



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition

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For the week ending May 21, 2017
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Severe Weather Stalls Planting

There were 2.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending May 21, 2017, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Fieldwork was slowed this week as heavy rain and severe thunderstorms lashed the state. Northern Wisconsin was the hardest hit by this wave of bad weather, with reporters noting up to 12 inches of rainfall for the week. Farms in Barron and Rusk Counties were struck by a tornado on Tuesday evening. Flooding, large hail and strong winds also damaged fields, trees and farm buildings around the state. Cold temperatures and standing water had farmers in many areas concerned for recently planted fields. Several reporters commented that the first crop of alfalfa was approaching an ideal maturity for cutting, but soils were too wet to support machinery. Warm, dry weather is needed to drain saturated fields.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 0 percent short, 56 percent adequate and 44 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 0 percent short, 65 percent adequate and 35 percent surplus.

As of May 21, **spring tillage** was 81 percent complete statewide, 11 days behind last year but 1 day ahead of the five-year average.

Corn planting was 65 percent complete, 10 days behind last year, and 3 days behind the average. Corn emerged was at 21 percent, 5 days behind last year and 2 days behind the average.

Twenty-nine percent of the states's expected **soybean** acres have been planted, 8 days behind last year, and 4 days behind the average. Three percent of the state's soybeans have emerged.

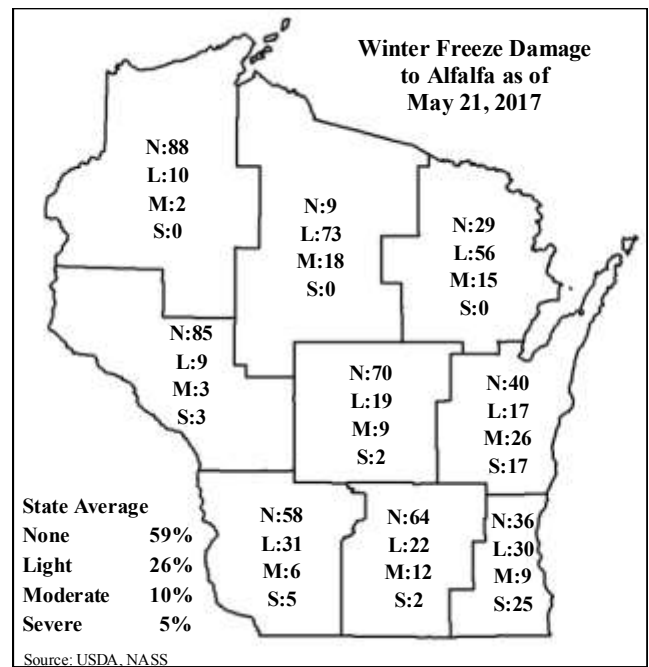
Oats planting was reported as 88 percent complete, 8 days behind last year, but 1 day ahead of the average. Oats emerged was at 61 percent, 7 days behind last year and 2 days behind the average.

Ninety-three percent of the **potato** crop was planted, slightly behind last year.

Pasture condition remained at 81 percent good to excellent.

Winter wheat was 67 percent in good to excellent condition statewide, compared to 71 percent good to excellent last week.

The first cutting of **alfalfa** was reported as 5 percent complete. **Hay alfalfa freeze damage** was rated 5 percent severe, 10 percent moderate, and 26 percent light as of May 21. Fifty-nine percent of the state's alfalfa was reported undamaged. **All hay** condition was reported 71 percent good to excellent.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 21, 2017

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
All Hay.....	2	7	20	52	19
Oats.....	0	1	28	58	13
Pasture & Range.	0	2	17	60	21
Winter Wheat.....	3	6	24	50	17

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of May 21, 2017

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent									Percent			
Alfalfa Hay, First Cutting.....	1	1	1	4	2	1	14	5	2	5	1	23	15
Corn Planted.....	75	68	62	71	64	56	64	63	62	65	48	89	72
Corn Emerged.....	15	16	15	25	20	11	25	28	18	21	3	38	32
Oats Planted.....	94	80	89	93	83	77	91	99	94	88	81	97	87
Oats Emerged.....	63	41	55	64	59	44	78	86	57	61	42	78	66
Potatoes Planted.....	86	90	89	97	94	n.a.	98	95	n.a.	93	89	94	n.a.
Soybeans Planted.....	30	28	35	29	27	32	17	34	28	29	15	61	43
Spring Tillage.....	80	82	82	84	79	76	84	81	87	81	71	96	80

n.a.=not available

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of May 21, 2017

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable.....	1.1	0.7	3.2	1.7	2.9	3.4	2.9	3.3	4.1	2.6	5.3	6.4
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Short.....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	18
Adequate.....	43	22	49	46	49	67	81	62	58	56	80	71
Surplus.....	57	78	51	54	50	33	19	38	42	44	18	8
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Short.....	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13
Adequate.....	59	23	43	53	61	84	94	67	63	65	80	81
Surplus.....	39	77	57	47	39	16	6	33	37	35	19	5

