



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 3, 2004

Vol. 04, No. 04

## Sunshine and Warm Temperatures Needed

Cool soil conditions are delaying planting in many parts of the state. Average temperatures were 2 to 4 degrees below normal, with temperatures ranging from the high 80's to the mid-20's. There was an average of 4.6 days suitable for fieldwork this past week. Soil moisture conditions were reported to be 2% very short, 23% short, 69% adequate, and 6% surplus.

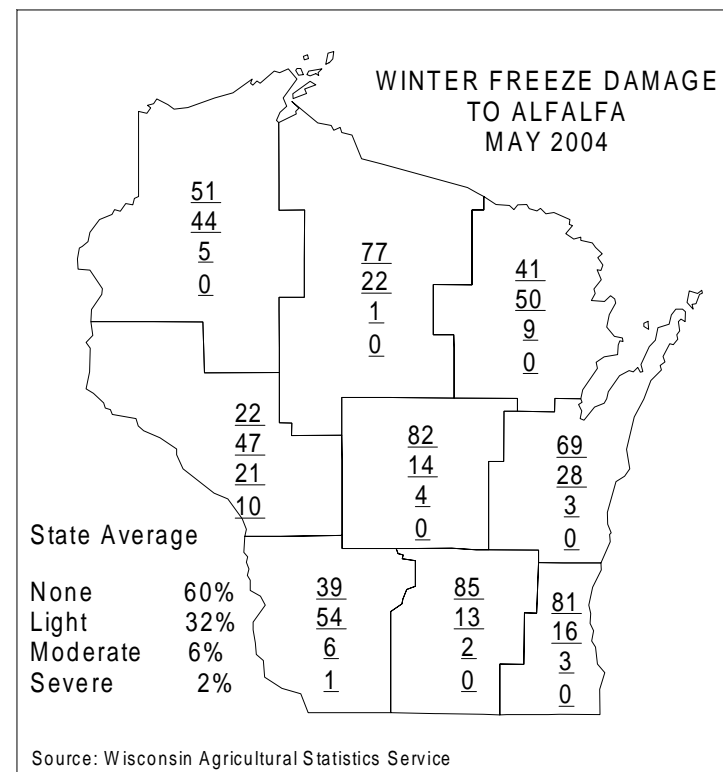
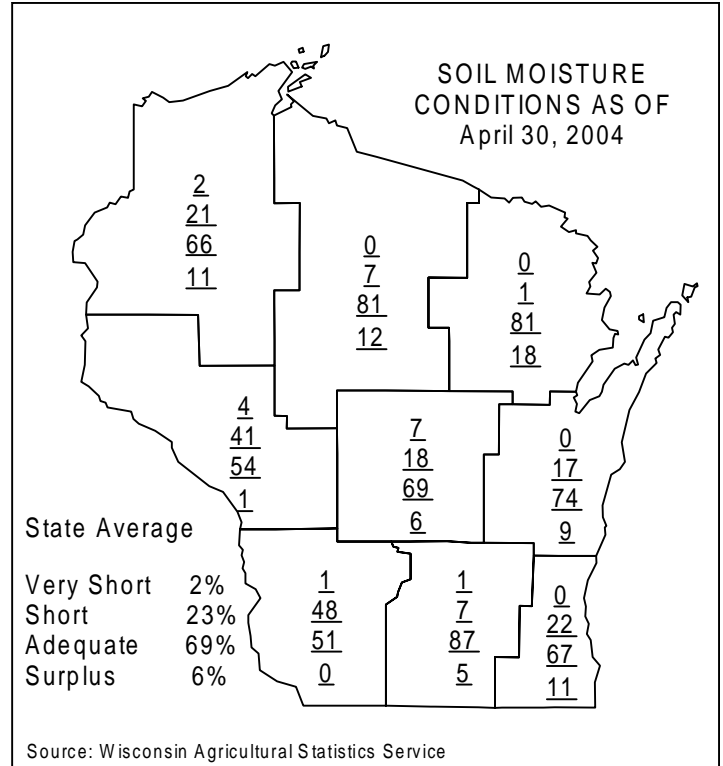
**Spring tillage** was reported as 52% complete, ahead of both last year at 44% and the 5-year average of 47%. Farmers are reporting that the ground is working up well, but warmer ground temperatures are needed in some areas.

Farmers are busy planting **corn**. Statewide, 16% of the corn has been planted, compared to 21% last year and the 5-year average of 19%. **Oats** are 73% planted, statewide, compared to 64% last year and the 5-year average of 61%. Oats are looking very good with 34% emerged, compared to 14% last year and the 5-year average of 19%. **Soybean** planting is just getting underway with 3% planted statewide, compared to 0% last year and the 5-year average of 1%.

**Winter wheat** conditions were reported as 1% very poor, 2% poor, 13% fair, 64% good, and 20% excellent. Farmers are reporting that the wheat is turning dark green. **Pasture** conditions were reported as 1% very poor, 12% poor, 34% fair, 47% good, and 6% excellent.

