Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

September 13, 2004

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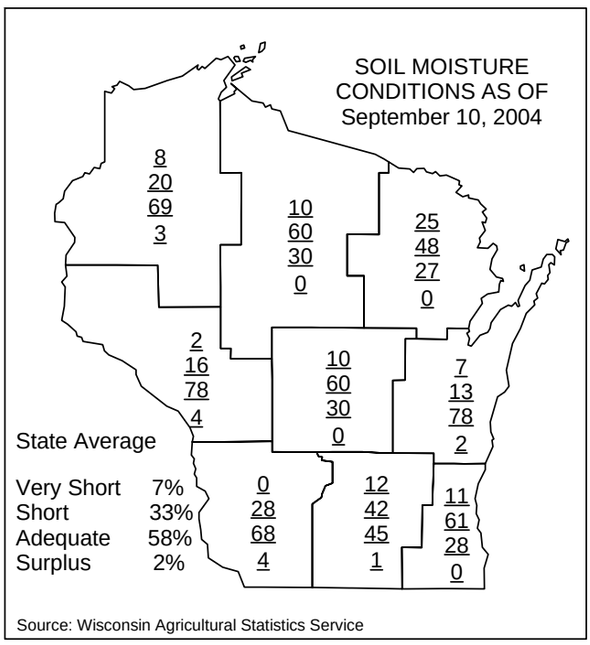
Crop Maturity All Over the Board

Last week's summer-like temperatures were helpful to the crops. Temperatures were 2 to 5 degrees above normal for this time of year, ranging from the low 40's to the high 80's. Trace amounts of precipitation was reported throughout the state. More rain is needed in many parts of the state. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 7% very short, 33% short, 58% adequate, and 2% surplus. There was an average of 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn in the northwestern part of the state is starting to see some leaf diseases. In the southwestern part of the state, corn is maturing nicely. Some corn fields are starting to turn brown. In the south central area, corn is coming along with some denting occurring. Corn for silage is starting to be chopped in some areas of the state, especially in the southwestern and south central areas. In the east central area, rust is showing up with some root worm damage. **Soybeans** in the southwestern part of the state look good, but in most other areas, maturity is all over the board. Some areas are reporting small pods and little beans. Corn and soybeans continue to be two to three weeks behind in maturity. Farmers are saying they need one month of warm summer weather. Weeds are becoming a problem in many areas. Third and fourth crop **hay** looks good in most areas of the state.

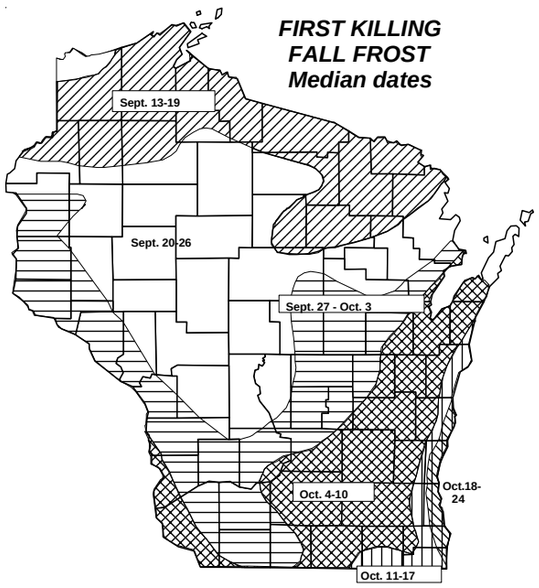
Corn in dough stage was reported at 73%, behind both last year's 91%, and the 5-year average of 89%. Corn in dent stage was reported at 31%, well behind both last years 64%, and the 5-year average of 63%. Corn is starting to be harvested for silage and was reported at 5% complete, well behind last year's 35%, and the 5-year average of 20%. **Soybeans** turning color were reported at 28%, behind both last year's 68%, and the 5-year average of 61%. Soybeans dropping leaves were reported at 10%, behind last year's 27%, and the 5-year average of 20%. Third cutting **hay** was reported at 85% complete, behind both last year's and the 5-year average of 87%. Fourth cutting hay was reported at 18%, the same as last year's, but behind the 5-year average of 19%.

