



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

April 27, 2009

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## April Showers End Busy Week

Temperatures soared on Friday of last week, reaching a high of 90 degrees in LaCrosse. This was followed by a weekend that saw some much needed rain throughout the state. Across the reporting stations, precipitation totals ranged from 3.14 inches in Madison to 0.81 inches in Eau Claire. Average temperatures last week were 1 degree below to 3 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 54 to 64 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 35 to 42 degrees. There were 4.1 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

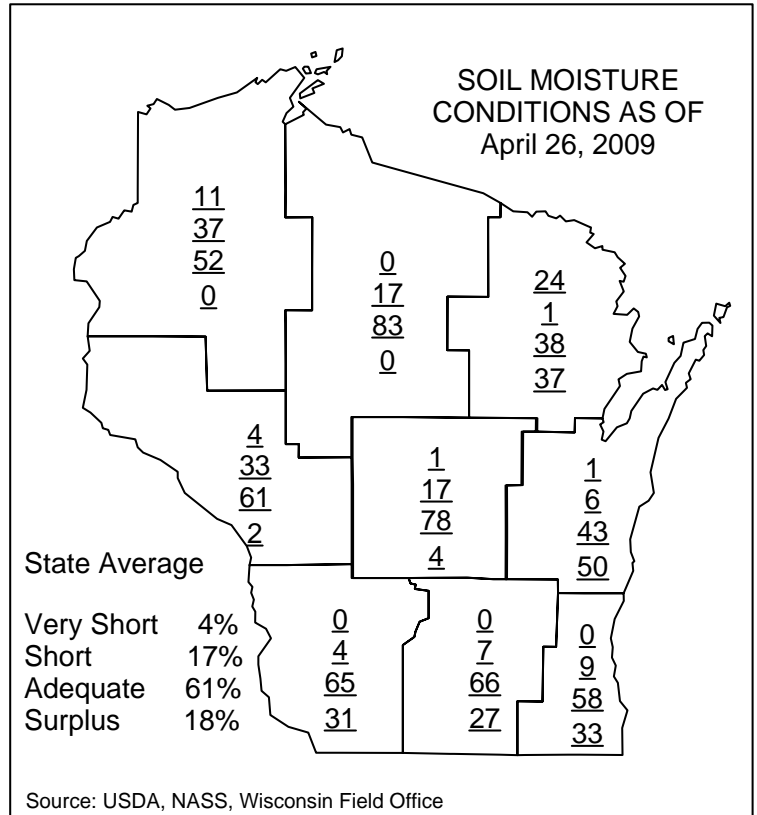
**Corn** planting got underway across the state, with 6 percent reported complete. The southwest part of the state was the most active, while many growers in the northern third and west central part of the state were still waiting for soil temperatures to warm up. Some growers in the Northwest and West Central districts were still finding frost while tilling last week.

Conditions last week allowed growers to make good progress planting **oats**, with oats planted reported as 58 percent complete. Early planted oats in the southern two-thirds of the state began to emerge. Statewide, oats emerged was reported as 7 percent complete.

**Spring tillage** was reported as 35 percent complete, and was going strong last week until being halted by weekend rains. Farmers are now waiting for the ground to dry out to get back into the fields.

**Hay** fields were starting to green-up across the state. Newly seeded **alfalfa** in the South Central district was reported to be emerging after the rains. Reports of winterkill were varied across the state. Alfalfa, particularly new stands, seemed to come through the winter well. Reports of winterkill in **winter wheat** were varied. In some fields, it is still too early to tell how much damage there may be.

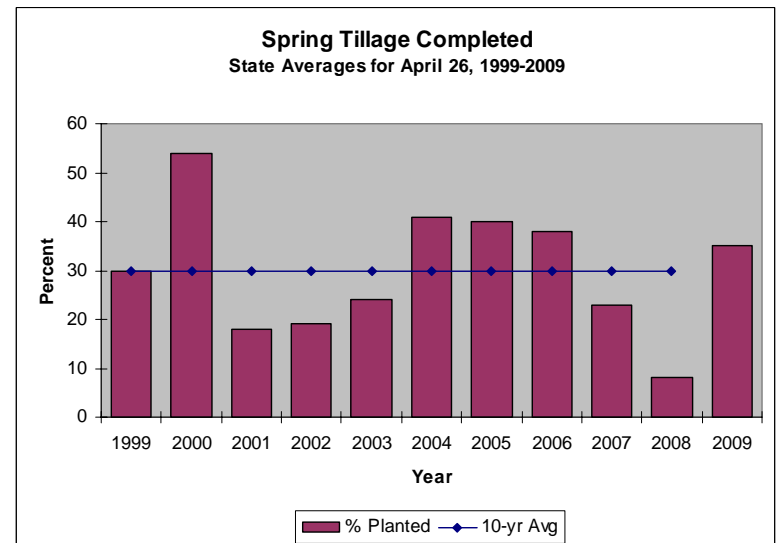
**Potato** and **pea planting** continued at a good pace in the Central district last week. Fruit trees were reported to be leafing out in many areas.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 26, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	3	16	26	46	9
Pasture	9	19	33	36	3

