



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

April 23, 2007

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## Fieldwork Picks Up

Warm weather and sunshine allowed farmers to increase fieldwork this past week. Average temperatures were 1 to 6 degrees above normal throughout the state. Average high temperatures ranged from the mid 50s to low 70s, while average low temperatures ranged from the mid 30s to 40 degrees. Rainfall totals ranged from 0 inches in La Crosse and Madison to 0.19 inches in Milwaukee. All areas received below normal precipitation for the week. Soil Moisture conditions were at 0 percent very short, 7 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus. There was an average of 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

**Corn** planted was at 3 percent complete, slightly below last year's average of 4 percent and above both the 5 and 10-year averages of 2 percent. The warmer weather allowed for planting on higher ground with lighter soil types. Soil temperatures continued to rise throughout the week.

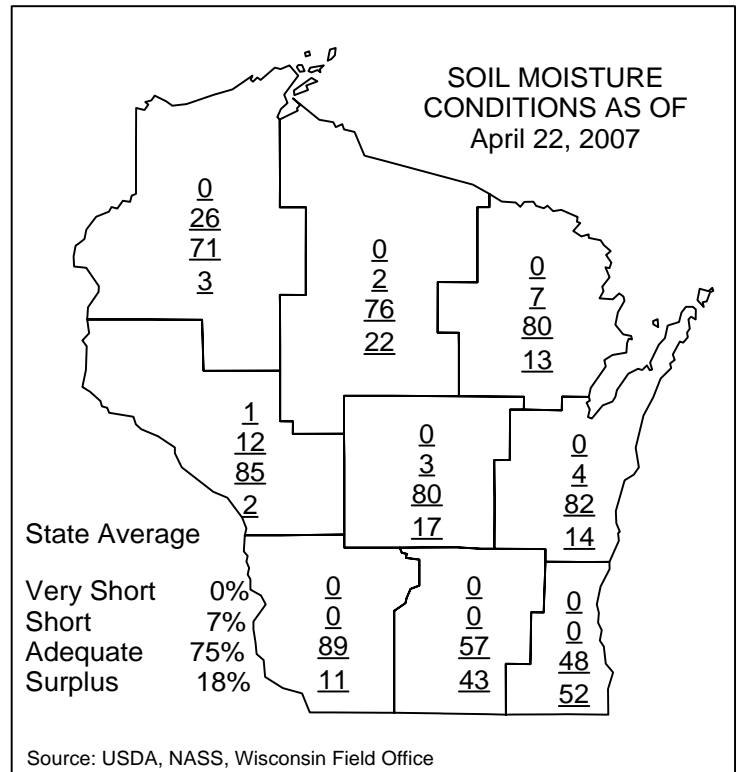
**Oats** planted was at 19 percent complete, below last year's average of 50 percent and the 5-year average of 41 percent. The most planting activity has been on the west side of the state. With favorable weather, it is expected that planting will accelerate.

**Spring Tillage** was reported at 13 percent complete, below last year's average of 25 percent and the 5-year average of 25 percent. Tillage progress increased 11 percent points from last week. Minimal rainfall throughout the state allowed farmers to get equipment into the fields.

**Alfalfa** and **winter wheat** conditions continue to be varied across the state. Reports in the northern areas indicate that some fields will be abandoned and replanted to other crops. Cold weather two weeks ago appears to have set back growth for alfalfa and winter wheat in the southern areas. Farmers began seeding alfalfa in central and southern areas of the state.

**Pastures** continue to green up throughout the state.

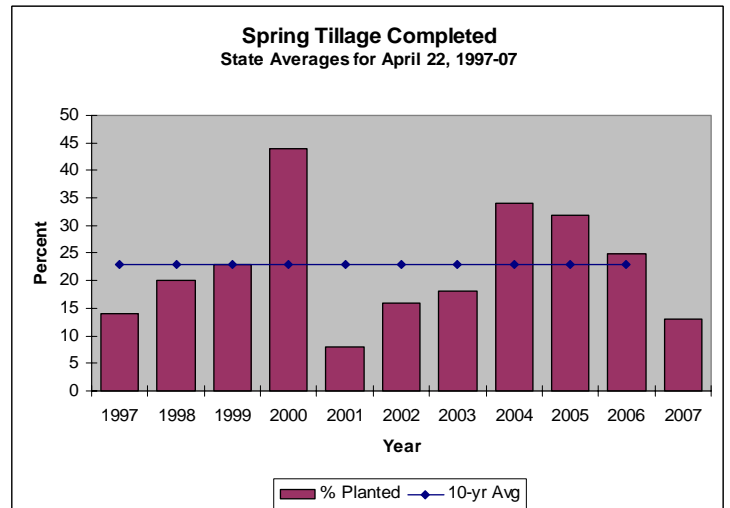
**Manure** and **fertilizer** were being applied in full force throughout the state. **Potato** planting continued in central areas of the state. There were reports of **peas** and **sweet corn** being planted in south central counties. **Fruit trees** were budding in northern and central areas.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 22, 2007

