



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

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## Fieldwork Underway

Some progress was made in tillage and planting this past week. Rainfall was minimal, with rainfall totals ranging from 0.05 inches in Milwaukee to 0.73 inches in LaCrosse. Average high temperatures were in the mid to high 60s. Average low temperatures were in the high 30s to the mid 40s. Ground temperatures have been slow to rise in many areas, as average temperatures were 0 to 2 degrees below normal last week. Soil Moisture conditions were at 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 63 percent adequate, and 36 percent surplus. There was an average of 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

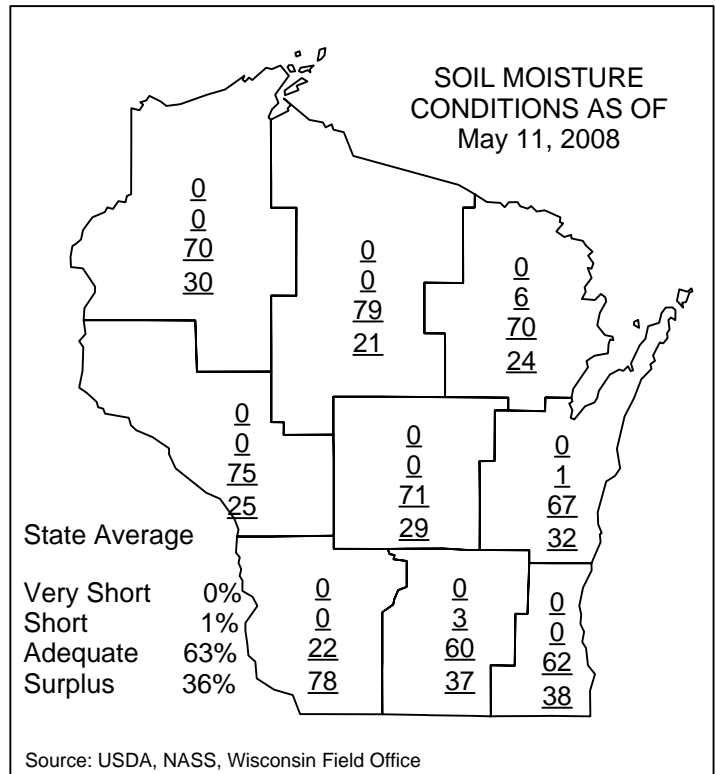
**Corn** planting progress increased to 29 percent complete, a jump of 25 percentage points from last week. This is well below last year's average of 65 percent complete, however, and is at the lowest level since 1996. Farmers were able to plant on lighter soils and higher fields, while heavier soils and lower fields remained too wet to work.

**Soybeans** planted was at 6 percent complete, below both last year's average of 24 percent and the 5-year average of 20 percent complete. This is also the lowest total since 1996. Many of the soybeans planted were in the southern third of the state.

As with corn and soybeans, **oats** planted and oats emerged are at their lowest percents since 1996. Oats planted was reported at 49 percent complete, while oats emerged was reported at 21 percent. These levels are well below last year's averages of 91 percent planted and 53 percent emerged.

**Spring tillage** was reported at 38 percent complete, the lowest since 1993. Dry, warmer weather is needed for spring tillage to progress. Last year's average at this time was 74 percent complete.

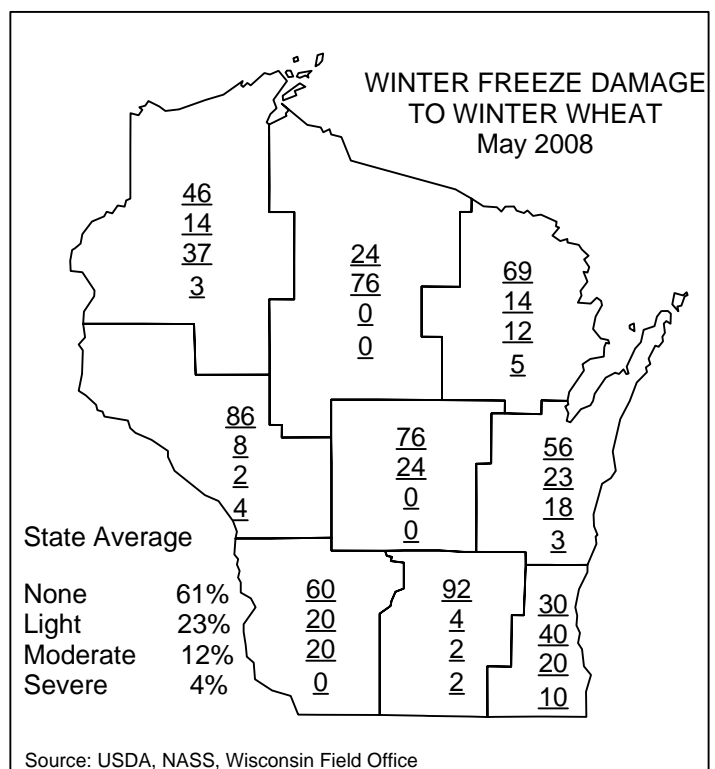
There was a report of some early **peas** emerging. **Potato** planting continues to progress. **Fruit trees** were reported as being behind last year, but are starting to leaf out and blossom.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 11, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	1	5	19	49	26
Pasture	1	4	19	51	25