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 26, 2009

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
Oats planted	29	31	59	73	52	35	93	80	73	58	14	48
Spring tillage completed	19	28	44	46	40	15	55	43	23	35	8	30

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

**BARRON-D.B.:** Alfalfa is greening-up nicely with only minor damage so far. Winter wheat did not do as well; some fields being a total loss. It was a beautiful week for fieldwork. Oats and alfalfa are being seeded. Manure is being spread and fertilizer is also being spread. A lot of fields are getting prepared for corn.

**POLK-C.S.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat are greening-up. Winter injury appears to be minimal. Soils are drying-up. A refreshing rain would be beneficial.

**TAYLOR-D.E.:** The much-needed rain has halted fieldwork progress. Some oats were planted and tillage got started before the rain began. Hayfields are finally starting to green-up, but it is hard to tell how much, if any, winterkill has been experienced.

**OCONTO-K.H.:** We asked for rain and we got it. I had nearly 1.5 inches in my water gauge. Others in the area have reported 2.0 inches. Will take some time and dry weather before field operations can resume. As fields have greened-up there appears to be evidence of moderate winterkill in some alfalfa and winter wheat stands, others look good.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** No fieldwork was done this week with about 2.0 inches of rain that fell throughout the week. There is still not a lot of growing in the wheat and alfalfa fields. We need warm weather before survival assessments can be made. No buds showing on trees yet either.

**DUNN-S.S.:** Most every farmer was in the field this past week getting ready for seeding and planting. It is so dry and still cold nights have slowed planting and seeding. Pastures and hayfields are just staying dormant. Some potato planting is being done on irrigated land.

**PEPIN-H.R.:** Alfalfa is looking real good; not much winterkill if any. Winter wheat is ok. Spring tillage continues real fast as topsoil is very dry. Oats are all planted. Alfalfa is also planted. Potatoes were planted this past week.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Spring tillage and manure hauling are the major activities this week. Oat and potato planting continues. Corn planting started on Thursday and Friday.

**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat survived the winter well, no signs of winterkill. The heavy rains this week has hindered spring work.

**OUTAGAMIE-K.J.:** Winter wheat has been slow to recover from the long cold winter; however, recent rains

and warm temperatures have it starting to green-up. A lot of new seeding alfalfa and oats has already been planted, however soil temperatures and field conditions have not allowed producers to make much headway with corn or soybeans. Alfalfa green-up is uneven, but may be due to different dormancy ratings. Like winter wheat, after these recent rains I would expect more uniform green-up. We were in droughty soil conditions until the rains this past week. Hopefully producers will catch a break with the weather though as there is still a lot of manure that needs to be hauled.

**SAUK-W.J.:** Alfalfa and winter wheat show some winterkill on some knolls. Rain this week has really helped the alfalfa and pastures get going. Fruit trees are starting to leaf out. Manure hauling continues. A few corn planters are out.

**DODGE-R.H.:** Winter wheat in our area is in good shape. Alfalfa does not seem to have any winterkill. The bare spots in the fields are from standing water from last summer.

**JEFFERSON-B.K.:** Alfalfa appears to be ok. Wheat varies from bad to excellent depending on planting date. It was the worst over-winter erosion we have had in many years. A few corn planters were going on Friday. Oats are emerging nicely. Everyone is waiting for conditions to dry out more thoroughly. Excellent progress was made on land preparation over the last few weeks.

**WASHINGTON-K.R.:** Alfalfa is starting to grow. Winter wheat has some winterkill.

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** Both alfalfa and winter wheat look fair. No spring tillage has been done as of yet.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 26, 2009

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. 25	Mar. 1 to Apr. 25 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	61	39	88	34	50	3	134	97	0.81	1.98	-2.23	3.08	-2.95
Green Bay	54	35	82	29	45	-1	90	81	2.06	4.65	0.50	6.86	0.45
La Crosse	64	42	90	38	53	2	175	126	0.99	2.20	-2.48	3.91	-2.94
Madison	61	37	82	30	49	1	148	129	3.14	9.48	4.44	11.93	4.38
Milwaukee	58	37	84	30	48	1	120	n.a.	2.08	6.00	0.29	9.33	0.10

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.