



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

May 26, 2009

Vol. 09, No. 07

## Planting Accelerates During Dry Week

The dry weather this past week provided an excellent opportunity to get crops planted, but many growers are now hoping for a good soaking rain. Statewide, soil moisture conditions measured as short or very short were reported at 31%, compared to only 11% a week ago. Across the reporting stations, precipitation totals ranged from 0.01 inches in Eau Claire to 0.31 inches in Madison. Average temperatures last week were 2 to 5 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 72 to 77 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 46 to 52 degrees. There were 6.2 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** planted jumped 20 percentage points from the previous week, and was reported as 82 percent complete. Emergence was reported as 42 percent complete, an increase of 28 percentage points from last week. Percent planted and emerged have nearly caught up to their respective 5-year averages after trailing behind up to this point in the season. Some low spots that were yet to be planted were drying out well with the high winds and warm temperatures.

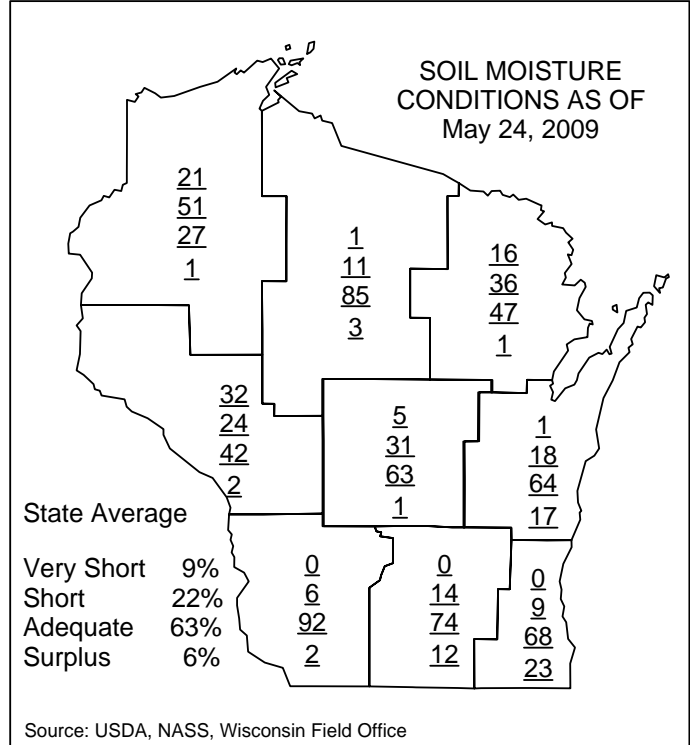
**Soybeans** planted were reported as 54 percent complete, ahead of last year's 50 percent complete, but less than the 5-year-average of 57 percent complete. Emergence was reported as 11 percent complete. Moisture is needed for beans to continue to germinate.

Emergence of **oats** was reported as 86 percent complete, well ahead of last year and slightly higher than the 5-year average. Growers reported that oats were looking good and fields were nice and green. Oats were reported as 81 percent Good to Excellent.

**Spring tillage** increased another 11 percentage points this past week and was reported as 90 percent complete statewide. Growers around the state took advantage of the dry weather and were able to wrap up most of the tillage in their fields for the season.

Many growers reported that their **alfalfa** was looking good but that some was short. Some early cuttings started last week with first cutting hay reported as 5 percent complete. Many farmers are planning on cutting this week as plenty of alfalfa should be ready to harvest.

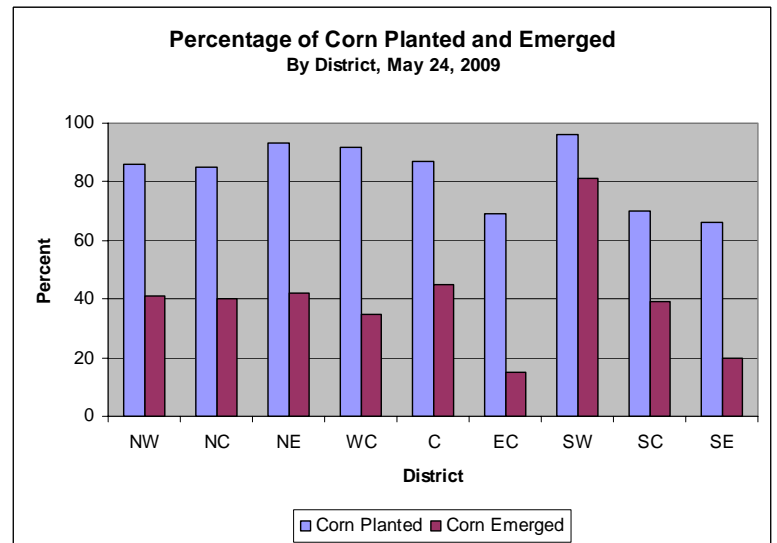
**Fruit trees** continued to blossom throughout the state and some Door County cherries were reported as being in full bloom.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 24, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	6	4	23	51	16
Oat	0	3	16	65	16
Pasture	2	7	23	57	11

