



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

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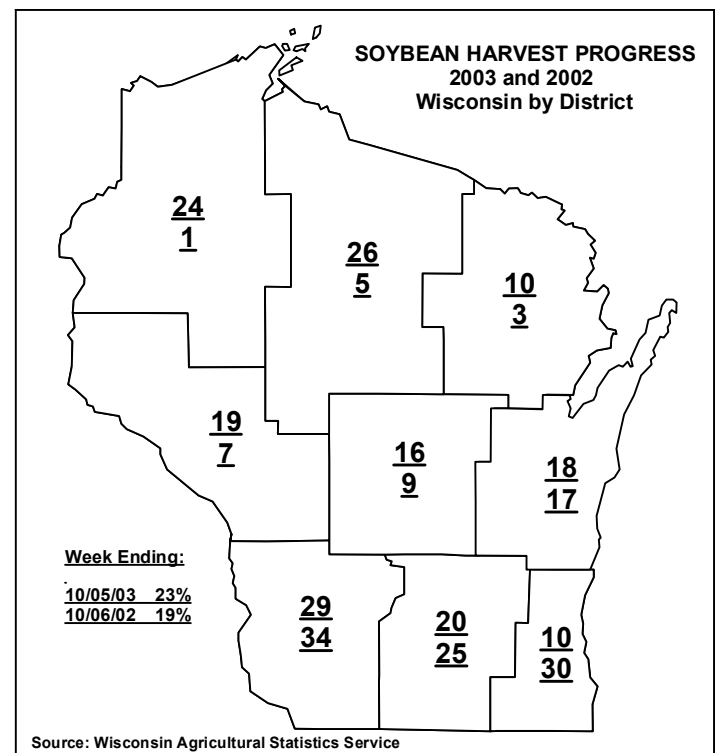
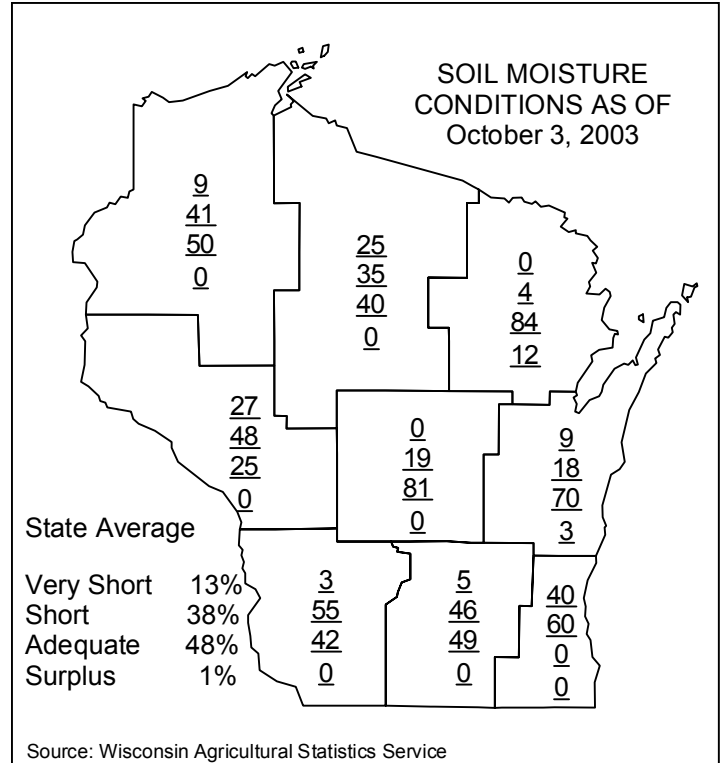
## Statewide Frost Signals End of Growing Season

Unusually cool weather arrived in the Badger State. Temperatures for the week averaged 10-13 degrees below normal with some record lows being set. The cold weather ushered in a hard, statewide frost that effectively ended the growing season for the year. There were scattered rains through the week, keeping farmers from advancing significantly on fall harvest. The week saw an average of 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Rains were quickly absorbed and were a welcome event in most areas. Topsoil moisture conditions were rated 13% very short, 38% short, 48% adequate, and 1% surplus. The precipitation was beneficial to fall-planted crops, tillage operations, and pastures. Pasture feed conditions were rated as 16% very poor, 33% poor, 33% fair, 17% good, and 1% excellent. Pastures and alfalfa fields showed some "greening up" with the additional moisture.

**Corn** silage harvest was nearing completion for the season, due to quickly dropping plant moisture. Harvest was placed at 88% complete, ahead of both the 73% last year and the 5-year average of 79%. Reports were extremely variable in both quality and quantity. Harvest of high moisture corn and corn for grain were beginning across the state. Producers are anxious for dry, sunny weather to get into full swing, now that the growing season has ended. Moisture levels for grain have been reported from the 20's to over 30%. **Soybean** harvest continued when moisture conditions permitted. Yields are reported as disappointing in many areas due to moisture stress during the growing season. Harvest of soybeans advanced to 23% complete, ahead of last year's 18% and equal to the 5-year average of 23%.

There were limited reports of **alfalfa** harvesting after the frost. Some fields showed new growth from the recent rains. Producers are trying to balance needs for forage supplies with possible damage to the crop over the winter on late-harvested fields. **Winter wheat** has emerged in early-planted fields, and planting continues behind soybean and corn fields that have been harvested. **Fall tillage** operations reached 10% complete, compared to 6% last year and the 5-year average of 11% complete. Now that soil moisture conditions have improved slightly, dry weather will bring a flurry of activity.

