



Wisconsin Crop Progress

April 26, 2010

Vol. 10, No. 3

Weekend Rains Are Not Enough For Some Areas

Warm, dry conditions have allowed farmers to get ahead of schedule on their spring tillage and other fieldwork. However, many reporters stated that more moisture is needed to alleviate the threat of wind erosion and to help emergence and growth of small grains.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 4 to 9 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 47 to 52 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 28 to 31 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.12 inches in Green Bay to 0.97 inches in Milwaukee. There were 6.0 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/>

Many reporters noted that **alfalfa** and **winter wheat** were in good shape with winterkill showing up in only a few spots. Warmer temperatures the past week and moisture over the weekend have helped growth.

Across the state there were many reports that **corn** planting was getting underway, with corn planted reported at 20 percent complete, an increase of 17 percentage points from the previous week. Also reported was that some farmers are waiting for frost to be less of a concern and soil temps to get a little higher before planting corn.

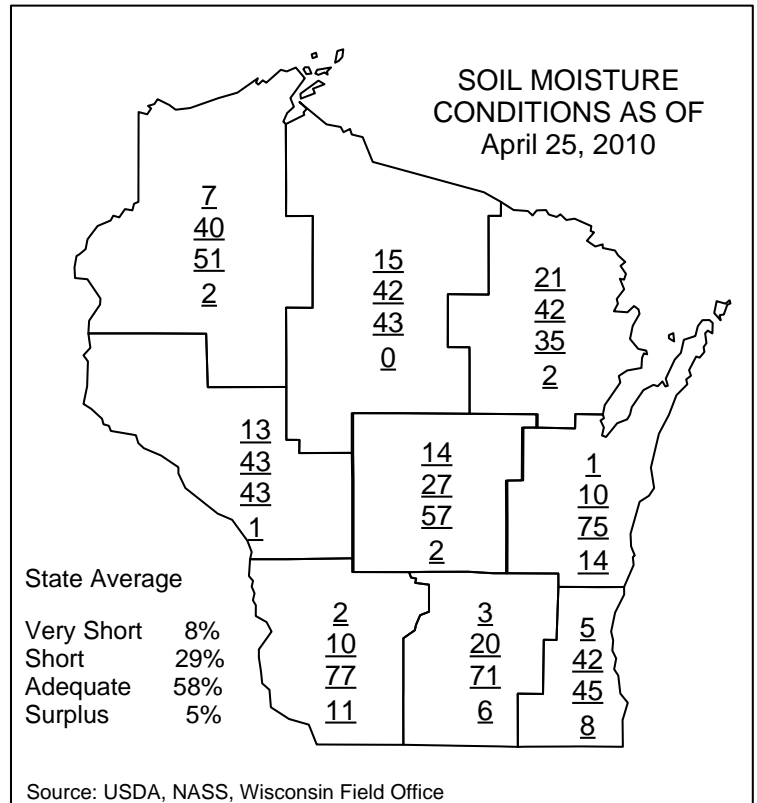
Oats continued to be planted across the state. Oats planted was reported at 81 percent complete and oats emerged at 35 percent complete, 19 and 17 percentage points above the previous week, respectively.

Warmer temperatures and dry conditions continue to aid in the completion of **spring tillage**, with 59 percent complete. **Manure hauling** continues in many areas of the state.

Potatoes and other **small vegetables** continue to be planted across the state. Reporters stated that potatoes and peas are going in well.

Apple, cherry, and plum trees are reported as blossoming. **Fruit trees** look good so far, but many growers are concerned about possible frosts.

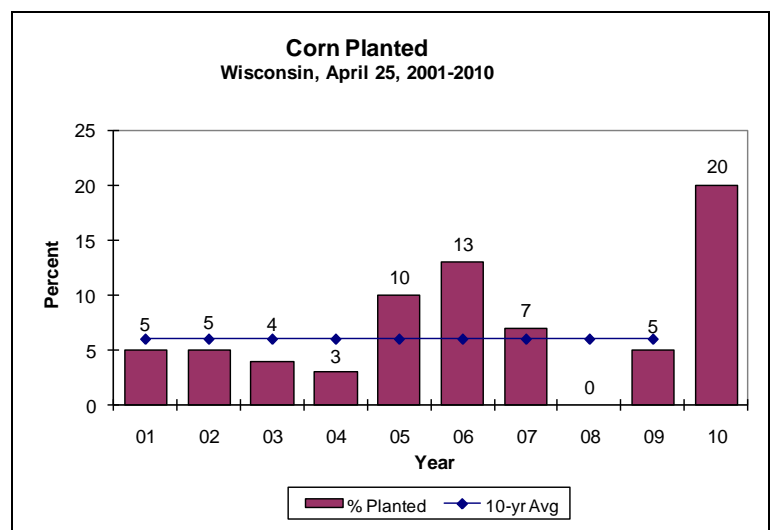
Cranberry vines are starting to come out of dormancy, and the warm temperatures are helping buds on the early varieties to begin to swell and open. Many cranberry growers have been protecting against frost.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 25, 2010

