



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

April 10, 2006

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## Spring Fieldwork Starts

Spring field activity has started in Wisconsin, but has been limited by wet field conditions. Average temperatures were 1 to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures were in the 50s in most locations. Average low temperatures were in the 30s across the state. Rainfall totals last week ranged from 0.70 in Green Bay to 2.43 inches in La Crosse. Soil moisture conditions were at 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 31 percent surplus. There was an average of 2.5 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

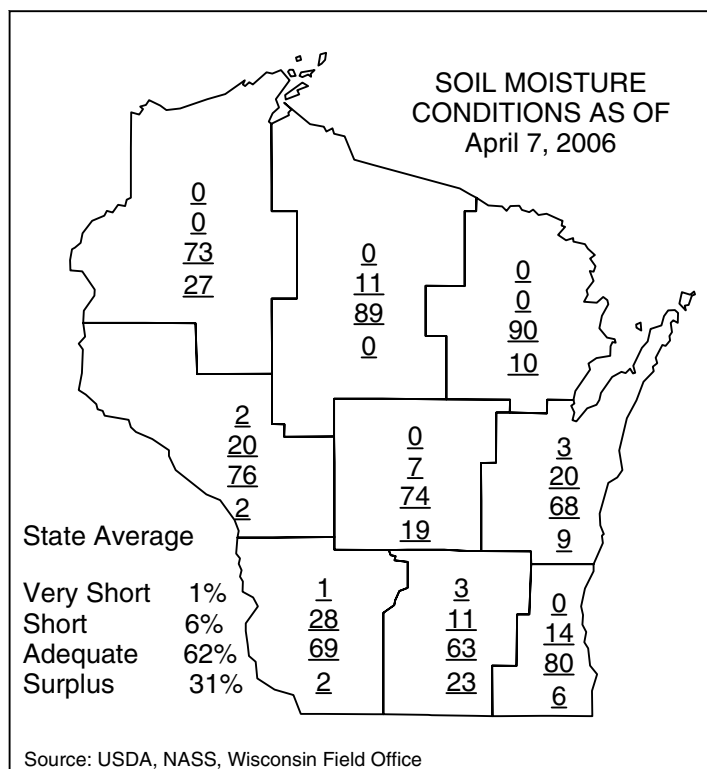
**Oats** planted was reported at 2 percent complete, below last year's average of 14 percent and the 5-year average of 8 percent. Farmers in the southern and central districts were able to start planting oats during the week. Most seeding was limited to lighter soils. Many farmers are waiting for a few warm, dry days before getting their drills in the fields.

**Spring tillage** was reported at 2 percent complete, compared to last year's 5 percent and the 5-year average of 4 percent. Rain and snow during the week slowed tillage progress. There were reports of frost and snow cover in a few areas of the northern districts. Farmers in the southern half of the state were able to find a few dry fields to start their spring tillage.

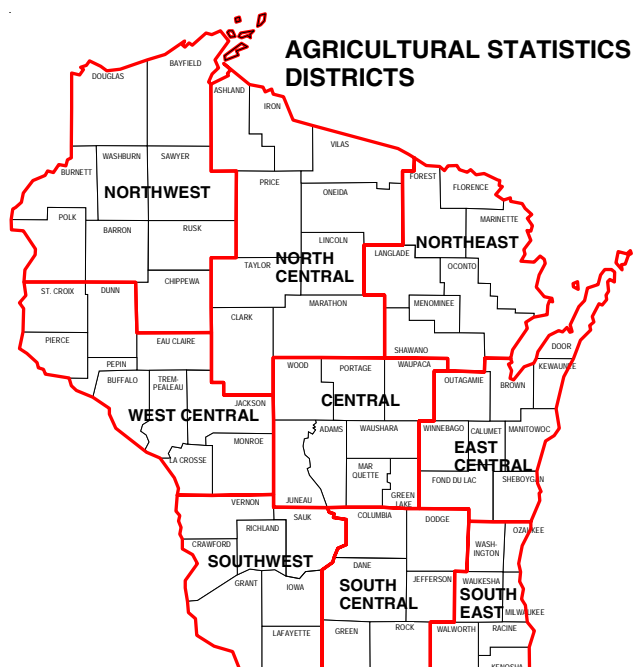
**Alfalfa** and **winter wheat** have started to break dormancy and are greening-up. Most reporters stated that it was too early to tell the extent of any winterkill. Alfalfa seeding started in central and southern counties.

