



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 17, 2004

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Needed Rain Received

Rain this past week helped replenish the much-needed soil moisture. Crop conditions improved as the rain gave the crops that had already been planted a real boost.

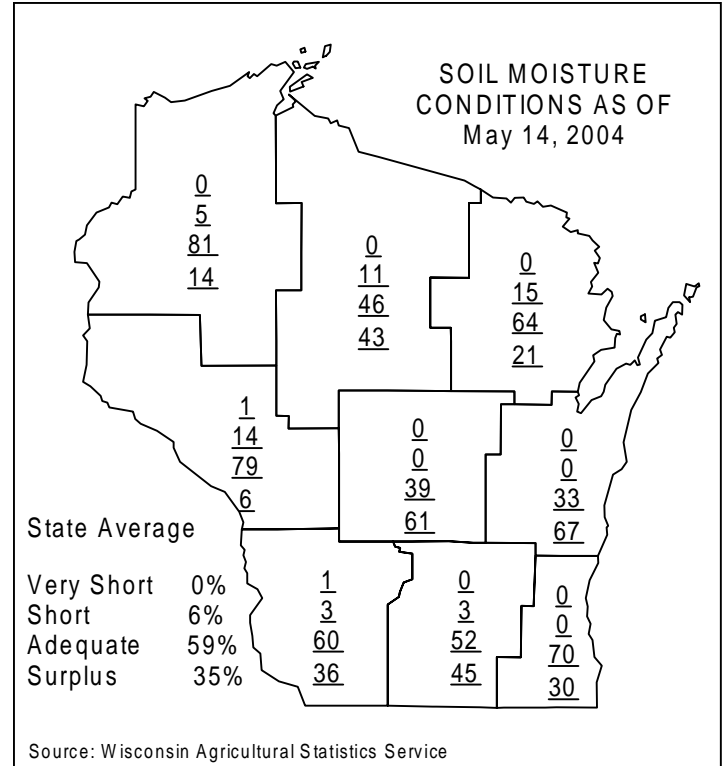
Average temperatures were near normal for this time of year. Temperatures ranged from the highs in the mid 80's to the lows in the mid 30's. There was an average of 2.6 days suitable for fieldwork this past week, with several rainy days keeping farmers out of the fields. Soil moisture conditions were reported to be 6% short, 59% adequate, and 35% surplus. The southeast part of the state received over 3 inches of precipitation this past week, the northern parts over 2 inches, and the central and southern areas received over an inch of rain. Season to date precipitation is at or above normal in most parts of the state.

Spring tillage is 82% complete, ahead of both last year at 70% and the 5-year average of 76%. Rain, rain, and more rain kept many farmers out of the fields. Farmers are hoping for some sunny, breezy days so they can finish spring tillage and planting.

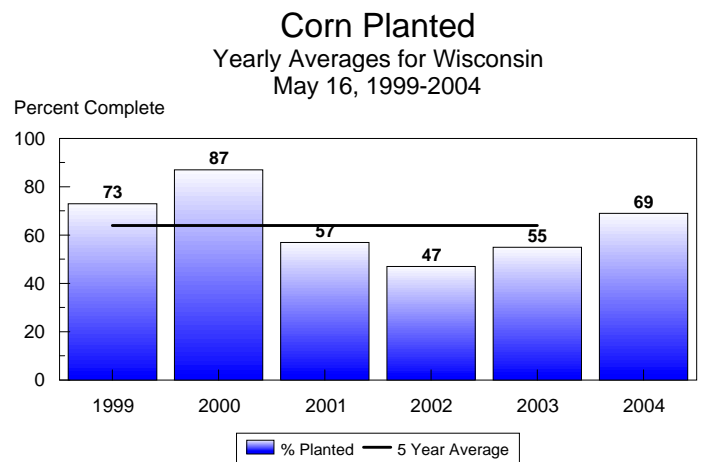
Oats emerged are reported at 77%, compared to last year's average of 55% and the 5-year average of 65%. **Corn** planting is reported at 69% completed this year, compared to 55% last year and the 5-year average of 64%. Emergence of corn is reported at 20% this year, ahead of last year's average of 13%, but behind the 5-year average of 25%. **Soybean** planting is ongoing in most parts of the state. The state average of 22% is ahead of last year's average of 16%, but behind the 5-year average of 28%. Overall, comments on the corn, oat and soybean crops are very favorable this year.

Pasture conditions were reported as 1% very poor, 7% poor, 23% fair, 57% good, and 12% excellent. Because of the heavy rains of this past week, some farmers reported that the weeds are overtaking some of the pastures. The condition of the **oats** were reported as 1% poor, 17% fair, 59% good, and 23% excellent. **Winter wheat** conditions were reported as 1% very poor, 2% poor, 13% fair, 46% good, and 38% excellent. The rains of this past week have greatly improved the condition of all the crops, as some of the fields were getting extremely dry.