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-T.J.: A tornado struck Barron & Rusk counties on Tuesday, May 16 causing major damage to agricultural structures and destroying others. Later in the week this area received about 5 inches of rain bringing all field work to a halt. Soils are currently saturated and this will lead to a delay in the start of first cutting alfalfa. More rain is in the forecast.

POLK-A.M.: Very early in the week there were two days of beautiful weather. Significant rainfall received during the week that delayed field work. In some areas of the county received 4 to 5 inches of rain in a short amount of time causing flash flooding. Tennis ball sized hail was received in the southern part of the county causing some damage to farm structures, equipment and livestock.

CLARK-R.H.: Over 3 inches of rain has stopped all field work. No severe weather locally. Some lower ends of fields are under water and this morning the temperatures are hovering near freezing. We will need a period of dry weather to get rolling. For hay, PEAQ stick readings already at 200 RFV on the south end of the county; the north end of county is in the 230-250 RFV range. Need some warm dry weather to wrap up planting crops for 2017.

FLORENCE/FOREST-T.B.: Rain and cold. 3 to 5 inches of rainfall with falling temperatures starting Tuesday. Fields had standing water in any low spots. Cloudy and cold conditions slowed drying so field work came to a halt.

EAU CLAIRE-J.M.: Very wet week. Severe thunderstorms halted field work. Frost advisories issued.

PIERCE/ST CROIX-R.F.: Reports of 7 plus inches of rain in some areas during the past week. Adequate field waterways and buffers really paid off for those who practice and maintain good conservation systems, including no-till planting. Some early hay cut a week ago is still laying in wet windrows. You can now "row" lots of corn that was planted prior to last week's rains.

PORTAGE/WOOD-J.B.: It literally rained every day last week, nothing moved. We have gotten 5 inches of rain in the last week.

WAUPACA/OUTAGAMIE-D.L.H.: Fieldwork has come to a halt due to recent rainy weather. Early planted corn that has emerged is yellow due to cool weather and wet soil conditions. Severe thunderstorms ripped through central Waupaca and eastern Outagamie counties Wednesday evening downing some trees. Farmers are anxious to complete spring planting and get going on the alfalfa.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: After having great weather the previous week to get field work done, this past week the cold and rainy weather returned, further delaying the spring planting season. There are quite a few fields that even now haven't been tilled yet, and many others that have but are still fallow. Warmer temperatures this week, and hopefully less rain, will once again get tractors rolling. However, the first crop alfalfa is growing to the point where it may start to be harvested by next weekend. It is possible that all the crops may not be planted before the first crop is made. The corn that has been planted has not emerged yet, but the oats and new seedings have. The cooler temperatures have been ideal for the growth of these two crops, and that is also why the first crop is growing as it is. The alfalfa damage is becoming clearer now. The winterkill was rather extensive, but where the alfalfa survived, it looks okay. Some fields in the right location are actually looking very good. More than a few producers were planting extra alfalfa seed this spring to help make up for the fields that were lost to winter kill. Not much if any soybeans have been planted so far. By the end of this coming week, weather permitting, a lot more of the corn and beans will be put into the ground.

DANE-F.P.: Some parts of fields are too wet to plant. The alfalfa that was planted this spring is growing quite well. Fruit trees are in bloom as well as lilacs bushes.

DODGE-R.H.: Need sun and dry weather as hay is close to being ready to cut.

WAUKESHA-K.T.: A lot still not done planting, worried about cutoff date.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 21, 2017

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 20	Mar. 1 to May 20 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	68	48	83	38	58	+0	345	312	3.31	10.05	+3.12	14.12	+5.35
Green Bay	68	47	82	37	57	+1	311	260	1.10	8.66	+2.43	12.01	+3.56
La Crosse	71	56	86	44	64	+4	481	365	1.16	8.94	+1.43	12.79	+3.11
Madison	71	49	85	40	60	+3	388	358	1.24	10.25	+2.66	14.95	+4.78
Milwaukee	68	49	87	41	58	+2	331	n.a.	1.33	11.58	+3.25	15.59	+3.69

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. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more 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/>