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	1	4	17	52	26
Pasture	4	13	43	35	5

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



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Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	CE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Oats planted	24	2	8	23	18	2	40	31	2	19	50	41
Spring tillage completed	14	6	8	15	12	4	20	14	11	13	25	25

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

**RUSK-G.P.:** Alfalfa seems to be coming out of dormancy in pretty good shape. Still a little too early to give good readings. Some frost is still in the ground in sheltered spots, but spring work is starting. There are a lot of wet holes to work around. Some oats are starting to go in. There is no corn or soybeans in yet. Fruit trees are budding.

**WASHBURN-K.S.:** We are just starting to see activity in the fields. Pastures, winter wheat, and alfalfa are greening up nicely with the recent warm weather and rain. In the coming week; it will be easier to determine winterkill. Reports of 0.4 to 0.5 inch of rain were reported over the weekend. A welcome sight however, we have not made up for our deficits from last year, and we are behind in rainfall already this year.

**PRICE-M.K.:** Early drying weather has allowed many farmers to get a jump start on fieldwork. Some seeding has been done on lighter soils, and sloping fields on heavier ground are being worked daily. Frost is out of the ground in most areas.

**OCONTO-K.H.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat have greened up well. There does not appear to be significant winterkill. Have heard reports of frost still in the ground in some locations, does not appear to be the general situation. Manure spreading is the most common field operation observed. Tillage is just starting.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** As it warmed up late in the week, winter wheat and alfalfa started to look healthy again. There were a couple of farmers in the fields at the end of the week. Soil conditions could be very good in just a couple of days if the sun shines.

**PIERCE-J.K.:** Alfalfa seems to have come through the winter very well. Lots of oats and alfalfa were planted this week. Some corn planters are starting to roll. Livestock farmers are hauling manure.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Potato and oat planting is going well on sandy soils.

**WAUSHARA-J.J.:** Looks like the cold weather did not hurt the alfalfa except it did not grow. Manure hauling is the only fieldwork being done.

**SHEBOYGAN-T.B.:** Both alfalfa and winter wheat fields are showing evidence of winter injury, but neither is showing signs of winterkill. Brown leaf tissue from frost damage on alfalfa and wheat appears to be superficial as new green growth is replacing it. Spring tillage started in earnest this week on well drained soils only. Some oats and new seeding alfalfa planting took place. A couple of growers found fields dry enough to begin planting corn.

**WINNEBAGO-R.H.:** Wheat is showing some damage since the cold weather. It has turned brown in some spots. Alfalfa seems to also show some damage from the frost. No planting or fieldwork started yet as the ground is too cold for seed germination.

**IOWA-R.G.:** Spring tillage, small grains, and alfalfa seeding are behind but should catch up this week.

**COLUMBIA-R.S.:** Had a report, with the night temperatures being in the teens, alfalfa stems were broken. Some of winter wheat that had looked good seems to be struggling. Spots have thinned out.

**DANE-J.K.:** Winter wheat was white looking after very cold nights but has bounced back. It is very good now with warmer weather: color looks green again. There does not seem to be any winterkill. Alfalfa is hard to say yet. There is no frost in the ground except for a few protected places. Winter weather has set back spring planting on all crops. Too wet for spring tillage. Liquid manure and fertilizer are being spread.

**DODGE-G.R.:** No signs of winterkill in wheat or alfalfa. Frost is out of the ground. The very cold weekend probably froze the growth of alfalfa. Friday's warmer weather caused melting snow run off fields and pool in some places.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 22, 2007

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 April 21	Mar. 1 to April 21 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	68	36	79	26	52	6	143	75	0.11	3.78	-0.03	5.40	-0.28
Green Bay	62	36	74	30	49	4	118	65	0.02	3.19	-0.65	5.21	-0.84
La Crosse	71	40	82	31	55	5	175	100	0.0	3.71	-0.60	6.25	-0.26
Madison	63	36	75	28	50	3	148	104	0.0	5.63	1.02	8.06	0.93
Milwaukee	56	37	70	32	47	1	135	n.a.	0.19	5.69	0.43	7.91	-0.87

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. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.