Fruit trees are in full bloom in many parts of the state. Early **potatoes** are starting to come up.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 14, 2004					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	1	7	23	57	12
Oats	0	1	17	59	23
Winter wheat	1	2	13	46	38



Crop and percent of acreage	Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 16, 2004										State average		
	District average										This year	Last year	5-year average
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
Oats emerged	58	59	47	89	82	62	93	95	99	77	55	65	
Corn planted	62	78	40	70	69	54	77	79	80	69	55	64	
Corn emerged	3	3	1	14	18	5	48	41	49	20	13	25	
Soybeans planted	24	20	14	16	16	20	43	24	23	22	16	28	
Spring tillage completed	78	86	68	86	72	72	92	83	88	82	70	76	

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Most of the corn is planted, with many farmers concentrating on soybeans now. Some corn has emerged. Alfalfa looks excellent.

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Appears to be very little signs of winterkill. A lot of fieldwork took place over the past week. Need warm weather and more moisture to get things growing.

MARATHON-M.K.: Very little signs of winterkill. Hayfields are looking great. Seems to be a great crop to harvest. Lots of crops are planted. Most farmers are finished or are close to it. We can see corn rows.

ONEIDA-P.L.: Oats and rye are doing well since the rain and warm days. Corn is being planted now. Potato planting is underway. Most everyone is still feeding hay, as the pastures are slow to produce. If we get a good week, I think most of the spring planting will be done.

LANGLADE-K.W.: Potato planting got started earlier in the week. Rain on Wednesday evening put a stop to field activities last week.

OCONTO-D.T.: Oats are not up enough to be good or bad yet. Alfalfa and wheat fields look very good, others were hit hard by winterkill. Most potatoes are in already.

EAU CLAIRE-M.P.: Finally received some much-needed rain last week. Planting has gone well, and corn began to emerge last week. Alfalfa is still short, and last week's frost will slow it some more.

ST.CROIX-R.K.: Winter wheat shows considerable damage, alfalfa-old stands hurt. Have seeded some direct to replace. Spring work ahead of normal, been very dry and cool.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Hay is growing nicely now, and planters are waiting for some sun so corn can be finished and soybeans can go in.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Both alfalfa and winter wheat are looking good.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: There is no sign of winter damage in wheat, but some in the old alfalfa stands. Lots of corn being planted. Hay is real short yet. Sweet corn being planted. Early potatoes are coming up.

SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Too wet to do anything in the fields this past week. The corn that was planted earlier is spiking out of the

ground. Field conditions are very wet, and little or nothing is being done in the fields. Lots of broadleaves and the first signs of annual grasses have begun to emerge.

GRANT-L.F.: Alfalfa looks great, seen a couple hayfields mowed and made for silage. Some rye being put in bags for feed. There is no sign of winterkill in either winter wheat or alfalfa. Most spring tillage completed, except where hay or rye is taken off, and corn or soybeans are going in. Oats are up and look nice, just a little corn is starting to come up. Some potato and peas are planted.

RICHLAND-S.K.: We saw some winter rye being harvested for forage. Many early-planted fields of corn have emerged. The alfalfa crop has jumped with the much-needed rain. There is some talk of harvesting first crop hay at the beginning of this week. Most of the corn is in, and producers are now focusing on soybeans.

DODGE-G.R.: There has been no signs of winterkill, have not seen any reseeding occurring. Oats and barley look very good. Alfalfa fields look excellent, despite an over abundance of dandelions. Some corn bravely emerging.

JEFFERSON-R.W.: Alfalfa and winter wheat look great. A lot of the planted corn has emerged. Soybeans have not been planted yet.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Corn came up in five days. Can see rows in all the fields. Alfalfa is knee-high.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Alfalfa is 19 inches tall-looks very good. Wheat is doing well, some of the top leaves on the tip are brown-18 inches tall. Water is standing in fields. A lot of fieldwork needs to be done; planting and spraying. Corn that is planted is up and looks good.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 16, 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 15	Mar. 1 to May 15 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	69	43	85	30	56	-1	311	262	2.15	6.46	0.07	9.40
Green Bay	66	48	83	36	57	2	242	217	2.01	8.68	2.86	11.53
La Crosse	70	47	85	35	59	-1	409	313	1.87	7.82	0.84	10.07
Madison	70	49	82	35	59	2	347	307	1.25	6.81	-0.28	8.87
Milwaukee	69	49	84	41	59	4	314	n.a.	3.01	9.30	1.49	11.83

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.