



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

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## April Showers Continue to Delay Fieldwork

Most areas of the state saw some sort of precipitation last week, with reports of snow-covered fields in some northern Wisconsin counties and water-logged fields in many additional counties, statewide. One county reported fields remaining dry all week, while another county reported fields drying out fast, but low temperatures possibly bringing more snow. Other reports indicated very little fieldwork being done except on lighter and sandy soils.

Average high temperatures were in the 60s and average low temperatures ranged from 39 degrees to the mid 40s. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 1.13 inches in Green Bay to 2.46 inches in La Crosse. Soil moisture conditions were at 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 55 percent surplus. There were 2.4 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

There were a few scattered reports of some **corn** in the ground, but these were by far the exception. Most farmers were not doing any kind of fieldwork due to the water-logged fields. The overall state total was 1 percent corn planted.

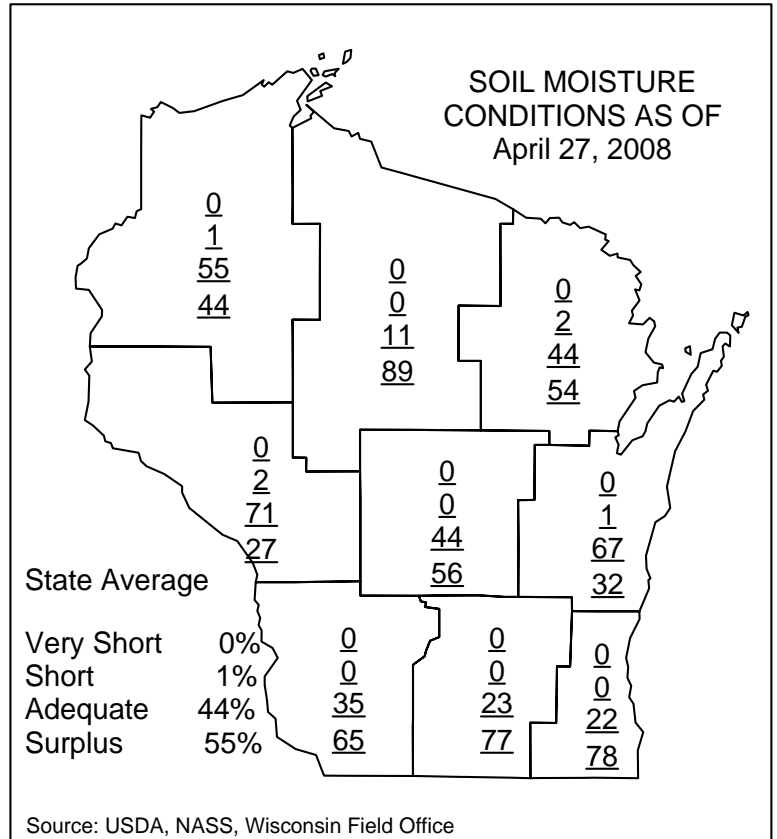
Some **oats** have been reported as being planted, but with wet fields and excess rain, some areas have put off any more planting until May. The overall state total was 16 percent planted.

**Spring tillage** has remained slow at 9 percent complete. Several areas are reporting spring tillage behind normal and at a standstill due to wet conditions.

**Alfalfa** and **winter wheat** conditions continue to vary across the state with reports of winterkill in poorly drained fields where ice remained in low areas. **Winter wheat** is looking very good. The few poor or very poor fields were reported as ones that were planted late in 2007 and did not get fully established before the cold weather. Another reporter stated that winterkill in **alfalfa** ranged from slight in some areas to severe in others.

**Manure hauling** and **spreading** have been reported as the main activities at this time. However, many manure pits are full and fields are too saturated to spread on.

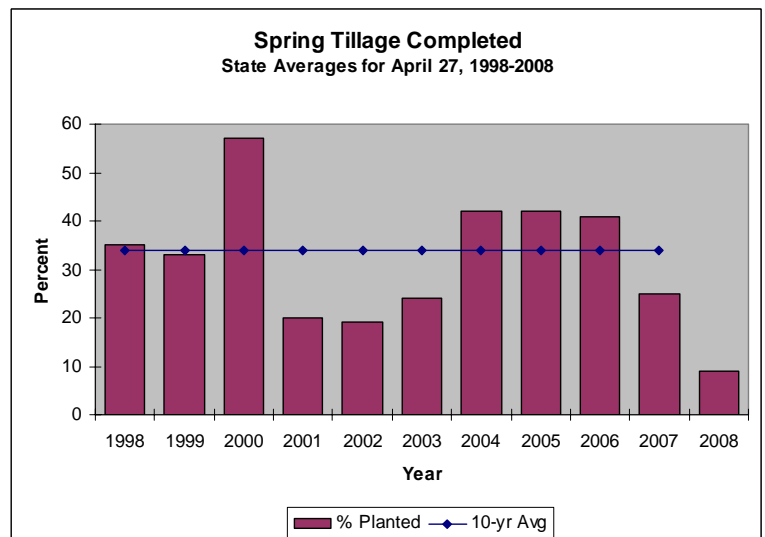
**Pea** and **potato** planting was reported to be off to a slow start in one area due to wet conditions, while another area reported **peas** and **potatoes** going in fast. Some **no-till** seeding into pastures has begun. **Apple** trees look good and are just starting to show green tips. **Maple sap** was reported as being done running with it being quite a good season this spring.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 27, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	1	9	14	57	19
Pasture	3	12	31	37	17

