Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

July 29, 2002

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Rain Provides a Drink for Parched Fields

Throughout last week, isolated rain showers served a much-needed drink to Wisconsin's thirsting fields. However, several areas, where the anticipated rain never fell, remained dry. Although the timely rains helped the corn and soybean crop at a critical point in their development, farmers called for more healthy helpings of moisture.

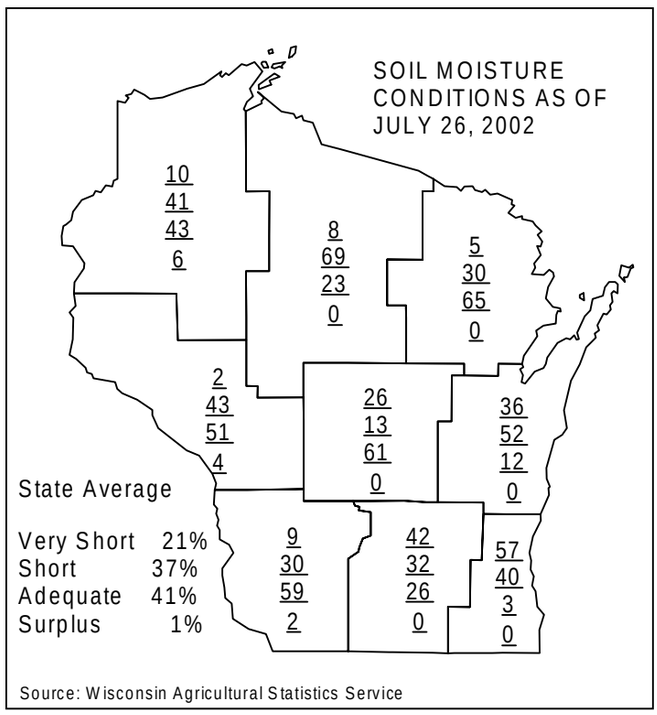
Last week in Wisconsin, an average of 5.6 days were suitable for fieldwork. The soil moisture was rated at 21 percent very short, 37 percent short, 41 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

Second cutting **hay/alfalfa** harvest began to wind down last week, with 75 percent of the harvest complete. Potato leafhopper populations continued to pressure the young alfalfa stands. A combination of dry weather and insect damage severely stunted the regrowth of the third crop. In Barron County, the regrowth of the third crop was almost nonexistent with the lack of rainfall. However, many farmers throughout Wisconsin began third crop harvest last week. Third crop yield is anticipated to be low.

In areas where the rain fell, **corn** and **soybeans** conditions improved. Water proved to be a crucial ingredient for corn tasseling and soybean blooming. Last week, the percent of corn silked leaped 32 percentage points to 43 percent. Farmers in Green County predicted a 15-20 percent yield reduction in the corn crop in areas missed by the recent rains. Last week, Buffalo and Trempealeau County corn fields experienced lodging due to heavy winds and storms. Eighteen percent of soybean plants were setting pods last week. Columbia County soybean aphid populations climbed with the favorable weather.

Across Wisconsin, combines rolled with the continued **winter wheat** harvest. Last week closed with 60 percent of the harvest completed. **Oats** were 21 percent harvested by the end of the week.

Apple harvest began last week in Walworth County, and Waupaca County reported a big apple crop. Door County **cherry** harvest started last week. Insect numbers in the **cranberry** crop increased in Wood County.

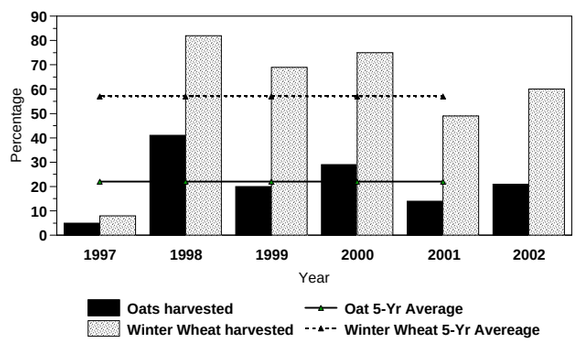


Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 26, 2002

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	6	22	38	29	5
Corn	5	16	29	37	13
Soybean	4	12	29	43	12
Oat	1	4	32	50	13

