



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 27, 2003

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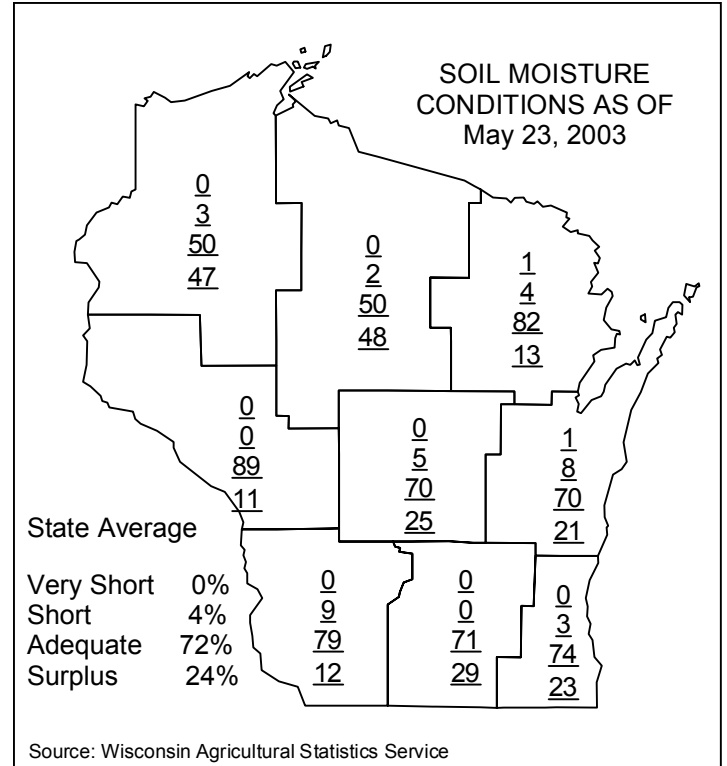
Good Weather and lots of Fieldwork

State farmers took advantage of favorable weather to catch up on spring planting. Farmers were able to continue with fieldwork in most areas of the state. There were an average of 4.9 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Rainfall amounts were mostly below one-half inch for the week. Soil moisture conditions were rated as 0% very short, 4% short, 72% adequate, and 24% surplus. Temperatures were 4-6 degrees below normal, with frost reported in many areas of the state. Cool nights have kept pastures and alfalfa behind schedule around the state. Pasture field condition was rated as 2% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 54% good, and 17% excellent.

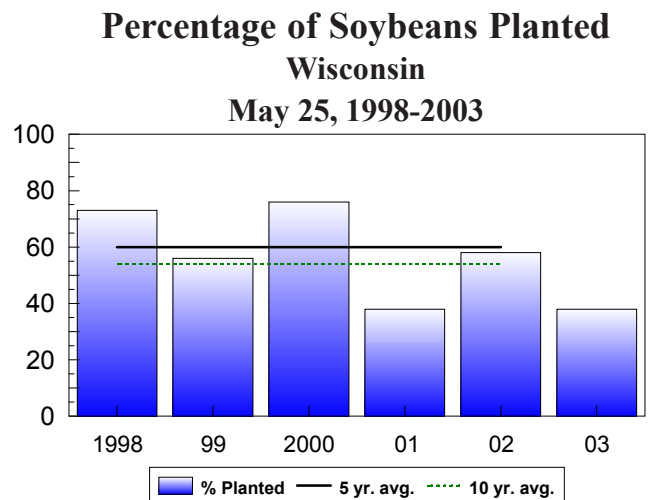
Decisions are being made on **alfalfa** acres, now that winterkill damage levels have been assessed. The northern two-thirds of the state are showing damage in older stands. Some will take a first crop off and then no-till the field to corn. Late week saw southern producers begin mowing hay for immediate feed purposes and to put up for the season. **Winter wheat** also showed some damage. Wheat conditions were reported as 1% very poor, 4% poor, 20% fair, 55% good, and 20% excellent. **Oats** are mostly planted and emergence was ranked at 75%, compared to 60% last year, but still behind the 87% emerged for the 5-year average.

The good weather helped to raise **corn** planted reports to 73% complete, compared to 77% last year, and behind the 85% 5-year average. **Soybean** planters were hard at work in all parts of the state. The percent planted reached 38%, behind both the 58% completed last year and the 60% 5-year average. Both crops have been slow to emerge due to cool night temperatures. Early-planted corn was yellow due to wet conditions and slow emergence.

Spring tillage operations went well with the favorable weather, and most acres were ready to be seeded. **Potatoes** began to emerge in the Central Sands. **Fruit trees** were blooming, and some damage from frost may have occurred on cold evenings. **Raspberry** canes were reported to be severely damaged by winterkill in Lincoln County. The frost may also have damaged some **strawberry** blossoms. Waushara County **peas** look good. **Sweet corn** continues to be planted in canning areas.



Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	2	4	23	54	17
Winter wheat	1	4	20	55	20
Oat	0	2	15	67	16



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 25, 2003

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
Spring tillage completed	82	80	83	83	85	81	90	81	88	83	78	91
Oats planted	90	90	94	98	95	93	100	99	100	96	88	96
Oats emerged	65	50	55	84	76	65	95	97	99	75	60	87
Corn planted	65	60	71	78	70	71	78	76	79	73	77	85
Corn emerged	11	8	19	21	27	21	46	48	55	33	22	55
Soybeans planted	25	25	40	29	35	43	63	42	40	38	58	60
Soybeans emerged	3	1	2	1	7	9	15	7	5	7	12	26

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: With five to six inches of rain over the last week, fields are saturated. Fieldwork was at a standstill. Planting just getting a good start.

POLK-C.S.: Corn and soybean planting will pickup if fields can dry out. No replanting at this point. Corn and soybeans slow to emerge; soils are still too cool-wet for normal growth.

CLARK-R.W.: Wet conditions the past two weeks have slowed planting. Cold winter temperatures combined with cool, wet April and May damaged alfalfa severely. Stand loss county-wide is somewhere between 60 to 80 percent. First crop alfalfa yields will be extremely short in fields that will be kept.

MARATHON-M.K.: Fields are very wet. Lots of hayfields are dead. Most farmers will be very short on feed this year with no carryover of feed from last year.

OCONTO-D.T.: With cold weather, crops are slow in coming up. Pastures just starting to grow very slow. Fields drying out well. A few fields of corn have emerged; mostly just laying in the ground. Hay starting to grow, but a long ways before cutting.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Very little corn has emerged, and winter rye is fully headed out. Alfalfa close to bud stage. Pastures are excellent. Lots of corn and soybeans not planted yet.

JACKSON-W.E.: Alfalfa that had four cuttings last year is gone. Planting is going well.

MONROE-W.D.: Older alfalfa fields are showing some to extreme winterkill. Newer seedings, especially mixed with grasses, look great. Some corn is up, but is extremely yellow. Due to timing, many acres of soybeans are being no-tilled in sod fields.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Farmers are starting to plant crops. A lot of corn is planted, slow at coming up due to wet, cool conditions. Oats and hay are yellow due to excess moisture and below normal temperatures.

WAUSHARA-J.J.: Potatoes are emerging and doing well; they like this cool weather. Peas look good. Corn that emerged is yellow. Hay looks good, but cutting is still a week away.

KEWAUNEE-J.B.: A good week to get caught up on fieldwork. Most people are done with oats and finishing up with corn and soybeans.

OUTAGAMIE-K.J.: Spring planting is progressing; conditions are improving after rains halted work earlier in the week. No

replanting has occurred yet. RFV's for alfalfa were in the 220-240 range late in the week.

GRANT-L.F.: Plows and chisel plows are still working regular hours most tillage now is for soybeans. Corn and soybeans are being planted. Ground working real nice, still some dust flying in fields as rapidly get soybeans and corn planted. Saw a field of hay taken off for feeding purposes. Hay-way too early, no buds yet. Corn coming up that you can see, the color is really yellow. Oats, hay, and pasture have a nice color. Have not seen any soybeans up as yet.

IOWA-R.G.: Alfalfa fields are starting to be harvested.

DANE-J.K.: Spring tillage is just about complete now, except for canning crops and some soybeans. Tobacco is about ready to be set. Corn and soybeans continue to go in, with some wet fields being planted. No replanting in this area. Corn and soybeans are very yellow.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: Fields dried off and planters are rolling. Most corn is now in the ground. Alfalfa is coming along nicely. Some grassy first crop alfalfa is being cut.

RACINE-L.F.: Hopefully, weather cooperates and the balance of corn can be planted, and we get a good start on soybeans. Even with cool, wet weather, the crops are emerging nicely, but obviously warmth is needed.

WASHINGTON-L.K.: It is the first week we have been able to work seven days. A lot has been planted, but a lot remains to be done. Wheat is behind other years and slow growing. Emerging corn is very yellow because of the cold, and the long time early-planted corn has sat in the ground. Some of the first corn will have to be replanted, it is too spotty. I have seen no soybeans emerge yet, actually the first ones planted were on Tuesday and Wednesday.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia
State Statistician

Bob Hunter
Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 25, 2003

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 24	Mar. 1 to May 24 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	69	41	78	32	55	-5	428	361	0.27	9.67	2.18	10.63
Green Bay	65	42	70	34	54	-4	290	303	0.15	7.08	0.47	8.22
La Crosse	69	44	77	34	57	-5	454	418	0.15	8.75	0.80	9.84
Madison	67	42	72	34	54	-6	392	411	0.26	7.91	-0.16	8.76
Milwaukee	60	45	64	38	52	-6	267	n.a.	0.19	7.33	-1.39	8.12

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.