**Apple** harvest continued, and roadside stands are stocked with late fruits and vegetables. **Potato** harvest advanced into the late-planted fields. **Cranberry** growers are anxiously awaiting the crop to fully ripen and to swing into harvest.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 3, 2003					
Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	16	33	33	17	1
Corn	11	24	34	28	3
Soybeans	17	31	33	17	2

## Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 5, 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
Corn mature	82	91	75	92	86	82	82	88	86	85	77	78
Corn hrvtstd. for silage	95	93	80	96	85	78	96	96	94	88	73	79
Corn for grain harvested	15	22	6	18	18	12	13	11	8	13	7	13
Soybean dropping leaves	99	99	91	85	90	92	95	98	92	94	92	88
Soybeans harvested	24	26	10	19	16	18	29	20	10	23	18	23
Fourth cutting hay	20	15	37	58	51	32	70	45	35	41	54	55
Fall tillage completed	7	14	10	6	20	20	5	6	9	10	6	11

**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**BARRON-A.B.:** Corn silage yields were varied and much of it was harvested at below desired moisture levels, as it dried very quickly. Our area harvested no fourth crop alfalfa, as none grew. Farmers who harvested on time were able to get three crops of hay, but both first and third crops were very short. Winter wheat planting is just getting underway, as most farmers follow soybean harvest in this area. Potato harvest is nearing completion, and the last of the sweet corn is done.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Corn silage is about done, getting too dry after a week of hard frosts. Quality and quantity are not really okay, given the long dry spell. Some haylage coming off now that stands are dormant. High moisture corn harvest just beginning, no reports of yields yet. A week of lows in the teens and 20's has ended the growing season.

**CLARK-R.W.:** Several mornings with lows of 17 to 19 degrees last week ended our growing season. With money tight, farmers are waiting to harvest corn and soybeans until they get as dry as possible in the field to avoid any drying costs.

**VILAS-L.K.:** Potato harvest is done, with yields fair to good, some dry spells did hurt and irrigating was not enough. Some grub damage. With 20 degrees on Monday, it was our first killing frost.

**OCONTO-K.H.:** Corn silage harvest proceeding well with good conditions. Have heard one producer say corn on a high, sandy field tested 33% moisture. Most is way above that. Hard frost last Wednesday ended growing season after a couple of spotty, light frosts the days before.

**EAU CLAIRE-M.P.:** Producers report wide variability in yields across fields in all crops. Some yields are disappointing, and some are surprisingly good, considering the stressful year. The growing season has ended with two hard freezes this week, which is a week to ten days earlier than normal.

**ST. CROIX-L.M.:** Corn silage yields quite variable. Soybean yields are very poor. Corn yields may be better than expected. Killing frosts last week.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** Starting to harvest soybeans when it is dry enough. Late potato harvest about half done. Some high moisture corn going into silos.

**WAUPACA-D.H.:** We had a killing frost Thursday morning.

Corn crop looks good. Some soybeans are being harvested. Wet weather has slowed fall harvest.

**FOND DU LAC-R.P.:** Still very dry here. Wheat has germinated in spring areas in fields and low spots. Too damp to combine soybeans on most days this week. Those combining are finding lower yields every day. Now in the range of 15-20 bushels per acre, even on heavier ground. No reports on corn yields yet, many fields opened, but no major corn harvesting yet. Lots of green chopping of remaining fourth crop alfalfa, as it is very short.

**SHEBOYGAN-T.J.:** No frost as of Wednesday, but frost expected soon. Corn silage was excellent in our area. Some corn being harvested for high moisture corn. Moisture ranges anywhere from 24 percent and up. Many growers are waiting for soybean harvest so they can plant winter wheat.

**GRANT-E.B.:** We had temperatures in the low 20s Tuesday through Thursday, so the growing season is done. Feed supplies are very tight. Soybean yields have been very disappointing at best. Corn yields are way below average on lighter soils.

**COLUMBIA-R.S.:** We have had a hard frost. Soybean yields less than expected; bean size small as well, lower yield per acre. Corn yields vary greatly within fields. Corn moisture still fairly high.

**DANE-D.F.:** Corn silage yields were good, quality started out good to excellent, but dropped fast, as the crop dried faster than anticipated. Hard freeze last week ended the growing season. Winter wheat planting is progressing with good emergence seen. Soybean yields still very low in most places, less than 35 bushels per acre. Corn yields appear closer to normal.

**WASHINGTON-K.R.:** Wheat is all planted. Starting corn next week, may do soybeans if weather is good for dry down.

**WAUKESHA-D.W.:** Corn silage harvest is done, but was very dry at the end. Had two hard frosts this week.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 5, 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 Oct. 4	Mar. 1 to Oct. 4 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	52	30	58	21	41	-13	2725	2451	0.36	2.35	-1.70	20.18
Green Bay	52	32	56	26	42	-11	2338	2316	0.57	3.80	0.41	24.94
La Crosse	56	32	60	25	44	-13	2998	2769	0.05	2.65	-1.08	19.51
Madison	54	34	57	22	44	-11	2654	2720	0.11	4.32	0.98	20.79
Milwaukee	54	39	58	32	47	-10	2499	n.a.	0.21	1.12	-2.49	14.34

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.