**Maple syrup** season has ended or is slowing down. Reports from the northern part of the state have been mixed. Maple sap production in eastern counties was reported as good to excellent, with most taps pulled last week.

**Manure** hauling and spreading occurred across the state last week. **Potato** planting started in the sandy soils of the central part of the state.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 9, 2006					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Winter wheat	0	1	9	69	21
Pasture	17	23	31	23	6



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
	Oats planted	0	0	0	2	1	2	6	5	3	2	14
Spring tillage completed	1	1	1	4	3	1	2	3	6	2	5	4

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

**BARRON-R.C.:** Very little field activity at this point, fields are still on the soft side. Maple sap reports have been mixed, with some feeling the season was short, quality is good.

**POLK-C.S.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat look hopeful, but still too early to tell. Fields are wet and frost is out of the ground. Lighter soils beginning to see some activity of tillage.

**MARATHON-T.K.:** Alfalfa is starting to show some life. Winter wheat fields are turning green. There is no fieldwork yet. Plows and drags are hooked up and ready, but the ground is still too wet.

**PRICE-M.K.:** Most of the snow is gone and frost is out of the ground, except for shaded edges. A good syrup season is coming to a close.

**MARINETTE-S.R.:** Some tillage is occurring, but mostly manure spreading as of yet. Soil moisture much lower than normal at this time of the year.

**OCONTO-K.H.:** Have not seen any field activity. There are still small snow piles in protected locations where it had been drifted or piled deep. Fields generally too wet to get into yet. Have heard of some topdress fertilizer going on hay on lighter high ground. Reports are that alfalfa came through moderately well, and winter wheat greening is up nicely, with minor dead spots in field depressions.

**BUFFALO-R.S.:** Can not tell about winterkill yet, grass is even dormant. There is no field activity, except manure spreading.

**LACROSSE-S.H.:** Farmers have just started to get into the fields, but will be slowed by rain. The moisture will be helpful prior to planting. Still many farmers spreading manure prior to tillage.

**WAUPACA-D.H.:** Too early to tell about winterkill in alfalfa and winter wheat. Some manure is being hauled on lighter soils. Frost is pretty much out of the ground. Very little spring tillage, except on lighter soils. Lots of sap that produced excellent quality syrup. This was the best season in many years.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** It looks like alfalfa and winter wheat came through the winter in good condition. Frost is out of the ground. There is no field activity going on.

**CALUMET-M.G.:** Winter wheat is greening-up well - survival is better than most thought. Saw the first farmer in the field yesterday, however, most activity is still 10 days off.

**OUTAGAMIE-E.W.:** No evidence of winterkill. Spreading manure on higher sod ground. Most frost is out-no planting yet or tillage.

**CRAWFORD-V.H.:** Soil moisture has been replenished.

**GRANT-L.F.:** Not much growth on either winter wheat or alfalfa; it has been very cold. Winter wheat and alfalfa are greening up. Need warmer nights. There are no fields that are able to get into yet. Too wet for spring tillage.

**DANE-C.B.:** Last week many had began hauling manure and dry fertilizer to the fields. Heavy rains before the weekend stopped all potential trips to the fields. Winter wheat and alfalfa are breaking dormancy and look to have survived the winter very well.

**DODGE-M.H.:** Two weeks ago was the first signs of alfalfa and oats being planted. Soil moisture levels are high going into the spring. Winter wheat and alfalfa fields are looking very good with little indication of winterkill

**ROCK-C.O.:** The manure pumps are running night and day, but rain has slowed activity. Springs are running in fields that we have not seen for a long time. Winter wheat and alfalfa fields look good so far, and many are applying fertilizer to them.

**RACINE-L.F.:** Way too wet here to get started. Not many oats planted.

**WASHINGTON-R.B.:** There is no winterkill in alfalfa and wheat looks very good. Some plowing and manure spreading.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 9, 2006**

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 Apr. 8	Mar. 1 to Apr. 8 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	55	32	66	21	44	4	40	13	1.04	4.01	1.44	5.55
Green Bay	51	31	60	24	41	1	25	12	0.70	1.86	-0.87	4.84
La Crosse	54	36	63	26	45	2	42	28	2.43	5.04	2.21	6.22
Madison	52	32	58	23	42	1	34	31	2.14	4.48	1.35	7.25
Milwaukee	50	35	55	31	42	1	32	n.a.	2.37	6.07	2.50	9.90

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.