Apple growers are reporting a smaller than average crop. Local canning companies are busy finishing up **pea** harvest, and are in full swing picking **green beans** and **sweet corn**. **Potato** harvest is well underway.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 10, 2004

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	2	8	30	51	9
Soybeans	5	13	31	38	13
Corn	6	15	30	37	12



Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 12, 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
Corn in dough stage	62	63	40	66	80	63	92	83	76	73	91	89
Corn in dent stage	10	9	10	26	19	9	63	36	38	31	64	63
Corn hrvst. for silage	1	2	2	6	2	1	15	4	2	5	35	20
Soybeans turning color	9	10	8	19	18	15	57	23	35	28	68	61
Soybean dropping leaves	1	0	0	5	2	1	26	5	16	10	27	20
Third cutting hay	82	80	83	81	95	85	86	90	78	85	87	87
Fourth cutting hay	3	5	3	23	5	13	23	36	9	18	18	19

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Corn is looking good, but we need another 30 days before a frost for mature corn. Soybeans need that much time also, if not more. Nice week for harvesting hay.
RUSK-G.P.: Third crop alfalfa continues, tough to get up much dry hay until the last couple of days. Weeds continue to come through the soybeans. Lots of leaf diseases on the corn. Corn silage harvest is beginning-mostly green feeding right now. Pasture quality is on the decline. Soybeans are all over the board for maturity, with some probably only suitable for forage, fields showing lots of yellow.
CLARK-M.J.: Soybeans have small pods and little beans. Hay crop was pretty good. More corn will probably go for silage than was expected.
SHAWANO-T.A.: Corn silage dry down analysis shows moisture levels between 65 - 80%. Early-planted corn on light ground is, or soon will be, at optimal moisture for corn silage harvest.
BUFFALO-R.S.: Each week without frost will increase quality of corn and soybeans. Corn silage is happening. Third and fourth crop hay harvest is also going on. Soybeans are yellowing.
TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Every frost-free day is worth loads here. Seed corn growers are on pins and needles. Some corn silage is coming off on the sandy soils.
PORTAGE-J.W.: Very dry.
FOND DU LAC-B.B.: The short run of heat sure helped. Direct-down alfalfa looks good, with just a few doomed broadleaves mixed in.
SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: The quality and quantity of hay crop has been good, but difficult to dry. This has been a poor year for making dry hay, and while haylage yields have been good, dry hay quantities will be lean. Rust is evident on most corn plants. Alfalfa has a number of disease challenges. There are many corn plants with silks clipped. Corn rootworm beetles are feeding on pollen and clipping silks in many area corn fields. Pulling open husks last week forced two to ten beetles out from many silks. Next year's corn rootworm insecticide-needed fields should be very evident to anyone scouting corn fields this fall. Fall-seeded alfalfa fields have been sprayed for volunteer wheat, dandelions, and many winter annual rosettes.
CRAWFORD-V.H.: Great yields on third and fourth crop alfalfa.
IOWA-K.V.: Corn and soybeans are maturing nicely. Corn silage being chopped tested 67 percent moisture. Some corn fields are starting to turn brown. Fourth crop alfalfa looks excellent. Alfalfa seeded in August looks great.
GREEN-M.M.: High quality third and fourth crop hay is being made due to nice weather. Majority of the soybean fields are turning color, and a few farmers have started corn silage harvest for storage in bunkers and bags.
JEFFERSON-B.K.: Very dry, knolls are curled up and white, with no rain in forecast. Will probably take top end off of yields. Pastures, hay, and new-seeded alfalfa have all stopped growing. Lots of late-planted corn finally tasseling, but only 4-5 feet tall. Late soybeans will be a disaster.
WASHINGTON-L.K.: Heat has been welcomed for all crops, but playing catch up is slow. We are still behind with the corn crop because it is slow to dent. We need rain to keep pushing the soybeans. Late-planted soybeans are still flowering. Sweet corn still has white kernels, and with no rain, the tonnage will be low. Roundup is being sprayed on some of the non-planted land to get it ready for some wheat. Some manure is being hauled on old wheat fields. Hay is in the second, third, and fourth cutting mode.
WAUKESHA-D.W.: Late-planted soybeans need a late frost. Corn has done about all it is going to do, which is not much around here.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 12, 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 Sept. 11	Mar. 1 to Sept. 11 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	77	53	86	43	65	3	2171	2267	0.45	0.45	-1.15	22.14
Green Bay	76	55	83	50	65	4	2008	2130	0.37	0.37	-0.90	25.43
La Crosse	79	57	87	45	68	3	2504	2548	0.24	0.24	-1.17	33.32
Madison	76	55	84	48	66	3	2309	2484	0.20	0.47	-0.83	32.70
Milwaukee	75	58	85	52	67	2	2198	n.a.	0.03	0.03	-1.47	27.41

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 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.
N.a. = not available. T = trace.