



Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

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Corn Planting Progress at Record High

Good weather and field conditions allowed corn planting to intensify last week. Planting progress of 31 percent is the highest percentage recorded for April 30. Last year's percentage is the second highest. Temperatures reached the 70s during the week, while average high temperatures were in the 50s and 60s. Average low temperatures were in the 30s and 40s. Average temperatures were 0 to 3 degrees above normal. Moisture levels were improved by weekend rain showers that spread across much of the state. Fieldwork stopped during the weekend, but the slow rain was welcomed by many producers. Soil moisture conditions were at 6 percent very short, 30 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn planted was at 31 percent complete, compared to last year's 23 percent and the 5-year average of 15 percent. Field conditions were good in most areas, as corn planting progressed at a rapid rate. There were reports that some farmers were able to finish planting during the week. Northern growers still have some concerns about soil temperatures.

Soybean planters were moving across a few fields last week. Farmers took advantage of field conditions, pushing planting progress levels ahead of previous years. Soybeans planted was at 4 percent complete, compared to last year's 2 percent and the 5-year average of 1 percent.

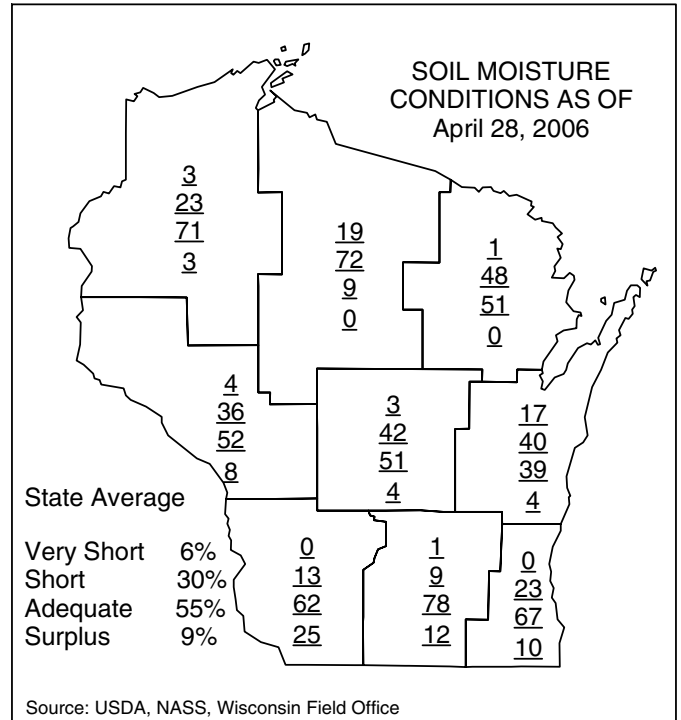
Oats planted was reported at 80 percent complete, above last year's average of 66 percent and the 5-year average of 52 percent. Similar to other crops, oat planting progress is ahead of normal. Progress is expected to slow over the coming weeks as farmers focus on planting corn and soybeans. Oats emerged was reported at 27 percent complete, higher than last year's 25 percent and the 5-year average of 17 percent.

Spring tillage was reported at 53 percent complete, compared to last year's 49 percent and the 5-year average of 37 percent. Conditions during most of the week were ideal for spring tillage. Rain during the weekend stopped most progress, but will settle the dust.

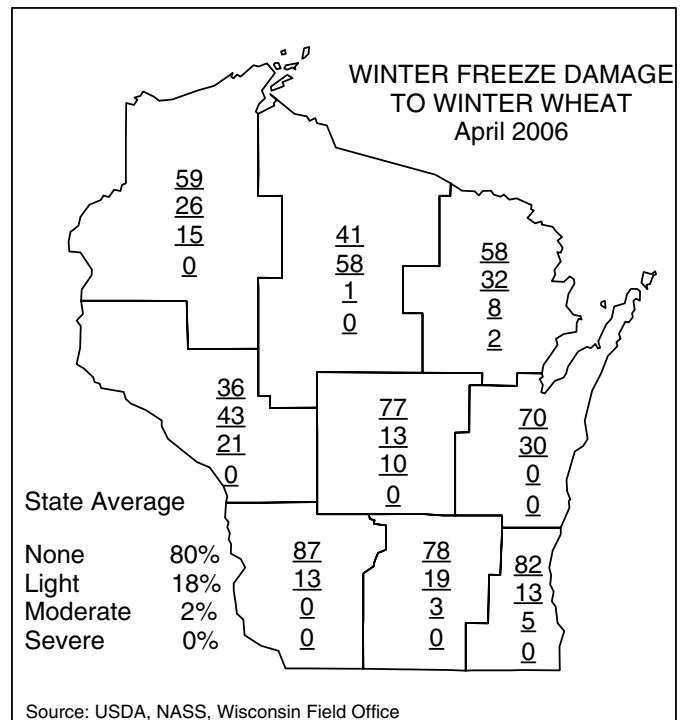
Winter wheat conditions are rated as good to excellent with only minor winterkill damage. Winter wheat conditions were rated at 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 31 percent excellent. Freeze damage to winter wheat was at 80 percent none, 18 percent light, and 2 percent moderate.

