# Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

May 27, 2008 Vol. 08, No. 07

**Cooler Temperatures Slow Crop Emergence**

Cooler temperatures and some areas of frost slowed crop emergence. Temperatures continued to remain below normal. With the dry stretch of weather this past week, however, planting had progressed nicely. A small percentage of total acreage remained unplanted due to wet areas and some standing water. Other areas reported dry conditions with a hard crust on some fields. While there were still some areas of standing water, most areas of Wisconsin reported that a good downpour and some warmth were needed to give the crops a good boost.

Average high temperatures were in the high 50's to upper 60s, and average low temperatures ranged from 38 to 42 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.01 inches in both Green Bay and Madison to 0.14 inches in Eau Claire. Soil moisture conditions were at 3 percent very short, 26 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. There were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Most counties reported **corn** planting nearing completion with 80 percent planted and 24 percent emerged. Spraying of pre-emergence herbicides had started.

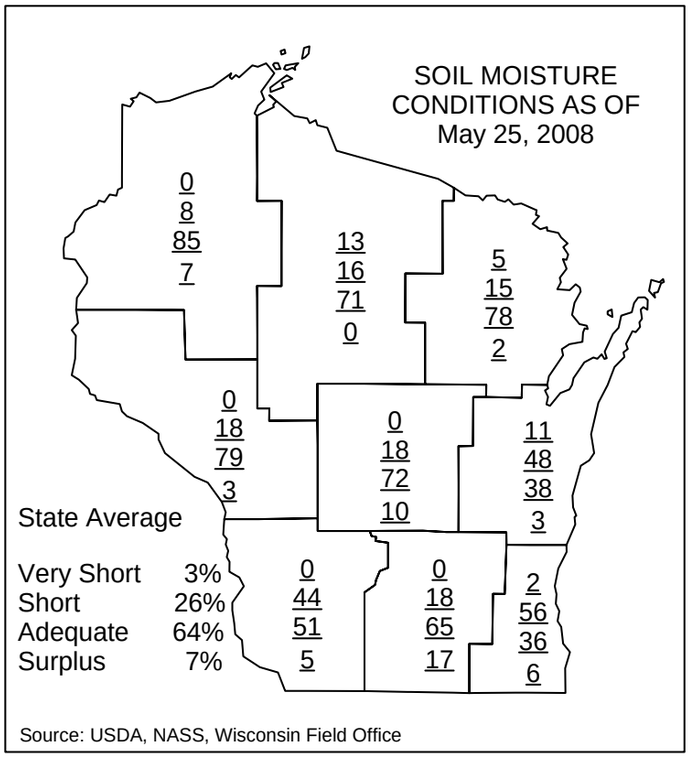
**Soybean** planting was a little over half-way finished, with planting reported at 55 percent complete and emergence at 3 percent. Emergence was hindered due to hard, dry soil conditions.

**Oat** planting has neared completion with planting reported at 96 percent complete and 67 percent emerged. Small grains that were planted earlier, including **barley,** are also emerging.

**Spring tillage** progressed very quickly with the dry conditions and was reported at 87 percent complete.

In most areas, **alfalfa** was reported as looking excellent and close to harvest. Other areas reported development behind schedule due to the cool temperatures. **Winter wheat** and **winter rye** continued to look good, and **spring wheat** was reported as emerged. **Winter wheat** conditions were 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. **Hay** fields continue to show slow growth due to below average temperatures and areas of frost. Some hay cutting in the Southcentral and Southeastern areas of the state was reported.

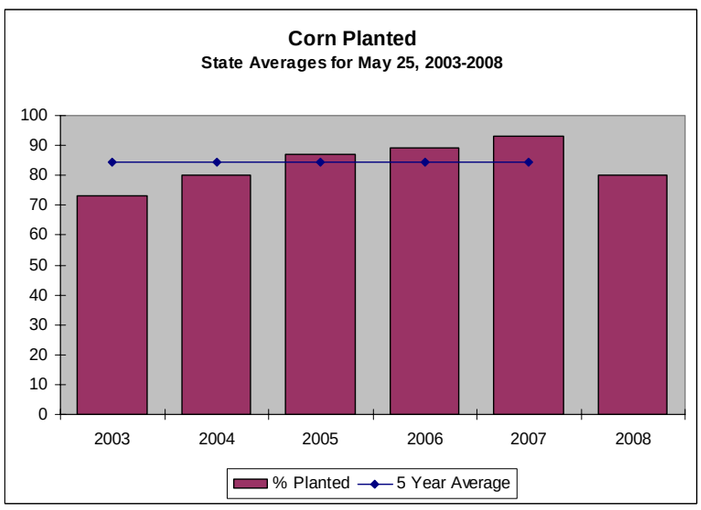
**Pea** and **potato** planting was in full swing and nearing completion. **Fruit trees** were showing blossoms, with some **apple trees** and **strawberries** in full bloom**.** Some **peas** were being planted, with a report of **early peas** beginning to bloom. Most **peas** and vegetables were reported as being planted, although the ground was still too cold for **pumpkin** planting.




**Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 25, 2008**

| Item | V.-poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percent | | | | |
| Oats | 0 | 3 | 12 | 58 | 27 |
| Winter Wheat | 1 | 3 | 24 | 43 | 29 |
| Pasture | 0 | 5 | 24 | 46 | 25 |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office




**Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 25, 2008**

| 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 | 67 | 79 | 83 | 79 | 73 | 80 | 91 | 79 | 88 | 80 | 93 | 84 |
| Corn emerged | 6 | 2 | 18 | 24 | 21 | 17 | 47 | 24 | 39 | 24 | 72 | 50 |
| Soybeans planted | 20 | 67 | 64 | 37 | 27 | 60 | 81 | 57 | 67 | 55 | 77 | 57 |
| Oats planted | 93 | 93 | 92 | 99 | 84 | 96 | 100 | 99 | 96 | 96 | 100 | 99 |
| Oats emerged | 34 | 25 | 65 | 89 | 44 | 74 | 93 | 66 | 92 | 67 | 93 | 88 |
| Spring tillage completed | 83 | 93 | 86 | 85 | 76 | 88 | 94 | 90 | 92 | 87 | 94 | 89 |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

## Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

**RUSK-G.P.:** Oats are almost all planted. Excellent progress on corn and a good start on soybeans. Soil temperatures are still cool but warmer weather will help. It is actually getting a little dry; could use a good shower.
**ASHLAND-G.M.:** It is very cold and pastures are slow to grow. Just started planting on Friday due to wet and cold temperatures. Winter rye is looking very nice.
**VILAS-L.K.:** With dry conditions, potato planting is in full swing. Most oats have been planted. Hayfields are going very slow. We had frost almost every morning. It is getting very dry.
**FOREST-A.K.:** Most oats are planted. Corn is still being planted.
**SHAWANO-B.R.:** What a difference a week can make when the tractors can roll. Most of the corn and three-fourths of the soybeans are now planted. We started to see a few rows of corn up in the fields. Alfalfa is looking excellent in our area and will start being cut by later this next week.
**ST. CROIX-R.K.:** We need rain and warmer temperatures for alfalfa to grow. There are differences from field to field on survival. Planting has progressed rapidly this week.
**TREMPEALEAU-D.D.:** Almost all corn and soybean planting is done here. First crop alfalfa harvest will begin for many this week. There are still wet areas and low spots that need planting, but they represent a small percent of total acreage. Corn that is up is yellow, but stands look good.
**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** We are finally getting some work done. Corn is just starting to emerge. Potato side dressing is progressing nicely.
**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** Recent dry weather has enabled farmers to plant corn. Fruit trees are blossoming.
**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** Conditions were favorable this week for producers to get most of the last of their crops planted. In this area, very few fields remain unplanted. Even those fields that were low and wet a few weeks ago have dried to the point where they could be tilled and planted. There is plenty of moisture down below the surface a few inches, but the top is dry. Germination of the newly planted crops would be helped with 0.5 to 1.0 inch of rain. Almost all the small grains that were planted earlier have come up, including barley and oats. They have been able to withstand the cooler temperatures. The corn has not fared as well. Some corn in this area has been in the ground for two weeks or more and is still not emerging. The best looking crop at the present time is alfalfa; it is starting to grow and looking quite good. There are some fields in older stands on hills where small portions are not growing as well due to not enough moisture.
**SHEBOYGAN-T.J.:** With the dry weather the last two weeks, most fields have been tilled and planted. Emergence is slow because of cool conditions. Some rain and warm weather will be needed to accelerate emergence and growth of all crops.
**LAFAYETTE-M.R.:** Finished planting, left a few wet spots. Corn is emerging at about 85 percent. Soybeans are starting to pop out. Some alfalfa has been cut.
**COLUMBIA-J.J.:** Finally a good week for fieldwork. Corn is very slow to emerge. Hard crust in some fields has had to be broken up so corn could get through. Some hay is being cut. We need warmer temperatures. Had some light frost earlier this week.
**WASHINGTON-K.R.:** Hay is growing fast; rain is needed to help germination.
**WAUKESHA-D.W.:** Corn is slow to emerge because of very cold nights. It has been some time without rain; could use about 0.5 inch to get seeds out of the ground.

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**

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

### Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 25, 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 May 24 | Mar. 1 to May 24 normal * | Last week | Since March 1 | March 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Eau Claire | 66 | 38 | 74 | 33 | 52 | -7 | 312 | 372 | 0.14 | 7.61 | 0.15 | 9.26 | 0.00 |
| Green Bay | 65 | 39 | 70 | 34 | 52 | -6 | 288 | 313 | 0.01 | 7.74 | 1.13 | 11.53 | 2.73 |
| La Crosse | 67 | 42 | 75 | 38 | 55 | -7 | 342 | 432 | 0.08 | 10.21 | 2.30 | 12.00 | 1.92 |
| Madison | 65 | 39 | 73 | 33 | 52 | -7 | 339 | 425 | 0.01 | 10.01 | 2.01 | 15.51 | 4.96 |
| Milwaukee | 59 | 42 | 66 | 38 | 50 | -8 | 261 | n.a. | 0.05 | 8.38 | -0.34 | 13.11 | 0.86 |

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.