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 24, 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	86	85	93	92	87	69	96	70	66	82	77	84
Corn emerged	41	40	42	35	45	15	81	39	20	42	22	45
Soybeans planted	50	67	69	70	52	30	84	44	31	54	50	57
Soybeans emerged	3	4	3	11	3	4	37	9	5	11	2	16
Oats emerged	75	84	88	91	92	63	100	97	88	86	63	85
First cutting hay	2	1	1	3	2	2	17	11	6	5	0	3
Spring tillage completed	93	94	96	95	88	81	97	89	80	90	84	89

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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

**POLK-R.S.:** Dry weather has allowed planting to progress rapidly, and most fields that have emerged look good. Alfalfa fields are lush but short. PEAQ readings range from 230 to 245.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Corn is winding down. Soybeans are being planted. Small grains are finishing up as well. Emergence has been slow but things are picking up with the warm weather. Moisture is ok for now but already slipping back into the short category.

**MARATHON-M.K.:** This was a good week for planting crops. Lots of corn is up already.

**VILAS-L.K.:** Small showers are keeping the topsoil a little moist, but below it is very dry.

**FLORENCE-R.O.:** I planted corn in early April and it is up now. Oats are also up but growing slow due to cold weather. Pastures need rain and heat. We had a very cold and dry spring.

**LANGLADE-A.K.:** Planting is wrapping up, spring conditions were good. Corn is starting to emerge. We need warmer temperatures and some moisture. Hayfields are excellent but height is short due to cool temperatures.

**LACROSSE-S.H.:** Planting continues and much of the corn is in the ground. Alfalfa hay is being harvested on a number of farms with more expected to come off later in the week. Some much-needed rain is in the forecast for early in the week.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** The wind conditions this past week are the worst I have seen in many years. Corn planting is almost complete. Soybean planting is going strong.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** Most corn and soybeans have been planted. The warm weather has the corn and soybeans growing quite fast this week. I saw a field of hay cut on Sunday.

**CALUMET-J.W.:** Corn and soybean planting is going good. Farmers are talking about cutting hay next week. Hay looks excellent.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** The weather this past week allowed quite a bit of the rest of the spring crops to get planted. However, by week's end, conditions were beginning to get dry. While there is still a lot of moisture under the surface, the top of the ground is getting dry. There has been a lot of dust blowing around during these past windy days. This past week saw a lot of corn emerge. Some of the tallest corn is probably about 2-3 inches in

height. Some of the later-planted corn has yet to come up. A lot of the soybeans have gone in, with most of the planting now complete. A small number of earlier planted soybeans have emerged. For the most part, the spring planted crops are looking good, with even emergence and very few bare spots. The only places bare spots are showing are where there was water standing a few weeks ago. First crop hay harvest is just starting to get underway, but most producers in this area will be waiting until the end of the week before getting out there. From the looks of the hay that is being cut at this time, the crop is shorter than what would be expected, averaging anywhere from 18-20 inches in height. In another week, it should be nearing two feet. Rain would really help this crop right now.

**GRANT-D.W.:** Most all the planting is done in this area. Hay harvest has started, but yield looks to be light. We could use a little rain to loosen the soil crust. I have seen several producers rotary hoeing.

**COLUMBIA-R.G.:** Many farmers are done with corn and soybeans. The heavy rain last week packed lower areas of fields with some areas slow to come up. First crop hay is growing rapidly. Most fields look very good. Two nights of frost last week slowed the corn that has emerged. Some wheat fields are very weedy and need spraying.

**DANE-D.R.:** There is water standing in some fields. Wet spots have caused farmers to plant around them. Alfalfa is ready to harvest, high in quality.

**WAUKESHA-C.W.:** Most crops planted in the past seven days have emerged. We could use some rain on higher ground.



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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 May 24, 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 23	Mar. 1 to May 23 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	77	50	90	35	63	4	401	349	0.01	3.79	-3.49	4.89	-4.16
Green Bay	72	46	86	34	59	2	318	292	0.09	6.56	0.07	8.77	0.00
La Crosse	76	52	89	35	64	3	460	405	0.05	5.44	-2.44	7.15	-2.92
Madison	74	52	83	36	63	4	424	398	0.31	13.78	5.87	16.23	5.76
Milwaukee	73	50	85	42	62	5	376	n.a.	0.04	10.31	1.65	13.64	1.47

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.