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

**BAYFIELD-S.S.:** We still have patches of snow on the fields.

**BURNETT-J.D.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat are O.K. thus far.

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Alfalfa stands look good under the recent snow. Some tillage took place on sandy soils and a few oat acres were planted.

**TAYLOR-D.E.:** Wet conditions prevent any type of tillage. Forage crops do not show signs of winterkill at this time, but it is too soon to make a good assessment. The blast of rain, snow and cold temperatures again this weekend will further delay the tillage progress.

**PRICE-M.K.:** Too early to tell how crops fared the winter.

**MARINETTE-S.R.:** A fair amount of winterkill in alfalfa, but likely due to last year's drought stress as much as winter issues. Winter wheat came through quite well, except in poorly drained spots of fields.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** While winter wheat is still very short, it is looking very good. Alfalfa seems to be finally coming alive and shows very little sign of winterkill. Very little manure hauling going on and almost no fieldwork done at this time-it is just too wet and cold.

**LACROSSE-S.H.:** Planting and tillage are minimal, if any. Weather has been cold and rainy with some snow showers mixed in. Alfalfa is starting to grow slowly and looks to have fared the winter well at this point.

**MONROE-M.Y.:** There is no evidence of winterkill on alfalfa or rye. It rains too much to get any fieldwork done.

**TREMPEALEAU-J.Z.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat appear to have very little winterkill. Spring tillage is progressing very slowly. Rains are frequent with little time to dry out.

**JUNEAU-C.R.:** Alfalfa is looking good. Fields are very wet and everything is at a standstill. The forecast does not look good for next week either.

**MARQUETTE-K.V.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat are O.K.. Potatoes and peas are going in at a slow pace due to wet conditions. The 1.0 inch of rain on Thursday evening will delay fieldwork for two more days. There are many areas of standing water even in the central sands. Need some warm weather to get pastures and hayfields growing.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** There has not been too much going on around our area. There have been some scattered reports of tillage being done and one brave farmer

actually has some corn in the ground. These are by far the exception as most farmers have not been doing any kind of fieldwork. There has been quite a bit of precipitation since the start of the year and it is leading to a later start than last year. Subsoil moisture is being replenished, which is a good thing. Temperatures have been below normal for the most part, contributing to colder soil temperatures. While there has not been too much winterkill in this area, it has been around. A few older stands of alfalfa are showing the greatest incidence. Winter wheat is looking very good, with just a few fields being rated as poor.

**GRANT-L.S.:** Severe winterkill in the alfalfa, could be as high as 75 percent.

**LAFAYETTE-M.R.:** Serious acres of hayfields are dead. Aggressive harvests, shallow frost and deep ice added up to be fatal for alfalfa.

**GREEN-M.M.:** Southern third of the county has alfalfa fields with significant winterkill from standing ice and water this winter. Spring tillage is behind normal and has been at a standstill due to wet conditions. A limited amount of oats and no corn have been planted as of Friday due to wet fields.

**RACINE-L.F.:** Still very wet in some areas, but we have missed some of the big recent rains. Need drying conditions to continue. Wheat which had not drowned out looks wonderful.



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

**Robert J. Battaglia**  
Director

**Craig Christianson**  
Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 27, 2008

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. 26	Mar. 1 to Apr. 26 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	62	39	78	28	50	0	111	110	1.49	5.50	1.07	7.21	0.95
Green Bay	64	43	73	34	54	6	104	92	1.13	6.38	2.07	12.33	5.81
La Crosse	65	42	78	32	53	0	121	143	2.46	8.59	3.60	11.03	3.87
Madison	67	44	76	37	56	6	138	144	2.22	8.72	3.47	14.19	6.40
Milwaukee	64	44	78	38	54	6	114	n.a.	1.54	7.56	1.61	12.95	3.50

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. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.