Percentage of Oats and Winter Wheat Harvested

Wisconsin - July 28, 1997-2002



Wisconsin Crop Progress, July 28, 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
Average height of corn	69	66	68	73	69	69	80	73	76	72	64	76
Corn silked	18	15	18	40	37	38	60	56	58	43	39	56
Soybeans blooming	59	54	49	65	65	70	80	79	79	72	40	61
Soybeans setting pods	7	2	3	17	11	14	25	25	20	18	9	24
Oats harvested	6	11	5	17	16	11	50	45	40	21	14	22
Winter wheat harvested	18	23	20	58	60	58	70	75	70	60	49	57
Second cutting hay	65	65	66	73	75	78	82	86	84	75	74	73

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Third crop hay is in need of some rain, as are some corn fields with sandy soils. Most corn is very tall this year, over nine feet.
WASHBURN-B.S.: Rain every other day has prevented many farmers from getting their second hay cutting harvested. Most crops look very good.
MARATHON-K.B.: About 50 percent of the corn had tasseled by Friday. Most of the soybeans have been showing moisture stress.
FOREST-A.K.: Second hay crop is short. Oat crop was spotty.
OCONTO-K.H.: Second crop hay harvest, so far, looks good, although short, due to the dry conditions. Corn tassels began emerging this past week. Wheat harvest continues.
BUFFALO-R.S.: Corn showed the most heat stress. The rain and winds lodged some oats and corn. Oats and barley are still not ready to harvest. In general, all crops look good here.
DUNN-H.A.: Corn is now curling again.
TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Spots of corn down due to storms and corn rootworm combinations. New seeds look great, but need to scout for potato leafhoppers. Weeds can also be a challenge.
JUNEAU-R.C.: Growth of third crop hay is very slow, due to insects and dry weather. Corn that did not get drowned this spring is in excellent shape. Soybeans, for the most part, look good now. Oats are a minor crop in the area and have weed problems.
WAUPACA-D.H.: Some beneficial rains have relieved stress conditions for soybeans and corn crops. Hay growth alarmed, due to dry conditions. Excellent second hay crop, good quantity and quality. Apple trees have a big crop.
SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Second crop hay was fair to good. Insect pressure was extremely high on young alfalfa stands, but alfalfa that was treated is excellent. Corn is silking all over. Now moisture is becoming critical. Winter wheat yields are very good to excellent.
CRAWFORD-D.W.: Hay has good quality; but a little short. Lots of bugs; some spraying being done. Oats are a little light on test weight.
GRANT-L.F.: Rain was a real boost for corn and soybeans right at tasseling time. Corn looks real good, lots of silking going on, and corn is pretty tall and nice green color; not much curling. Most second crop hay is made. Third crop hay looking fairly good. Reports of winter wheat yields are 75 to 80 bushels per acre. Lots of straw and oats just starting to be harvested. No yields reported. Vegetables look good; picking beans and peas.
SAUK-C.N.: Much-needed rain and cooler temperatures provided some relief for stressed crops. Could use some more rain. Wrapping up second crop hay. Some third crop hay is beginning to be harvested. Have not heard how small grains are yielding.
COLUMBIA-B.G.: Wheat harvest is pretty close to being done. As a whole, most wheat was very good, with excellent test weights. Soybean aphids population seem to be climbing with more favorable weather. A few fields had over 200 aphids per plant, which warrants spraying. Continue to monitor soybean fields for aphids. Potato leafhoppers are still a major problem. Third crop hay is starting, make sure to monitor regrowth.
DODGE-J.F.: Winter wheat had excellent yields. Soybeans aphid numbers are building slowly. Potato leafhoppers are abundant in alfalfa.
GREEN-M.M.: Corn has been struggling to pollinate the past ten days, and we are already looking at reduced corn yields of 15 to 20 percent, due to lack of rain. Small grain yields running from 30 to 65 bushes per acre. Third crop hay is short due to lack of moisture and being damaged by leafhoppers.
RACINE-L.F.: Wheat crop averaged better than 70 bushels per acre.
WALWORTH-A.A.: We are done combining winter wheat; 65 to 85 bushels per acre. Soybeans and corn need rain.
WAUKESHA-D.W.: Second cut hay is short, but good quality. Corn is hurting bad. Soybeans are not far behind.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 28, 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 July 27	Mar. 1 to July 27 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	84	64	98	52	74	2	1626	1473	0.54	8.10	0.46	19.96
Green Bay	83	62	96	52	73	3	1439	1355	0.80	6.14	-0.25	16.14
La Crosse	85	66	99	61	76	2	1804	1652	1.42	9.06	1.39	18.81
Madison	84	62	98	52	73	1	1622	1607	1.38	5.51	-1.93	16.38
Milwaukee	82	69	98	63	75	2	1585	n.a.	1.20	5.39	-1.26	15.95

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximun (86°) + daily minimun (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximun 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.