



Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

May 8, 2006

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Rains Delay Planting Progress

Rain showers, early in the week, delayed planting activity across the state. After the much-needed precipitation, farmers were able to resume planting by the middle of the week. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.24 inches in Green Bay to 1.35 inches in Madison. These storms helped soil conditions improve during the week. Soil moisture conditions were at 7 percent short, 87 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree below to 2 degrees above normal for the week. Temperatures reached the 70s during the week, while average high temperatures were in the 60s. Average low temperatures were in the 40s. There was an average of 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn planted was at 52 percent complete, compared to last year's 54 percent and the 5-year average of 38 percent. Corn planting continued at its rapid pace, after fields dried from the weekend rains. There were reports of many farmers in northern and southern counties finishing corn planting and focusing on soybeans. Corn emerged was rated at 3 percent complete, ahead of last year's 2 percent and even with the 5-year average of 3 percent.

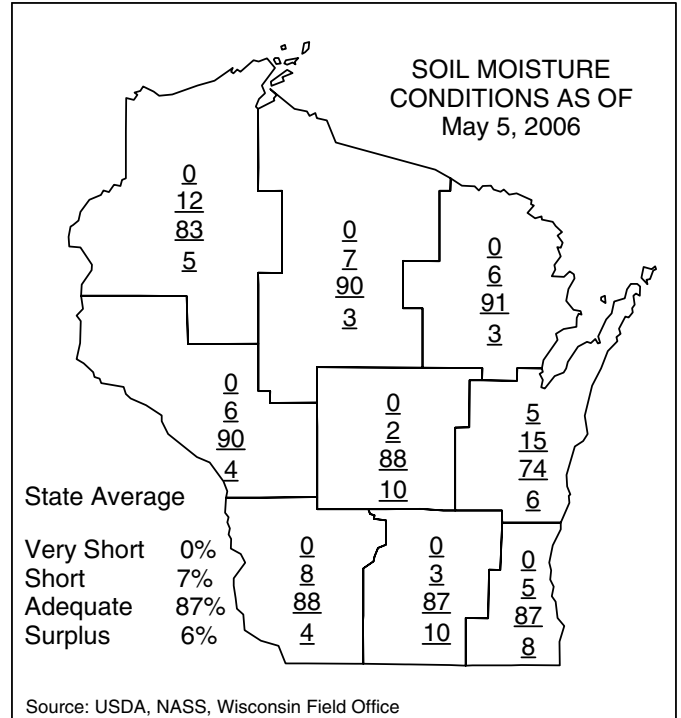
Soybean planting progress was slowed during the week, as farmers waited for drier and warmer conditions. Progress is expected to increase next week, as producers finish planting corn and small grains. Soybeans planted was at 10 percent complete, compared to last year's 25 percent and the 5-year average of 9 percent.

Oats planted was reported at 91 percent complete, above last year's average of 85 percent and the 5-year average of 71 percent. Oats emerged was reported at 60 percent complete, higher than last year's 41 percent and the 5-year average of 30 percent. Oat planting was nearing completion, and the crop has emerged nicely with the recent rain. Oat conditions were rated at 91 percent good to excellent.

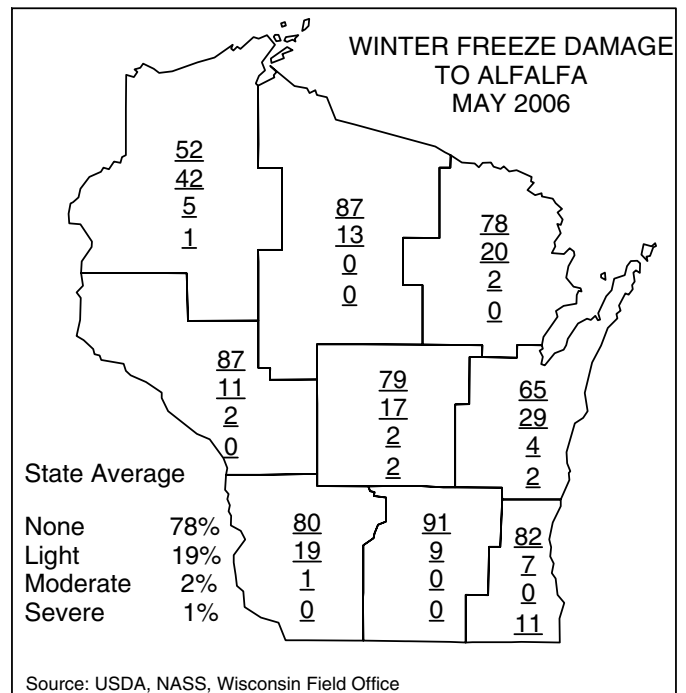
Spring tillage was reported at 73 percent complete, compared to last year's 69 percent and the 5-year average of 58 percent. Tillage stopped for a few days, but progress remains ahead of normal.

