



Wisconsin Crop Progress

May 17, 2010

Vol. 10, No. 6

Frost Slows Growth Across Parts of the State

The moisture received over the past week was reported as welcome and needed, but wet fields slowed planting and the cool temperatures slowed growth of many crops. Some growers reported that all fieldwork was stopped due to standing water in the fields while other areas were reported as still needing more moisture. Winds also brought a challenge to herbicide applications. The past week also saw frost in some parts of the state. Ginseng farmers across Marathon county were heavily affected by the wet snow that fell the previous weekend as the weight caused tarps to collapse and cables and posts to break. It is expected that plant growth will be behind for the next three years.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week ranged from 4 to 8 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 57 to 60 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 38 to 42 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.61 inches in Green Bay to 2.29 inches in Milwaukee. There were 2.6 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 planted was reported at 78 percent complete. Corn emerged was reported at 31 percent complete, 18 and 14 percentage points above last year and the five-year average, respectively. Reports stated some frost damage to corn, but reporters are optimistic that corn will grow through the injury. Many growers also reported corn looking yellow due to the cold and frost.

Soybean planting was reported at 31 percent complete, 11 percentage points above last week. Many farmers are hoping for warm dry days to continue planting. Soybeans emerged was reported at 5 percent complete across the state.

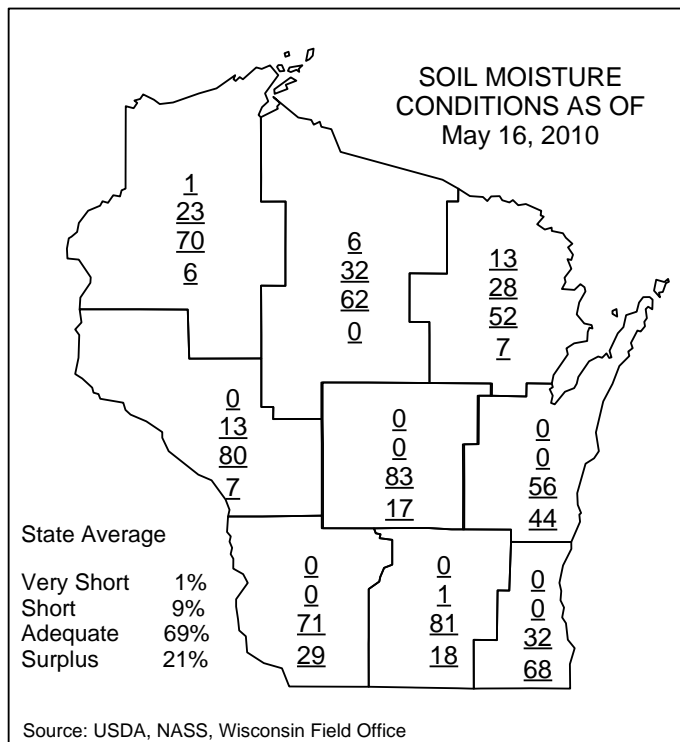
Emergence of **oats** was reported at 89 percent complete, well ahead of both last year's 75 percent complete and the five-year average of 65 percent complete. Growers reported oats as looking well with 84 percent rated as Good to Excellent.

Alfalfa and **winter wheat** were reported as looking good. Growers reported 97 percent of alfalfa having light to no winter freeze damage.

Spring tillage was slowed due to fields being wet, but did increase 5 percentage points from last week, with 88 percent reported complete.

Potato planting continues across the state with reports from many northern counties stating that potato planting is starting.

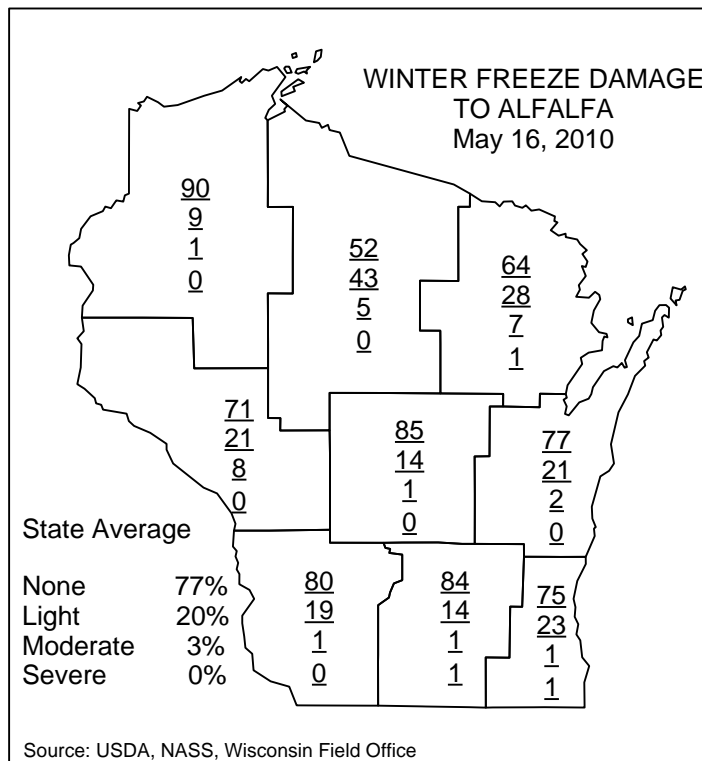
Frost over the past week damaged many blossoms on **apple** and other fruit trees, but growers stated that many trees are still blossoming making the extent of damage unknown. **Cherries** have been reported as showing up on trees in Monroe county.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 16, 2010