Winter freeze damage to **alfalfa** was reported as 60% none, 32% light, 6% moderate, and 2% severe. The alfalfa is looking good in most parts of the state, but sunshine and warmer temperatures will help considerably.

**Potato** planting is nearly complete, but they need more warm weather and rain. **Fruit trees** are in blossom throughout most parts of the state.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 30, 2004					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	12	34	47	6
Winter wheat	1	2	13	64	20

Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 2, 2004												
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
Oats planted	58	67	36	88	73	51	99	94	98	73	64	61
Oats emerged	9	7	4	31	24	17	70	70	79	34	14	19
Corn planted	7	8	4	9	13	16	31	22	18	16	21	19
Soybeans planted	0	0	0	1	3	7	3	3	4	3	0	1
Spring tillage completed	43	60	44	52	56	41	63	57	65	52	44	47

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

**BARRON-A.B.:** Soil conditions are near ideal, but still very cool. Very little subsoil moisture in many places. Nobody is in a hurry to put crops in when the soil is cold. Alfalfa is about 4 inches tall. Wheat has been hammered over and over with the cold temperatures.

**BAYFIELD-S.S.:** Too early to know about winterkill. Too wet to get into the fields for spring planting. Some manure hauling is taking place on lighter soils.

**LINCOLN-F.O.:** Little winter damage in winter wheat or alfalfa. Fieldwork is in full swing. Crop growth slowed by cool temperatures.

**MARATHON-M.K.:** There are no signs of winterkill on hayfields; looks great. Lots of corn has been planted. Fieldwork is going very well.

**VILAS-L.K.:** There are no signs of winterkill. Too wet and cold for any crops to grow. Hayfields are coming slow.

**OCONTO-K.H.:** Manure spreading and spring tillage continues. Cold temperatures have held up planting. Small grains and hay seedings have been going in, but very few acres of corn have been planted.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Very little work done in fields again this week with cool, damp weather. None of the crops have emerged yet that were planted earlier.

**DUNN-S.S.:** Winterkill has been minimal. Rain last weekend really greened-up pastures and hayfields. Still not a lot of growth, but warm weather should take care of that. Seeding of oats probably 100% seeded and planting of corn well underway. Most potatoes planted-need more warm weather and rain.

**ST. CROIX-R.K.:** New seedings look good. Older stands are hurt considerably. Will be putting in direct seeding to help with forage. It has remained cool, so progress has been slow.

**GREEN LAKE-D.S.:** Spring tillage is moving slowly due to the cold and rainy weather. Most producers have indicated little winterkill, but a few areas have experienced significant alfalfa damage.

**WAUPACA-D.H.:** A lot of corn is being planted on lighter soils. We need more 70-degree temperatures to get things growing. Plenty of moisture right now, soil works up nicely.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** There is no evidence of winterkill in alfalfa or wheat. Corn planting is underway. Saw a farmer planting corn with

a 12-row planter. Oats are all seeded and alfalfa seeding still underway. Lime spreading still underway and potatoes being planted.

**FOND DU LAC-B.B.:** Older alfalfa stands show some signs of winterkill; hasn't needed any re-seeding however. If it stays on the dry side the first week of May, should see much corn being planted.

**MANITOWOC-H.W.:** Winter wheat and alfalfa fields look good this week. A few fields of oats on sandy soil are seeded.

**GRANT-G.C.:** There are no signs of winter damage in this area. Lots of corn planted this week despite the cold, windy weather.

**IOWA-S.M.:** Ten percent of intended alfalfa was tilled for corn. Most farmers are starting to plant corn, while others have finished. Early-planted corn has started emerging. Soybean planting has started.

**SAUK-D.H.:** Alfalfa looks good.

**COLUMBIA-R.S.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat doing really good. A lot of activity on seeding oats and alfalfa. Saw corn planting fields being worked up. Lots of activity going on.

**DANE-J.K.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat look excellent, with no sign of winterkill, except for very few low spots because no water stood in ponds. I haven't seen any alfalfa being reseeded, except for field ends. Spring tillage is progressing very well because of excellent ground conditions and no wet spots to speak of. Oat planting is about done, and quite a bit of corn went in the last two days. Most Nitrogen is on now. Some Roundup being sprayed on alfalfa fields.

**WALWORTH-E.P.:** Hay and winter wheat never looked better. Corn going in at a rapid pace.

**WASHINGTON-R.B.:** Alfalfa is looking good. Winter wheat is turning dark green. Started to plant corn on Thursday. Lots of no-till corn planting going in. Some potatoes are planted.



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

**Robert J. Battaglia**  
State Statistician

**Michael Lester**  
Statistician

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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 2, 2004**

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 1	Mar. 1 to May 1 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	61	36	85	25	49	-3	190	135	0.01	4.25	-0.69	7.19
Green Bay	57	37	79	29	47	-4	144	110	0.12	5.23	0.44	8.09
La Crosse	63	41	89	29	52	-3	266	170	0.12	4.87	-0.72	7.12
Madison	59	39	82	29	49	-3	215	169	0.16	5.50	-0.35	7.56
Milwaukee	57	39	80	32	48	-2	203	n.a.	0.10	5.87	-0.72	8.40

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.