the weeds won't take it in. Corn is being planted all over, conventional and no-till; same for beans.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Corn planting about to end. Soybean planting in full swing. Inch of rain on the weekend.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 19, 2002

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 18	Mar. 1 to May 18 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	60	36	75	29	48	-10	244	287	0.28	8.96	2.23	11.04
Green Bay	56	36	72	30	46	-10	199	238	0.13	6.37	0.31	8.47
La Crosse	62	40	77	35	51	-9	308	338	0.03	6.45	-0.87	9.09
Madison	58	38	74	28	48	-9	289	331	0.17	6.96	-0.44	9.75
Milwaukee	56	39	74	33	48	-8	246	n.a.	0.36	7.13	-0.97	10.03

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.