



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

September 17, 2007

Vol. 07, No. 24

Fall Arrives a Week Early

Frost visited much of the state toward the end of the week, ending the growing season in some areas. Temperatures were 7 to 9 degrees below normal this past week. High temperatures were in the low 70s and 80s, while low temperatures were in the low 30s and 40s. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.03 inches in Eau Claire to 0.88 inches in Madison. Soil moisture conditions were rated as 6 percent very short, 19 percent short, 68 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

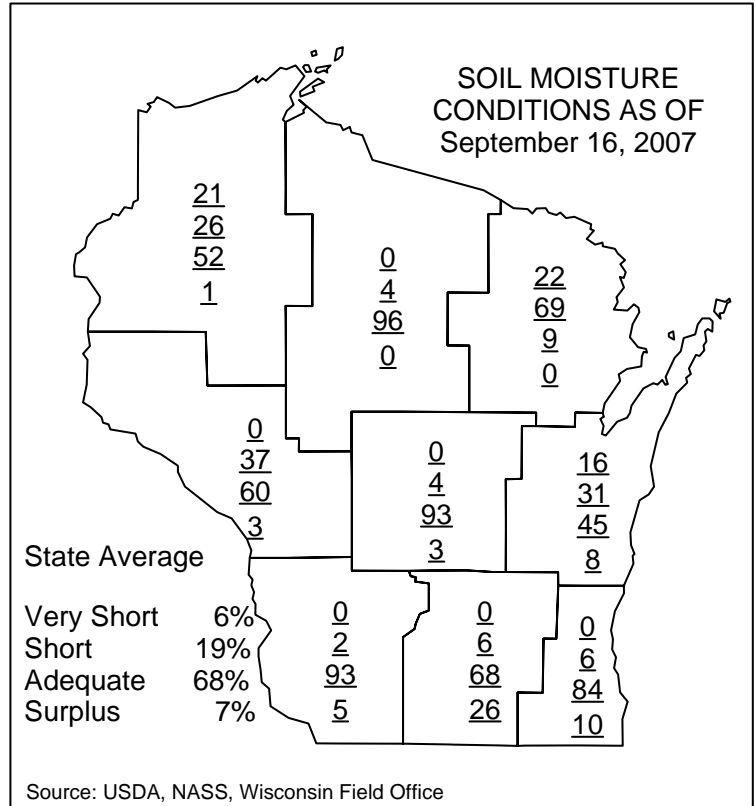
Corn in the dough stage was 98 percent complete, below last year's 99 percent, but above the 5-year average of 93 percent complete. Corn in the dent stage reached 89 percent complete, above last year's average and the 5-year average of 85 and 72 percent, respectively. Thirty-five percent of the crop was mature, above both last year's and the 5-year average of 20 percent. Some farmers began to combine, corn with grain harvest at 1 percent complete. Silage harvest was in full swing with corn harvested for silage at 52 percent complete, ahead of last year's 36 percent and the 5-year average of 37 percent complete. There were reports of farmers harvesting corn for silage due to marginal grain yields

Soybeans turning color was rated at 86 percent complete, an increase of 30 percentage points from last week and above both last year's 72 percent and the 5-year average of 74 percent complete. Soybeans dropping leaves reached 41 percent complete, well ahead of last year's 31 percent and the 5-year average of 39 percent complete. Uneven maturing of fields and lower expected yields were reported.

Third and fourth cutting **alfalfa** continued during the week. Third cutting hay was rated as 94 percent complete, slightly below last year's average of 95 percent, but above the 5-year average of 91 percent. Fourth cutting hay was 33 percent complete, above last year's average of 32 percent and the 5-year average of 26 percent. Reports indicated improved quality, but remain variable for quantity of fourth cutting. **Pasture** conditions remained at about the same level for the week.

Fall field work continued. **Winter wheat** planting and **alfalfa** re-seeding continued where corn and hay harvest activities were not going on.

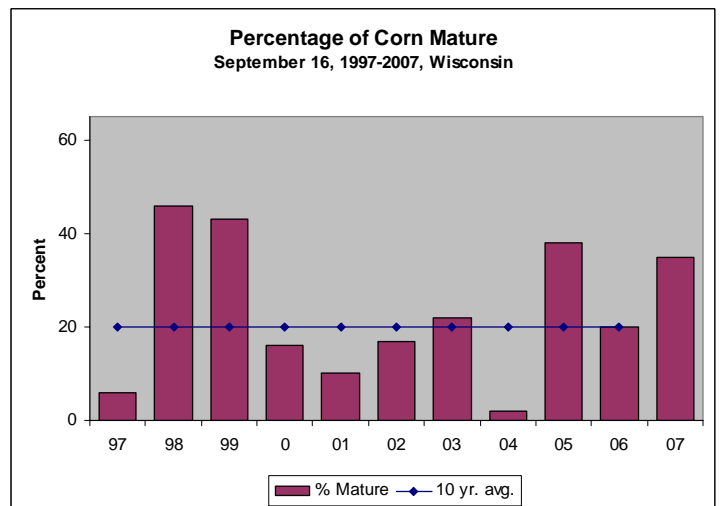
Reports of **apple** and **cranberry** yields continued to be good. **Potato** harvesting continued.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 16, 2007

