



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of  
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

July 18, 2005

Vol. 05, No. 16

## Dry Across the State

Temperatures were much higher than normal for the week, with very little rain across the state. The need for rain is becoming increasingly critical for corn and soybeans. Low temperatures were reported in the high 50s, and high temperatures reached 100 in a few areas. Precipitation ranged from 0.18 inches in Madison to 1.42 inches in Milwaukee, with rainless reports from the rest of the state. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 55 percent very short, 35 percent short, and 10 percent adequate. With the dry conditions, there was an average of 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

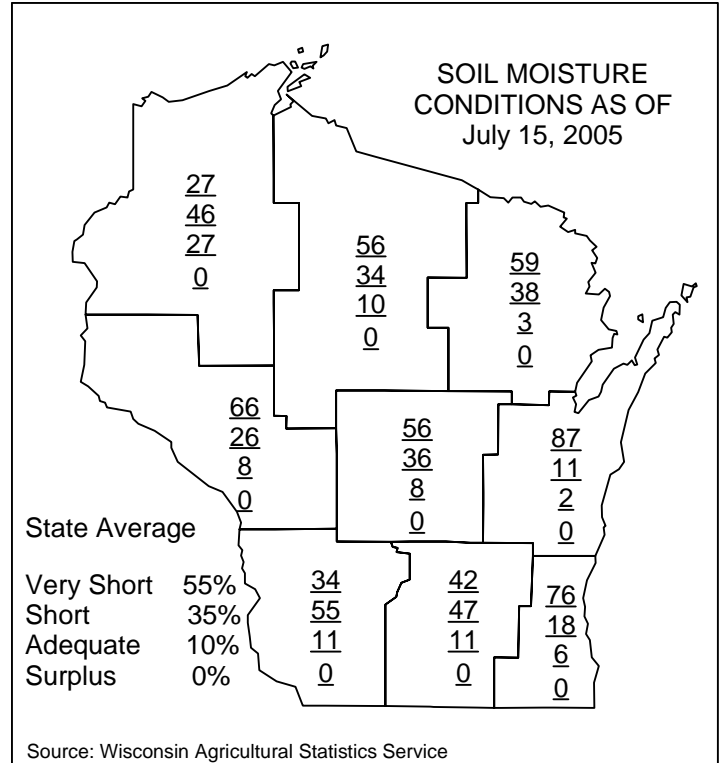
**Corn** conditions were rated as 9 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. The average height of corn was 63 inches, greater than last year's 49 inches and the 5-year average of 53 inches. Corn is in a crucial stage with tasseling and silking; the need for rain is evident. Corn planted on lighter soil is showing the most damage.

**Soybean** conditions were reported as 6 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Blooming was at 55 percent, higher than last year's and the 5-year average of 20 percent. Aphid problems are growing in northern counties, but most producers have not begun spraying.

**Oat** conditions were reported as 2 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Harvesting oats for grain has begun in many areas. Second cutting **hay** was reported at 61 percent complete, ahead of last year's 28 percent and the 5-year average of 45 percent. Hay regrowth has slowed due to lack of moisture, resulting in shorter second crop. Potato leafhoppers are above threshold levels in many alfalfa fields.

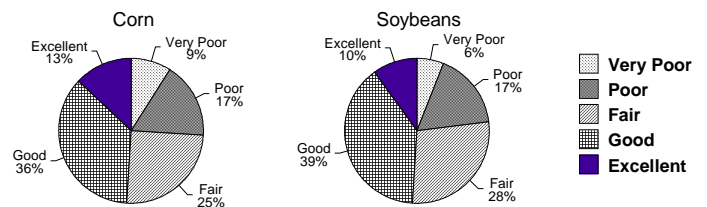
**Pasture** conditions were rated as 20 percent very poor, 39 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 16 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. **Winter wheat** conditions were reported as 6 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Harvest is in full-swing in most areas.

**Potatoes** and **vegetable** crops on irrigated soil are looking great. Non-irrigated crops are beginning to hurt due to heat stress and lack of rain. Low **snap bean** yields were reported in many areas, and there are concerns about snap beans aborting blossoms due to lack of moisture.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 15, 2005					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	9	17	25	36	13
Soybeans	6	17	28	39	10
Oats	2	9	34	45	10
Pasture	20	39	22	16	3
Winter wheat	6	11	29	48	6

## Corn and Soybean Conditions Wisconsin - July 15, 2005



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	
	Average height of corn	58	57	59	62	55	60	70	69	64	63	49	53
Corn silked	3	10	14	22	25	12	39	20	18	19	9	7	
Soybeans bloomed	59	53	49	29	39	38	77	70	80	55	20	20	
Soybeans setting pods	10	8	6	4	13	4	38	20	40	15	0	0	
Second cutting hay	48	36	60	59	50	67	70	78	66	61	28	45	
Winter wheat harvested	0	0	8	4	21	15	45	19	35	20	4	8	

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

**BURNETT-R.B.:** We need a good rain. Lots of hay has been put up. Received a little rain on Tuesday evening- came down easy. It should have rained all night. Some corn leaves are rolled.

