



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

May 4, 2009

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Spring Planting Limited; Soil Remains Cool and Wet

Precipitation during the week kept some farmers out of the fields over a dry and warm weekend. More consecutive days of heat are needed to dry out the ground, especially in low-lying areas. Across the reporting stations, precipitation totals ranged from 2.75 inches in Milwaukee to 0.52 inches in Green Bay. Average temperatures last week were normal to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 59 to 63 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 39 to 45 degrees. There were 3.6 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

<http://www.noaa.gov/>
<http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
<http://www.cocorahs.org/>
<http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn planting continued where possible across the state, with 17 percent reported complete. Planting accelerated on the western side of the state, where growers benefited from good planting conditions. Many other growers are holding off and waiting for soil moisture conditions and temperatures to improve.

Despite the previous week's conditions, growers made good progress planting **oats**, with reported plantings at 74 percent complete. Almost all oats are in the ground in the southwest and south central parts of the state. Emergence progressed with some timely precipitation, and was reported as 31 percent complete statewide. Percent planted and emerged were each ahead of their 5-year averages.

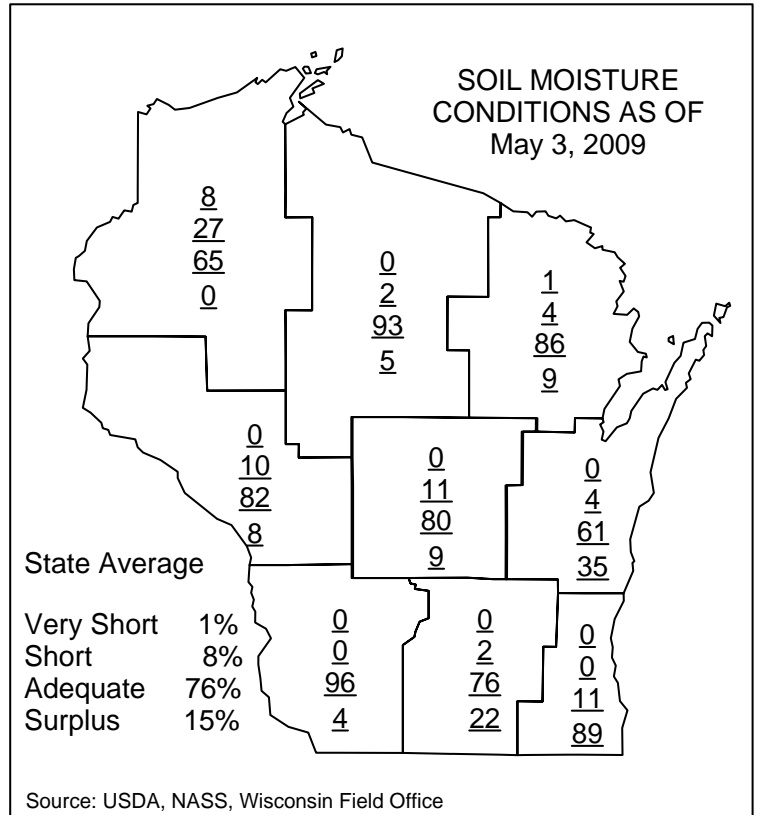
Spring tillage picked up towards the end of the week, with 50 percent reported complete. There is still a lot of tillage to be done in some areas, and growers are geared up and ready to go as soon as the conditions permit.

The recent rains have helped **winter wheat** and **alfalfa** perk up, yet there have been many reported spots with winterkill. For the most part, reports indicate that winter wheat has suffered more damage than alfalfa. Winter wheat conditions were reported as 79 percent fair to good. Along with other crops, both could benefit from some warmer temperatures.

The rains have helped **pasture** and **hay** growth in the central part of the state, with pasture conditions reported as 77 percent fair to good.

Early canning **peas** were emerging and the planting of **potatoes** continued in the West Central district.