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	1	16	57	26
Oat	0	1	15	62	22
Pasture	0	4	25	53	18

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



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Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Corn planted	67	88	76	88	78	47	88	87	83	78	68	58	68
Corn emerged	8	8	25	31	31	10	42	48	51	31	13	13	17
Soybeans planted	18	39	9	27	46	16	46	43	30	31	20	20	31
Oats emerged	79	94	86	89	92	73	94	99	98	89	72	75	65
Spring tillage completed	88	91	86	94	88	70	94	93	89	88	83	77	78

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

BARRON-J.N.: Potato planting has begun. Canning crops are not being planted yet. So far, crops are looking on schedule and no issues yet.

RUSK-G.P.: A quiet week this week, cold temperatures and precipitation kept farmers out of the field until the very end of the week. We had 2.0 inches of wet snow Friday night and Saturday morning and a 25 degree freeze on Sunday morning. The fruit trees were in bloom, damage is yet to be determined. Corn and soybeans were parked this week with very little progress, still not much up. Nice week coming.

LINCOLN-K.S.: Potatoes are being planted. Ginseng growers are busy putting their gardens back together after the snow that fell last weekend. We could definitely use more rain.

VILAS-R.K.: Potato planting beginning.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Planting will be winding down this week, just beans and a few potatoes to plant yet. Corn is sprouted but very little emerged due to cool week. Amazingly with all the damp weather we had still only 0.35 inches for the week. Continue in a severe moisture deficit in our area.

OCONTO-B.T.: Alfalfa on hills looked dead where snow blew off. Now growing slowly but more even. We had 24 degrees on Sunday and Monday mornings. Some wheat fields in lower areas are brown frosted. Some lower corn field plants frosted brown. Rye good, no frost. 2.2 inches rain in May. Fruit trees set questionable. Too cold to tell. Soil management fertility is playing a big part in winter freeze and spring frost. The first corn planted on April 22nd is up so you can see the rows.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Alfalfa crop looks good. Little rain but with cool days it has been sufficient for now.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Early peas look great; Snap beans are going in as weather permits. Corn that was up is now very yellow and needs to re-grow. Orchard grass in alfalfa is heading and alfalfa is budding. Many plan to begin harvest this week

MARQUETTE-D.B.: Crops are quickly being planted. Got some much-needed rain so things are looking good right now.

WOOD-M.L.: Clouds, rain and cool conditions have slowed things down. Small grains are doing well in this weather and quite a bit of corn is up.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: With the rain that fell this week, virtually no fieldwork was done. In fact, in the last two weeks, not much seed of any kind has been planted. This week's forecast of warmer and drier weather will be welcome and should allow a lot of the remaining corn to be planted. This

week should also see a lot of soybeans going into the ground. The ground is very wet right now, but since it has been cooler, the moisture has been able to work its way deeper in the soil. This will help later in the summer if conditions get dry. The cooler and damper weather has been good for the emergence of oats, which are looking good. Virtually none of the corn planted so far has come up, and winter wheat is continuing to grow, but warmer weather will accelerate the growth of both of these crops. The fruit trees are looking good too, with many apple trees loaded with blossoms. The frosts that occurred in the last few weeks did not damage too many of them.

VERNON-K.L.: Some areas experienced a frost/freeze on Wednesday. Approximately 50 percent of the grape growers experience some damages while the vines were in the primary bud stage. Most of the county received a much-needed 1.5 – 2.0 inches of rain. Cool temperatures are hampering growing conditions. Alfalfa looks good. Some first crop hay was cut this week. Small grain crops and corn are emerging and looking good.

COLUMBIA-J.B.: Planting slowed last week because of heavy rains. Corn is emerging pretty well. First crop alfalfa cutting will start with some growers this week.

DODGE-S.B.: Starting to see rows. Soil temperatures have not warmed up due to below average temperatures. 2.0 plus inches of rain received last week; standing water will make planting difficult.

WASHINGTON-J.N.: Corn is almost all in. Going strong on soybeans. Need dry weather. We had soaking rain on Tuesday night.

WAUKESHA-C.W.: Soil moisture has improved with timely rains the last two weeks. Cold snap slowed germination. Hay cutting should start within two weeks.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 16, 2010

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	March 1 to May 15	March 1 to May 15 normal*	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	60	38	73	29	49	-7	408	253	0.79	4.92	-1.46	6.18	-2.06
Green Bay	57	39	66	31	48	-6	320	209	0.61	5.84	0	7.55	-0.48
La Crosse	60	41	71	32	51	-8	451	301	2.18	5.78	-1.18	8.03	-1.09
Madison	59	41	66	31	50	-6	396	296	1.92	6.92	-0.21	8.82	-0.87
Milwaukee	57	42	72	37	50	-4	332	n.a.	2.29	7.32	-0.55	8.61	-2.71

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.