**WASHBURN-K.S.:** Above normal temperatures, dry south winds, and no rain have really affected crops this past week. Signs of drought stress are showing up on both corn and soybeans, especially on lighter soils. Moisture will be important in the next week(s) as corn begins to silk. Those that took first crop hay off late will most likely see reduced yields on second crop because of drought stress. Small grains are still looking nice, and if dry weather continues, the quality of both grain and straw should be excellent.

**ONEIDA-L.O.:** It is very dry. Small grains are starting to turn. Yields for small grains are expected to be light due to dry weather. Corn is stressed.

**VILAS-L.K.:** First crop hay is still being made with good to excellent yield. Pastures on light ground are starting to show stress. We need rain bad.

**OCONTO-K.H.:** Corn on sandy ground is about done-has shrunk back and is turning yellow. Corn on heavier ground looks better, but still moisture-stressed just as tasseling is beginning. Second crop hay yields vary with when the first crop was harvested. Early-harvested fields yielded normally; but late-harvested fields did not regrow very much. Turf, pasture, and, grassy hayfields are completely brown.

**SHAWANO-T.A.:** Another week without rain will be the end of many of the row crops.

**EAU CLAIRE-R.S.:** Second crop hay is real good. Corn on high spots or on sandy ground are in bad need of rain very soon. Oats harvested for forage yielded real good.

**TREMPEALEAU-H.T.:** There was no measurable rain for four weeks. Corn and soybeans are really hurting. If no rain for a couple more weeks, we could wreak havoc.

**MARQUETTE-K.V.:** Drought is upon us, and crops are losing ground each day the temperature exceeds 85 degrees.

**WOOD-M.L.:** Conditions have deteriorated badly this last week due to lack of moisture. Second crop hay harvest has

progressed well and is consistently good; however, the prospects for third crop hay are slim at this point.

**MANITOWOC-J.H.:** No rain. Corn is drying up on light soils, also soybeans. Spider mites in some soybean fields. Second crop hay short; many fields are in full flower.

**SHEBOYGAN-E.P.:** This area needs rain now. Yields this year will be lower. Oats are doing well, but needs some moisture soon for good grain fill. There is not any weed problems if sprayed. Corn is starting to silk-very little re-growth.

**LAFAYETTE-L.W.:** Corn is in a crucial stage right now, tasseling and silking, and it is under considerable stress with heat and lack of moisture. Corn yields and third crop hay will both be significantly lower.

**COLUMBIA-J.J.:** Moisture situation is now at the critical point. Some patches of corn and soybeans are not recovering at night. Whole fields are becoming stressed. Pastures are not growing.

**DODGE-G.R.:** Corn and soybeans are looking very well. Rain and drizzle at midweek helped considerably. Second crop alfalfa is short and yellowed from leafhopper damage. This is the poorest yield for alfalfa in recent memory. Winter wheat is nearing harvest stage. Oats are close behind.

**WASHINGTON-R.B.:** Need rain! Corn is starting to tassel. Corn has drought stress. A lot of velvetleaf in corn. Soybeans look OK. Some aphids in fields, but hot weather is holding down population. Second cutting was very short in quantity. New seeding was short with lots of weeds.

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** Corn looks OK. Soybeans are very dry and in trouble. There is no growth of hay.



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

**Robert J. Battaglia**  
Director

**Jason Link**  
Statistician

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 17, 2005**

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 July 16	Mar. 1 to July 16 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	94	65	97	59	79	8	1490	1235	0.00	6.98	0.70	15.21
Green Bay	89	61	93	58	75	5	1357	1127	0.00	4.60	-0.62	12.86
La Crosse	94	66	96	62	80	6	1671	1393	0.00	2.89	-3.25	11.88
Madison	89	62	94	58	76	4	1538	1359	0.18	2.23	-3.79	13.08
Milwaukee	82	67	87	56	74	2	1338	n.a.	1.42	3.81	-1.63	13.66

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.