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	8	14	29	31	18
Soybeans	6	11	32	33	18
Pasture	7	12	27	46	8

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 16, 2007

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 dough	96	97	100	98	96	95	100	100	100	98	99	93
Corn dent	83	85	91	94	80	79	94	96	88	89	85	72
Corn mature	27	17	17	41	37	38	44	29	44	35	20	20
Corn harvested for silage	56	49	69	71	48	42	53	41	44	52	36	37
Soybeans turning color	80	85	93	92	81	85	93	87	81	86	72	74
Soybeans dropping leaves	57	39	44	51	24	45	50	38	21	41	31	39
Third cutting hay	89	84	98	98	95	93	97	96	98	94	95	91
Fourth cutting hay	21	27	9	46	25	26	37	56	20	33	32	26

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Corn is being chopped for silage. Stalks are very dry. Pastures are dry and feed supply is at a premium.

RUSK-G.P.: Harvesting of corn silage is going on with moistures running between 65-70 percent. We are bagging it right now due to being a little wet for silos. Tested some high moisture corn this week. It was 30 percent off the ear. It would be 35 percent out of the combine, a little wet yet. Light frost early this week ended the growing season for some farmers. It sounds like wide spread frost coming Saturday morning. Less than four months growing season this year.

CLARK-N.S.: Corn silage harvest is moving along well. Many growers had to make a tough decision regarding harvesting for grain or leaving for silage because grain yield is marginal.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Corn and soybeans are getting close to maturity; range from very poor to good. Third crop hay is less than half of normal. Corn silage will be the major roughage source.

SHAWANO-T.A: Soils remain dry in most areas. Yields of alfalfa have been outstanding. Corn and soybeans will be off by a good share from last year.

MONROE-W.H.: Frost on Friday night brought the growing season to an end.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Frost Friday night ended the growing season for many plants and crops. For most items, the timing was not a problem; in fact it will bring harvest along.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Growers are starting to think about planting winter wheat. Fields vary a lot in maturity with both corn and soybeans.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Frost on Saturday morning looks like it was hard enough to end the growing season for most corn and soybean crops in this area.

OUTAGAMIE-K.J.: Silage harvest was variable. There are many instances of 20 ton yields per acre, but there are producers who had to take certain fields for silage because of the absence of ears on the plant. It is clear that drought and soil type were huge determining factors in these instances. The rains from two weeks ago have fourth and some fifth crop hay that looks better than the previous two cuttings that suffered from leafhoppers and drought. Soybeans are variable as well because while

there is plenty of growth in the soybean fields, there are many instances where the dry weather prevented early set pods from filling out adequately. This means that we would expect to see small seed size and lower test weights once any significant harvest gets underway.

IOWA-S.M.: Some corn is dry enough to shell. Soybeans are dropping leaves. Good fourth crop hay.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: We had some serious frost on Friday morning. The very wet August resulted in increased crop pathogens like anthracnose stalk rot. Expecting to see combines rolling everywhere this week.

DANE-C.B.: The 32 degree temperature on Saturday morning helped many soybeans begin the process of dropping leaves. Corn continues to rapidly dry down making silage producers very nervous. They continue to get it chopped and in the bunkers as quickly as they can, given the wet soil conditions in spots. Over-wintering alfalfa will be a concern. Winter wheat planting can begin anytime after the middle of September.

DODGE-G.R.: Corn dry down has been dramatic during the week. Many plants have hanging cobs with brown husks and tops exposed. Some plants are totally brown. Corn silage harvest is in progress with a sense of urgency. Soybean fields are now mottled yellow and green. Alfalfa re-growth is vigorous.

RACINE-L.F.: Damage from excessive rains is very obvious at this time. Soybeans have died in the field and corn is starting to lean and dry out. Hopefully, the grains not affected continue to meet our expectations.



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

Robert J. Battaglia
Director

Jessica Scrimger
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 September 16, 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 Sept. 15	Mar. 1 to Sept. 15 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	63	42	70	30	52	-9	2711	2299	0.03	1.58	-0.52	20.56	-4.82
Green Bay	63	41	76	32	52	-8	2529	2161	0.21	1.85	0.14	19.37	-2.64
La Crosse	66	45	81	34	56	-8	3048	2585	0.72	1.63	-0.26	33.51	8.13
Madison	65	44	77	32	55	-7	2794	2524	0.88	1.11	-0.65	35.71	10.21
Milwaukee	66	48	76	40	57	-7	2687	n.a.	0.70	0.80	-1.01	25.22	-0.78

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.