



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

September 14, 2009

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Warmer Days Help Crops to Progress

The past week was full of sunshine and much-needed warmer temperatures. The warmer days helped push crop maturity; however, a late frost is still needed for many crops to finish. Many growers reported seeing trees and other plants changing to their autumn colors.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.05 inches in Eau Claire to 0.00 across the rest of the reporting stations. Average temperatures were 2 to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 75 to 81 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 50 to 60 degrees. On average, there were 6.9 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/>

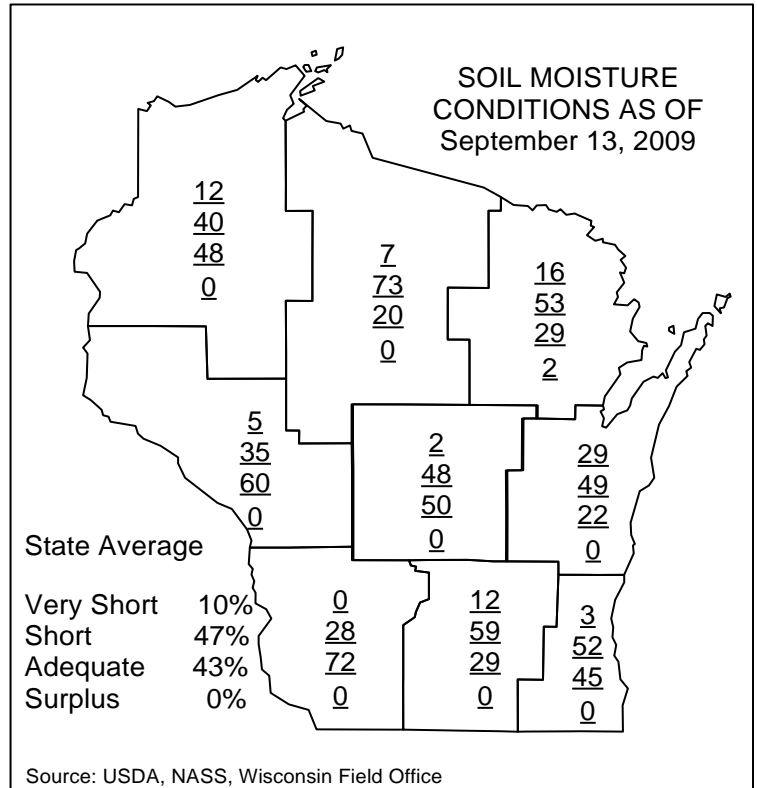
Corn in the dough stage was reported at 80 percent complete statewide, up 9 percentage points from the previous week. Throughout the state corn in the dent stage took a large jump as it was reported to be 40 percent dented; an increase of 21 percentage points from the previous week. Warmer days this past week helped to mature corn, but even with the warmer weather corn continues to lag. A few growers reported corn starting to mature and silage being harvested. Corn silage harvested was reported at 4 percent complete.

Soybean leaves have quickly begun to change color. Across the state, soybean leaves changing color jumped 34 percentage points to 43 percent complete. Soybean leaves also started dropping and were reported to be 6 percent complete across the state. White mold continues to be a problem for growers as well as aphids and spider mites.

Third cutting **hay** harvest has neared completion as it was reported to be 94 percent complete across the state. Fourth cutting hay harvest jumped 10 percentage points to 29 percent complete. The fog across many parts of the state slowed the drying of hay.

The **Apple** crop was reported to be looking good in the North West and West Central districts.

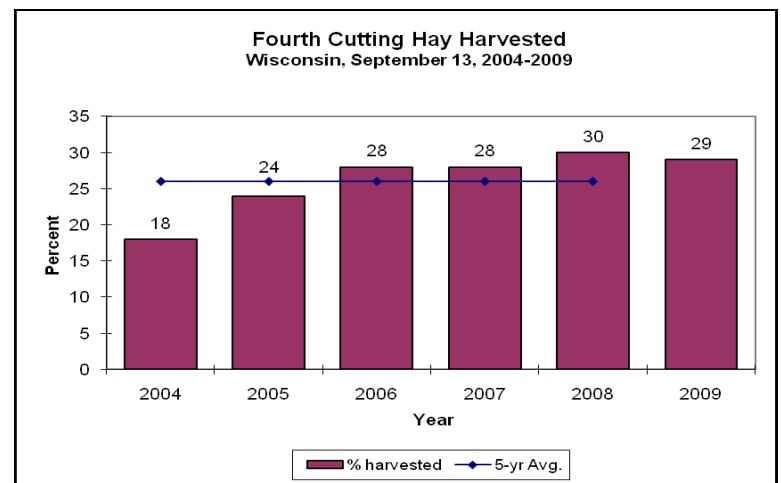
Growers reported that **beet, cabbage, and carrot** crops are doing well in the East Central district.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 13, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	2	8	26	44	20
Soybeans	2	5	22	51	20
Pasture	5	13	37	43	2