Pasture conditions were rated at 2 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 14 percent excellent.

Potato planting was slowing down in central areas of the state. **Sweet corn, peas, carrots, and beets** were planted in central and eastern areas. **Fruit trees** were starting to bloom in eastern counties.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 30, 2006					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter wheat	1	2	9	57	31
Pasture	2	10	30	44	14



Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 30, 2006

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	15	40	38	23	19	23	50	32	36	31	23	15
Soybeans planted	0	5	0	1	1	6	6	7	4	4	2	1
Oats planted	65	80	91	91	76	53	93	90	86	80	66	52
Oats emerged	10	26	18	41	16	15	31	41	32	27	25	17
Spring tillage completed	60	72	64	42	54	40	58	50	57	53	49	37

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-A.B.: A lot is going on. Even the traditionally wet fields are being worked up without trouble. A lot of corn is being planted. No soybeans planted yet. The first-planted grains are starting to emerge. Alfalfa is progressing nicely. We need some rain, but soils are working up nicely. No-tillers are enjoying the great soil conditions as well.

POLK-C.S.: Lots of fieldwork activity going on. Fertilizer is being spread, and corn planting is starting to really pick up pace.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Planting of small grains is just about done. Corn planting is in full swing. Hay crops look good, with very little winterkill.

MARATHON-M.K.: Lots of corn has been planted. Hayfields look good. Rain will help crops.

MARINETTE-S.R.: We are way ahead of schedule. Lack of moisture causing some spotty emergence of early-planted grains and forages.

SHAWANO-T.A.: The dry weather allowed for a major part of the spring work to be done early. Alfalfa is 9-12 inches tall and growing strong.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Need a good, warm rain to get crops growing. Most fields ready for planting. Oats are all in.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Sweet corn has emerged along with a lot of oats. Topsoils were dry until the rains came this weekend. Alfalfa looks great. Pastures slowed down with the dry weather, but should respond now.

WAUPACA-L.B.: All planting is in full swing around here. Spring weather is about 1-2 weeks earlier than average.

WOOD-M.L.: We have had great opportunity to do spring fieldwork, some people are holding back because it is still early. Hay and pastures are the crops that are already in.

OUTAGAMIE-K.J.: Dry weather this past week allowed producers to get out and finish alfalfa and small grain planting. Producers also were finishing hauling manure which enabled a lot of corn acres to be put in. Some soybeans were planted, but expect the bulk of them to go in this coming week if weather allows. Alfalfa fields have high plants and

stem counts; 55 stems per square foot accounts for full yield potential. There have been fields where the counts are as high as 80 stems per square foot. Most farmers are happy that for the first time in several years we have made it through winter without huge losses in the hayfields. We are very dry though.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Most spring tillage for corn and oats is done. Very little tillage for soybeans. Not much planting of peas or sweet corn for canning. Very little winterkill of winter wheat or alfalfa, as the seeding looks very good. Soil conditions are very good for working, except it is a little short on moisture.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Alfalfa seems to have wintered well. Many fields almost too wet to plant corn, while others were just fine.

DODGE-G.R.: Several warm, breezy days hastened soil dryness during the week. This gave alfalfa a growth spurt. First-seeded fields of oats have emerged. Tillage and fall-plowed fields are starting, but no corn planted locally yet.

ROCK-S.H.: Corn planting is progressing nicely. Soybean planters will start this weekend.

WALWORTH-P.R.: A lot of tillage has been completed this past week. Alfalfa and winter wheat have wintered well. New seedings of alfalfa look good. A lot of corn has been planted, and at least a couple of soybean fields. Soil conditions are becoming drier.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Conditions are excellent for tillage. Alfalfa is over a foot tall and looking good. Planting of corn is going strong and fast.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 30, 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. 29	Mar. 1 to Apr. 29 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	67	39	73	30	53	3	244	125	0.28	4.91	0.33	6.45
Green Bay	62	38	75	33	50	1	181	104	0.19	3.04	-1.43	6.02
La Crosse	67	41	76	36	54	1	249	158	0.32	7.89	2.70	9.07
Madison	64	39	74	32	52	2	217	158	0.47	7.21	1.75	9.98
Milwaukee	58	40	74	36	49	0	176	n.a.	0.18	7.30	1.12	11.13

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.