Alfalfa fields survived the winter with only minor damage. Freeze damage to alfalfa was rated at 78 percent none, 19 percent light, 2 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. Alfalfa looked good with the rain and warm weather, and has the potential for an early first cutting. **Pasture** conditions were rated at 1 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 15 percent excellent.

Peas were planted in fields where soil temperatures had warmed up. **Cranberry** growers had a frost watch earlier in the week. **Apple and cherry trees** were blooming. **Strawberries** were beginning to bloom in central areas.



Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter wheat	1	1	7	59	32
Oat	0	1	8	77	14
Pasture	1	6	25	53	15



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 7, 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	33	57	63	57	51	44	61	52	40	52	54	38
Corn emerged	0	1	4	3	2	3	4	5	0	3	2	3
Soybeans planted	2	15	7	7	12	8	11	13	5	10	25	9
Oats planted	86	83	94	97	82	79	98	96	95	91	85	71
Oats emerged	34	45	70	70	61	38	65	86	86	60	41	30
Spring tillage completed	77	80	76	73	71	60	75	75	65	73	69	58

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Cold, cloudy, and enough rain to keep everyone off the fields. Some oats planted, but that is about it.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Rain a week ago helped, but we need more again as the dry subsoil and gusty winds have dried out the seed beds. Hay looks good, although scattered fields did suffer some patches of winterkill.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Oats have not yet emerged. An inch of rain this week has returned soil moisture to normal. Cool nights have kept crops from emerging. Alfalfa and winter wheat are growing and look good.

PRICE-M.K.: Almost all small grains are in and many fields are starting to emerge. Corn planting began this week. A very nice, gentle rain at the beginning of the week gave just the right amount of moisture for new seedings. Fieldwork continues way ahead of the typical schedule.

TAYLOR-M.B.: Corn started going in this week, and we expect to be finishing up in the next week or so. Alfalfa looks great this year.

FOREST-A.K.: Fields are ready to be planted. Seeding looks good. We had a nice, warm rain.

OCONTO-K.H.: Excellent field conditions for tillage and planting continue. Oats and small grain seeding is going on. Have heard of some soybeans being planted in our area. Concerns rising over low soil moisture conditions. For the first time in many years, farmers report they are able to till and plant entire fields without going around wet spots. Wheat and alfalfa continue to look good, but seem not to be growing. Waiting for extended warm weather and some rain.

LA CROSSE-S.H.: Planting and tillage continue to progress. Alfalfa fields are looking good and growing well with continued timely rains. Cooler weather this week, but a good weekend helped continue fieldwork and planting.

PEPIN-H.R.: Tillage slowed down over the weekend with our light shower. Soil is dry again with the winds. A little sweet corn is also being planted. Some farmers have all the corn planted. Lots of corn, overall, is still left to plant. Soybeans on the light soil will start soon.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Wet beginning this week, slowed planting progress as did cold temperatures on Friday and Saturday. Had

27 degrees on Saturday morning; not sure if much damage occurred. Planting is creeping along as fields dry out and soil warms up.

WAUSHARA-J.J.: After the nice rain and irrigation, alfalfa looks very good. Corn planting has progressed well with some still to be planted on ground that needed manure spreading done.

CALUMET-M.G.: Alfalfa is looking great. Still waiting to get out on a lot of the heavier soils.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Corn planting is progressing nicely. Alfalfa is tall and growing strong. Topsoils were dry until the 1.0 inch of rain that came this weekend.

IOWA-K.V.: Corn planting almost done. Soybean planting is just getting started. Alfalfa is growing, looks excellent.

SAUK-D.H.: Hay looks good.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Oats are emerging and look good. Have not seen any corn emerged yet. Alfalfa and winter wheat look great.

DANE-J.K.: Spring tillage is progressing very well, but is at a standstill after this week's rain. No winterkill in winter wheat and alfalfa. All oats are in and 70-75 percent of soybeans are planted, for those done with corn.

GREEN-F.Z.: Fieldwork stopped a few days after the rains. Oat and hay crops are growing good. Corn is peeking through, you can see the rows in places. Spraying for weeds in corn and soybeans.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Still have wet spots in fields. Alfalfa is very good; 18 inches tall. Started planting soybeans. Wheat looks very good. Weeds are growing fast.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Winter wheat and alfalfa are excellent.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 7, 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 May 6	Mar. 1 to May 6 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	62	45	72	31	54	1	292	173	0.51	5.15	-0.21	6.69
Green Bay	63	44	75	29	54	2	228	140	0.24	3.16	-1.93	6.14
La Crosse	63	47	73	34	55	-1	303	211	0.58	7.53	1.51	8.71
Madison	62	45	72	32	54	1	262	208	1.35	7.78	1.56	10.55
Milwaukee	61	46	75	37	53	2	216	n.a.	0.85	7.99	0.99	11.82

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.