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	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn in dough stage	63	61	69	85	77	69	99	95	79	80	83	89
Corn in dent stage	24	6	40	42	48	37	53	40	22	40	46	63
Soybeans leaves turned	25	20	38	46	30	38	59	43	37	43	60	62
Soybeans dropping leaves	3	0	11	5	6	10	8	6	4	6	23	28
Fourth cutting hay	21	16	15	38	22	26	55	42	28	29	30	26

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-T.J.: The rain that we received three weeks ago has been depleted and we are now again facing some very dry conditions. Corn for silage is drying down more quickly than anticipated. This is going to surprise some growers at harvest time. The first two weeks of September have been unusually warm adding much-needed heat units to maturing corn.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Corn is just starting to dent. Topsoil is becoming very dry again. Corn silage harvest is still a week away.

CLARK-R.H.: We are getting very dry here in September. The good news is the warm weather is helping the corn finish if we can be frost free until October. Now moisture may become an issue. Soybeans are filling pods. Some fields are turning yellow but little leaf drop has been seen. Some fourth crop hay has been harvested, but some may wait until after a killing frost.

VILAS-L.K.: Potato harvest started this week; crop is very good. Small grains are all harvested with yields 20 to 30 percent down.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Third crop hay quality and yield were good. Corn and soybeans made maturity progress this week with sunshine and warm temperatures. We are still ten days behind normal. Small grains are done. We are in good conditions to make straw.

DUNN-S.S.: We need rain very badly. The lack of rain means very little fourth crop, if any. Pastures are drying up. Corn and soybeans both look very good at this time, but some rain and continued weather without frost will help even more. Third crop hay quality is good, quantities are fair.

LACROSSE-I.H.: We received no rain this past week, but plenty of fog. Warm weather has improved crop conditions. Still hard to get hay made because of the humid days and short period of time when the haying is optimal each day.

GREEN LAKE-R.G.: It is getting dry in our area. We have not received rain in two weeks. The recent heat is helping mature crops. Corn silage harvest has just begun. Crops look pretty good but the farm economy sure is dampening farmer's optimism.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: The weather conditions continue to be very dry. For the most part, the soybeans and corn would not benefit from any moisture from here on out. With the soybean leaves turning and dropping, the soybeans that were going to form have already formed.

The height of the soybean plants varies though. In places, they are nearly three feet high while in others, the plants are not even a foot high. The shorter plants are turning color very quickly. It will be difficult to combine these given their height. The corn is also turning very quickly but, in most cases it is not because it is ripe. It is because of a lack of rain. This could be a problem later on, with some corn having a light test weight or some ears not being filled out to the end. In some locations, corn is already being chopped for silage because of the way the plants are drying down so fast. Fourth crop hay is being harvested, but some producers will not be able to cut it because it is so short. The weather has been perfect for one thing hauling manure.

SAUK-W.J.: Warm dry weather has been very beneficial to corn and soybean maturing. Corn silage has begun. Hay is being made on fields which will be corn next year

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Soybeans are changing color from morning to night. Some corn fields have dried up from the bottom and some from the top; ears look shorter. Soybean plants appear to have fewer pods with a lot of two beans per pod.

WAUKESHA-C.W.: Heat and sunshine really helped push corn along. Soybean yields will be highly variable. Third crop hay is just about done. Corn silage is coming fast.



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

Craig Christianson
Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 13, 2009

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	March 1 to Sept. 12	March 1 to Sept. 12 normal*	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	81	51	83	46	66	4	2164	2268	0.05	0.08	-1.92	17.10	-8.04
Green Bay	81	51	85	49	66	4	2006	2130	0.00	0.00	n.a.	17.63	-4.13
La Crosse	81	56	82	53	69	3	2449	2548	0.00	0.00	n.a.	19.76	-5.25
Madison	81	50	83	46	66	3	2275	2484	0.00	0.00	n.a.	25.35	0.26
Milwaukee	75	60	76	57	68	2	2255	n.a.	0.00	0.00	n.a.	24.26	-1.27

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.