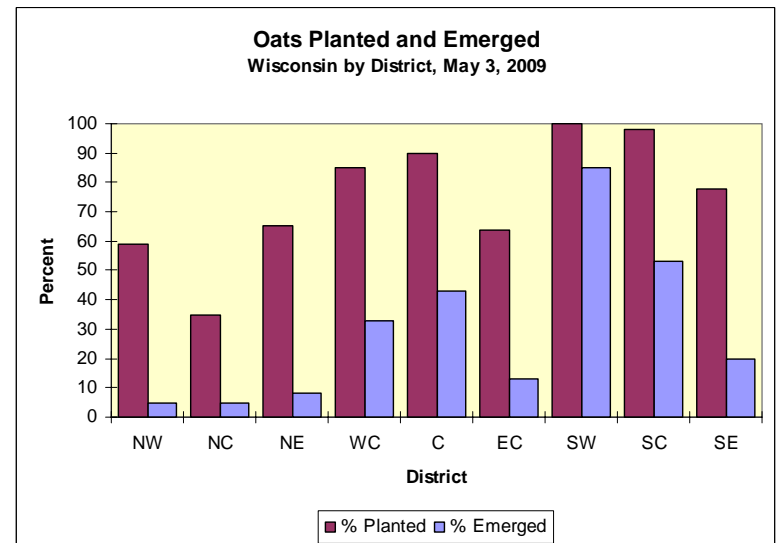
Fruit trees were starting to bud throughout the state.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 3, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	2	9	29	50	10
Pasture	5	11	34	43	7

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 3, 2009

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	16	8	7	31	12	3	33	15	1	17	3	25
Oats planted	59	35	65	85	90	64	100	98	78	74	22	65
Oats emerged	5	5	8	33	43	13	85	53	20	31	9	27
Spring tillage completed	46	34	47	69	50	41	69	54	28	50	12	46

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-T.J.: Received some much-needed rain this past week, but soils remain dry and cool.

CLARK-R.H.: Wheat damage is greater than expected; some fields will have to be replanted. Alfalfa has started to grow. We received a much-needed rain last week that has slowed fieldwork. Corn might be planted this weekend.

PRICE-M.K.: Forages are greening up nicely. The rains early last week and cool weather since then have slowed up field operations.

LANGLADE-A.K.: We had some nice rain on Friday, just what we needed. Fieldwork is starting back up with planting to follow if it warms up. Alfalfa fields are excellent and winter wheat is good to fair.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Alfalfa and winter wheat are slow to grow due to cool temperatures. It does appear there will be some winterkill in our area. Tillage was at a standstill earlier in the week but now has started up. I was able to get a few acres of corn in on the lighter soil this past weekend.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Most oats have emerged. Manure spreading and planting corn are the activities going on. Cool temperatures are holding back hay and pastures. Fruit trees are starting to blossom.

LACROSSE-I.H.: Alfalfa is coming back and looking good. There is little evidence of winterkill. Tillage is ahead of schedule with corn planting starting to go strong. Ground works up better than most previous years. Fruit trees are starting to bud, have not seen any blossoms as yet. Soil temperature is between 55 and 60 degrees depending on the altitude.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Alfalfa and winter wheat survived the winter in good condition but are slow to grow with the cool weather. April started dry but the last week we had above normal precipitation. Fruit trees are starting to bud. It is too cool to plant corn as of yet.

WOOD-T.A.: Received some much-needed rain last weekend, and warmer temperatures throughout this week. Some areas of the county with the clay soils have pockets of flooding in the fields. Farmers that can get in

the fields are working them up. Numerous tractors and tillage equipment are out as you drive around the county.


BROWN-M.H.: Both alfalfa and winter wheat are looking better. A majority of small grains and alfalfa are seeded in. A majority of spring tillage is completed. Now we wait for it to dry off and warm up.

OUTAGAMIE-S.S.: There is some corn starting to be planted. Some soybeans are starting to be planted. Wheat and hay are finally starting to grow.

DANE-D.F.: Late last week planters started rolling, weekend was very busy. Fields still have some wet spots that need to be avoided. Corn planting is starting to progress nicely.

DODGE-M.H.: Still plenty of wet low spots to contend with. Oats are emerging now. Corn planting is just starting. There is 3.0 - 4.0 inches of growth in the alfalfa. Winter wheat is still recovering in areas but looking better than a few weeks ago.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: It has been a wet week, too wet to haul manure or do fieldwork.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 3, 2009

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 2	Mar. 1 to May 2 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	61	39	63	28	50	0	174	137	1.26	3.25	-1.75	4.35	-2.44
Green Bay	59	42	64	38	50	1	122	111	0.52	5.17	0.39	7.38	0.36
La Crosse	63	44	69	39	54	0	223	170	1.49	3.71	-1.91	5.42	-2.32
Madison	63	45	70	41	54	3	197	169	1.14	10.62	4.79	13.07	4.70
Milwaukee	61	44	71	39	53	4	162	n.a.	2.75	8.75	2.18	12.08	2.02

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.