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 11, 2008

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 planted	10	4	14	24	12	18	47	43	53	29	65	60
Oats planted	37	11	21	42	33	48	94	75	57	49	91	89
Oats emerged	1	0	6	5	12	11	74	42	31	21	53	55
Spring tillage completed	28	18	23	32	18	39	46	56	71	38	74	73

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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

**BARRON-R.C.:** Wheels have finally started turning across the county. Manure spreading and fieldwork are ramping up; corn planters are now a common sight. Most farmers feel they are still 6-10 days behind. For the most part alfalfa fields are in good shape.

**BAYFIELD-J.F.:** The spring is wet and cool compared to the last few years. Farmers are just now able to top-dress hayfields. Soils are still too wet for any tillage or planting.

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Corn planting began on lighter soils. Oats and new hay seedings are being planted. Alfalfa looks good overall with some winterkill on low fields.

**PRICE-M.K.:** Finally enough rain-free days to allow some fieldwork, but many soils are still too wet to work. Too early to assess winterkill injury yet. Trees are just starting to show signs of leafing out.

**TAYLOR-D.E.:** Tillage finally began this past week despite the rain. Fortunately, the rain amounts were small, so it only delayed tillage a day or so. Some oats are in the ground and a few fields of corn have been planted. Hayfields are looking good. There is still a lot of moisture in low fields and the ground is very cold.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Alfalfa is looking great, while wheat is turning a little yellow with all the moisture in the fields. A few farmers were able to do some tillage. A little planting was done this week, but overall it is still pretty quiet in the fields.

**SHAWANO-T.B.:** Isolated areas within fields are showing evidence of winterkill.

**LACROSSE-S.H.:** Tillage and planting are still slow and the weather is cool. Hoping for better weather to get more work done.

**PIERCE-D.J.:** Ground is still very cold. Progress on planting is slow. Areas are very wet with more rain in the forecast.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Wet and cold weather have nearly stalled planting progress. There is a frost watch on cranberry marshes. Manure hauling and tillage is occurring only on sandy or hilltop fields.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** There was enough dry weather this week to allow for quite a bit of fieldwork and planting to be done, mainly on the higher ground. Those producers with low land generally are still not able to do fieldwork. The only problem with planting crops this week was the

air temperature. Even though conditions were improving, it still has been cool, with high temperatures mainly in the 50's and occasionally in the low 60's. This has caused ground temperatures to warm very slowly. Some early planted oats have emerged. Winter wheat is continuing to look good, as is the alfalfa, but with the cool temperatures, neither is growing very fast. So far, only oats, corn and some barley were being planted, with little or no soybeans put in the ground yet.

**LAFAYETTE-M.R.:** Corn is about 90 percent planted. Wet spots as of now, without much promise. About half of the corn is sprayed, usually too windy, except for the custom operators. Once the corn gets sprayed, plan to plant soybeans as soon as possible.

**COLUMBIA-R.S.:** Some winter wheat and alfalfa have drowned out, but only small areas. Many corn and soybean fields have water standing in low spots with planters going around them. There are many serious thoughts about spreading fertilizer because of the price.

**RACINE-L.F.:** Rains have held off enough to get crops planted. Everywhere you look the fields have been tilled and planted. Wheat fields are very spotty but because of the input costs most are keeping the fields to harvest.

**WAUKESHA-D.W.:** Most spring tillage is done except for low spots and valleys in any given field. We are planting at full speed ahead, but are going around wet spots and are losing 0.5 to 3.0 acres per field.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 11, 2008**

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 10	Mar. 1 to May 10 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	67	39	79	34	53	-2	194	211	0.23	7.64	1.81	9.35	1.69
Green Bay	65	41	77	32	53	-1	172	175	0.13	7.45	2.02	13.40	5.75
La Crosse	69	44	81	38	57	-1	216	256	0.73	10.33	3.88	12.77	4.15
Madison	66	42	80	32	54	-1	227	254	0.35	9.61	2.99	15.08	5.95
Milwaukee	64	42	76	38	53	0	183	n.a.	0.05	8.10	0.74	13.49	2.62

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.