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Winter Wheat	0	3	15	63	19
Pasture	2	8	37	46	7

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 planted	8	21	15	25	10	7	27	30	35	20	5	7
Oats planted	72	88	72	89	76	69	87	95	78	81	54	43
Oats emerged	20	29	24	43	17	22	53	55	31	35	6	6
Spring tillage completed	51	71	49	63	53	41	68	68	63	59	33	27

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

BARRON-D.B.: The last 7 days we have been able to get spring fieldwork accomplished. The corn planters are beginning to roll in parts of the county. Alfalfa looks great. We need rain though if anything is going to grow.

WASHBURN-E.M.: Maple syrup season was average to below average. Spring tillage is progressing at a better than average rate due to dry conditions of soil. Wild cherries and some apple trees are blooming. Have had no reports of winterkill. Alfalfa fields look good. Rain is needed.

ASHLAND-C.B.: No significant winterkill on alfalfa or winter wheat. Fruit trees are ok so far. Spring tillage is considerably ahead of normal for this area, mainly due to the extremely dry conditions.

ONEIDA-B.E.: I am a cranberry grower. I can tell you that we are about 3 weeks ahead of a normal growing season, it has been an early spring, and we are quite far behind on precipitation and need rain. We usually begin frost protection about the second week of May, and at this farm have already frost protected several times since the first week of April. The vines are already coming out of dormancy. The buds on the early varieties have already begun to swell and open, and the temperatures have been well above normal here.

FLORENCE-T.B.: Snow cover and a mild winter have allowed alfalfa and clovers to survive well. A very mild and very dry March and April to this point has allowed for fieldwork to start early and some producers have planted oats and barley in the first week of April. The lack of moisture has slowed emergence of small grains. All hay forages and pastures are also developing slow do to the very dry conditions throughout the county.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Hayfields look very good. Moisture shortage is critical in our area, have stopped planting at this time due to a planting zone that is powder.

ST. CROIX-R.F.: Alfalfa winterkill appears to be minimal. Received about 0.5 inch of well needed rain over the weekend. This helped perk up the hayfields, pastures, oats and winter wheat.

TREMPEALEAU-J.Z.: Some spots of winterkill in alfalfa. Alfalfa is ahead of normal at this point. Spring tillage is going well, and ground is working up nicely.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: With 0.25 inch of rain over this weekend lots of potatoes were going in. Still had frost last week on five mornings.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: Winter wheat and alfalfa look really good and came through the winter with very little winterkill. Spring tillage was picking back up after the rain last week

and now with some rain this weekend there will be a few days until it picks back up again.

WINNEBAGO-S.E.: Alfalfa is looking better. New seeding completed. With over 2.0 inches of rain will prevent corn planting for a couple days

IOWA-K.M.: Fields were pretty dry until this weekend when we received about 1.5 to 2.0 inches of rain across the county. The majority of farmers were in the field keeping the FSA office pretty silent. A lot of corn going in as well. Some farmers said they had all or their corn in while others were just getting the planters out of the machine shed.

VERNON-K.L.: Alfalfa stands look good. Cool temperatures are contributing to a slower growth, but it is still early in season. Rain this past week was definitely needed and has somewhat hastened the fear of drought temporarily. More rain is predicted for the upcoming week. Cool season vegetables have been planted. Ground for spring tillage has been working up beautifully. Farmers are looking forward to a good growing season.

COLUMBIA-B.K.: Alfalfa is looking very good, greened up and starting to show nice growth. Potato planting has started. Mint roots are being planted. Carrots and onions are being planted. Spring tillage is going well; field conditions have been very good. Farmers are working areas that have in the past 2 springs had standing water.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: No signs of winterkill in wheat or alfalfa could use a warm rain. Alfalfa is the best I have seen in years this early. Spring tillage is in full pace. Dust is flying everywhere. Some corn was planted but the calendar say's it is too early. A few peas have been planted but the ground is still cold.



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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 April 25, 2010

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 Apr. 24	March 1 to Apr. 24 normal*	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	52	28	76	10	40	9	272	91	0.41	2.39	-1.66	3.65	-2.23
Green Bay	48	28	73	14	38	7	193	77	0.12	2.19	-1.86	3.90	-2.39
La Crosse	52	29	77	11	40	5	290	119	0.50	2.16	-2.43	4.41	-2.37
Madison	50	28	75	9	39	5	249	123	0.27	3.29	-1.62	5.19	-2.22
Milwaukee	47	31	77	20	39	4	192	n.a.	0.97	3.83	-1.80	5.12	-4.02

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.