



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

July 24, 2006

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## Rain Still Needed

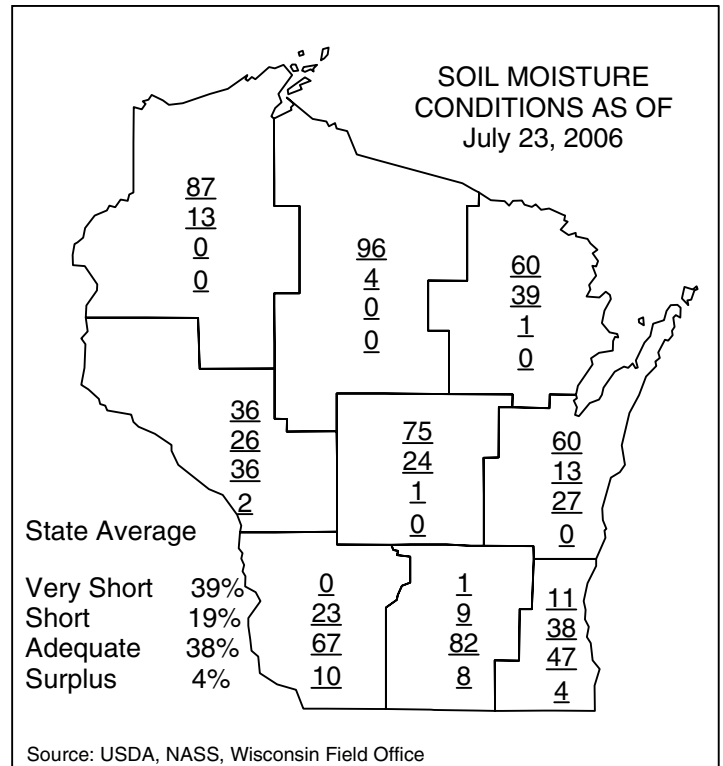
Rain came to northern parts of Wisconsin with early-week storms, but most did not receive significant amounts. Rainfall totals were at 0.11 inches in Eau Claire, 0.34 inches in Green Bay, and 0.53 inches in La Crosse. Most of the rain fell in southern Wisconsin, with as much as 2.46 inches reported in Milwaukee. Temperatures were above normal for the week, ranging from 1 to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures were in the mid to high 80s in most areas. Low temperatures averaged in the low to mid 60s during the week. Soil moisture conditions were at 39 percent very short, 19 percent short, 38 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. Last week there was an average of 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin.

**Corn** silked was at 47 percent, ahead of last year's 42 percent and the 5-year average of 24 percent, according to the Wisconsin Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn continued to show stress in northern and central areas as rain failed to come. Corn in the southern areas looked very good. Corn height was reported at an average of 73 inches, slightly taller than last year's 71 inches and above the 5-year average of 63 inches.

**Soybeans** bloomed was at 60 percent, behind last year's 71 percent, but ahead of the 5-year average of 44 percent. Soybeans setting pods was reported at 20 percent complete, behind last year's 28 percent, but ahead of the 5-year average of 9 percent. Soybeans in areas with little rain showed stress and need a long, slow rain. In the rainy southern areas, some producers have noted the presence of aphids.

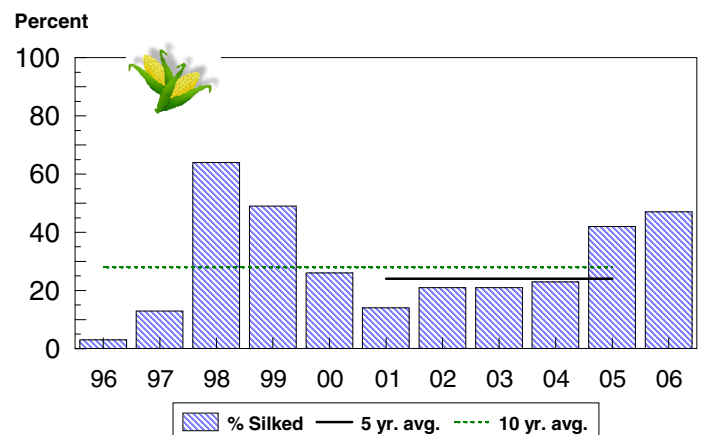
Second cutting **alfalfa** was reported at 82 percent complete, above last year's 73 percent and the 5-year average of 62 percent. Alfalfa cutting is still at record levels, but lack of rain in the northern and central areas has reduced yields.

**Winter wheat** harvested was at 25 percent complete, behind last year's average of 47 percent complete and the 5-year average of 28 percent. **Oats** harvested for grain was reported at 9 percent, behind last year's 13 percent, but ahead of the 5-year average of 8 percent. **Sweet Corn** was tasseling, and **Cucumbers** were being harvested.



Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	9	13	21	35	22
Soybeans	7	12	20	46	15
Winter wheat	1	4	15	45	35
Oat	2	15	25	45	13
Pasture	29	20	27	21	3

**Progress of Corn Silked**  
July 23, 1996 - 2006, Wisconsin



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, July 23, 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 Silked	45	20	23	58	27	20	73	56	64	47	42	24
Average height of corn	60	67	70	72	61	56	87	79	72	73	71	63
Soybeans bloomed	77	62	76	58	40	32	67	72	69	60	71	44
Soybeans setting pods	31	7	7	17	11	7	44	24	11	20	28	9
Second cutting hay	89	72	89	88	75	71	83	88	84	82	73	62
Oats harvested for grain	15	0	0	31	3	3	3	5	10	9	13	8
Winter wheat harvested	14	3	43	63	44	6	17	44	37	25	47	28

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

**BARRON-R.C.:** It is extremely dry, and all crops are showing drought stress. At this point, there will be no third crop hay. Pastures are all brown with little to no feed value. Several producers are starting to chop corn. Small grain harvest and baling of straw is going well.

**BURNETT-R.B.:** We only received 0.30 inch of rain on Wednesday morning. Crops look bad. If we do get some rain, it will be too late for some crops.

**LINCOLN-F.O.:** We are in a serious drought. Corn and soybeans have little growth. If no rain is received in the next ten days, all crops will be badly damaged. Had only 0.25 inch of rain since the first of July. Have not heard anything about small grain yields.

**PRICE-M.K.:** Corn is curling during the daytime on most soils, but recovers at night. Many fields are entering the tasseling period, so rain that comes soon may still produce a good crop. Hayfields are mostly dormant, and pastures are generally dry and brittle. Rain in the next several weeks could allow some re-growth for fall grazing, but most farmers are planning for no further grazing this season. Second crop forage harvest is pretty well done with only a fraction of fields being harvested, and those typically having an exceptionally light yield. The forage balance for the county this year will probably depend on what happens over the next couple of weeks.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Excellent wheat yields, with some in the 90-bushel-per-acre range. Second crop alfalfa yielded very good. Many corn fields show signs of lack of moisture.

**LACROSSE-S.H.:** Crops are looking OK after some needed rain last week. More is still needed, however, as crops continue through their reproductive stages.

**ST. CROIX-R.K.:** Crops are getting poorer everyday.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** A few showers helped for a day or two. Need several slow soakers. Rust pustules showing up in sweet corn.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** Non-irrigated corn and soybeans are suffering from lack of moisture; some yields are lost. Most of the second crop alfalfa is harvested with good quality, but poor yields.

**SHEBOYGAN-E.P.:** Dry weather continues, plus the high heat is pushing the limit of our soil moisture. Crops on lighter soils are stressed by drought. Lack of rain is very critical for corn that is about to tassle.

**WINNEBAGO-R.H.:** Corn and soybeans look very good, unless the soil type does not hold the water. We need rain soon. Sweet corn is tasseling, so it could use some rain.

**GRANT-R.R.:** Right in this area, we have been getting rain nearly everyday. The corn and soybeans are doing very well. It is nearly impossible to get any hay harvested. Many farmers are spraying their alfalfa. Storms are putting the oats down and lots of weeds are showing up in them.

**IOWA-K.V.:** Good moisture this week. Crops look excellent. Corn is pollinating nicely. No problems with insects.

**COLUMBIA-R.S.:** The rain was very timely for everything except winter wheat. Just starting to harvest winter wheat. Very good straw. Most fields have areas that are down-some fields more than others. Corn is tasseling and ready to pollinate. Weeds coming in the oat fields-need to be sprayed.

**DANE-C.B.:** Soybean aphid populations have been holding just below economic threshold of 250 per plant. The cool weekend may have sent populations scoring above that threshold, continue to monitor aphid populations closely this week. Timely rains continue to make for an excellent crop this fall. Third cut alfalfa will begin this week.

**RACINE-L.F.:** Compared to the last few years, this year is a wonder. All fields look wonderful. Corn stalks have mostly 2 ears. Wheat is running 80-100 bushels per acre, with monitors running over 100 bushels in some areas. Straw is plentiful.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office  
P.O. Box 8934  
Madison, WI 53708-8934  
(608) 224-4848  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

**Robert J. Battaglia**  
Director

**Ryan King**  
Statistician

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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 23, 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 July 22	Mar. 1 to July 22 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	88	65	98	56	76	4	1722	1366	0.11	2.07	-4.83	11.31
Green Bay	86	60	97	54	73	3	1453	1252	0.34	3.23	-2.64	15.24
La Crosse	88	66	99	59	77	3	1776	1537	0.53	4.22	-2.81	16.90
Madison	83	63	92	56	73	1	1574	1496	2.05	6.49	-0.34	21.25
Milwaukee	83	66	96	60	75	3	1468	n.a.	2.46	8.51	2.44	24.00

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.