



Wisconsin Crop Progress

May 23, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 7

Weather Advances Planting Progress

The dry weather this past week provided an excellent opportunity for farmers to get into the fields with 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork statewide. Sunshine and wind allowed farmers to progress in field tillage and planting in most areas of the state. However, below normal temperatures in the evening hours slowed growth of already planted fields. **Spring tillage** increased dramatically with 75 percent complete, a 25 percent increase from the previous week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1 to 5 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 58 to 71 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 43 to 47 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.08 inches in La Crosse to 0.62 inches in Green Bay. Growing degree days for corn remain below normal. 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/>

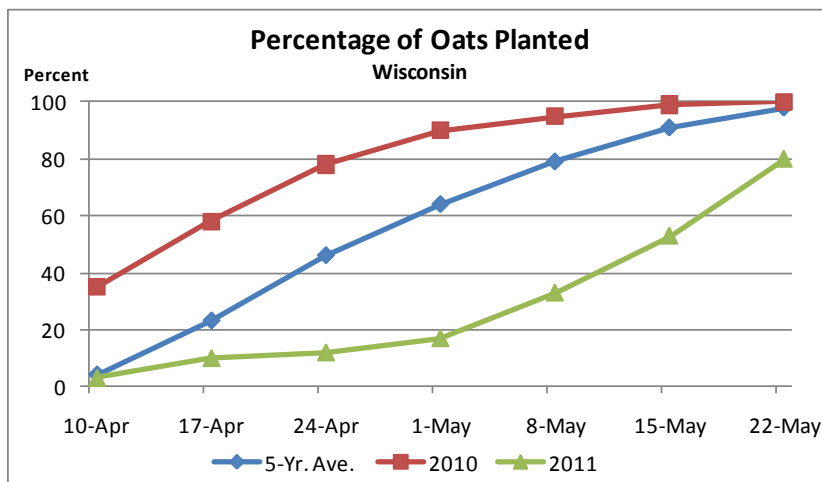
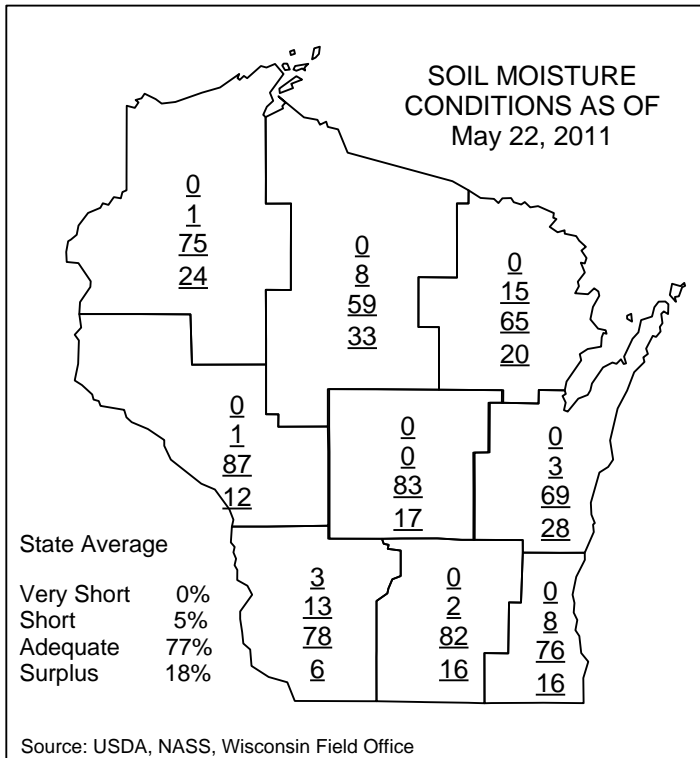
Corn planting jumped to 63 percent complete statewide, compared to 87 percent last year, and the five-year average of 81 percent. A few reports in the southern areas of the state indicated corn planting was finished. Corn emerged was at 14 percent, compared to 48 percent last year. In many areas of the state corn rows were noticeable from the road.

Many reporters noted **alfalfa** was growing fast with heights between 8 and 18 inches. Some first crop fields have already been cut. Some farmers are going to start cutting first crop hay next week, weather permitting. A few reporters commented on some hay fields having dandelions and yellow rocket.

Oats planted was at 80 percent complete statewide, compared to 100 percent complete last year. Statewide, oats were 41 percent emerged. Many reported that the oats have been coming up and looking good. **Winter wheat** was noted as growing well in most parts of the state.

Soybean planting is well underway with farmers not wasting any time. Statewide soybean planting was at 25 percent complete, compared to 52 percent last year. A Dane County reporter stated that soybeans were going in and some were starting to come up.

A reporter in Marathon County estimated that **potato** planting was about 70 percent complete in his area. **Snap bean** plantings were still on schedule in Portage County. **Apple** trees were in full bloom in Shawano County. **Rye** was reported being in boot stage in Buffalo County. In Waupaca County **strawberries** were starting to bloom.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 22, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Oat	1	2	19	70	8
Winter Wheat	2	3	20	53	22
Pasture	1	3	19	60	17

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 week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Corn planted	59	35	51	63	58	41	87	70	74	63	35	87	81
Corn emerged	1	1	2	11	11	1	29	23	26	14	NA	48	40
Soybeans planted	8	5	7	14	16	19	51	31	35	25	10	52	51
Oats planted	74	43	74	90	69	67	95	98	91	80	53	100	98
Oats emerged	22	3	14	46	24	22	79	74	50	41	21	95	83
Spring tillage	64	52	65	82	65	63	93	86	81	75	50	95	88

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.

POLK-A.M.: Significant progress made with this week's dry weather. Several farmers are nearing completion of corn planting. A few have started soybeans. Alfalfa overall looks in good condition, however, there were some signs of winterkill.

MARATHON-S.N.: Winter wheat is growing well. Some farmers reported winterkill on alfalfa fields. First crop hay/alfalfa is about 2 weeks behind in growth compared to last year. Manure hauling is just about finished. Planting of corn and small grain is progressing rapidly as long as the weather stays warm and dry. Farmers are just beginning to plant soybeans. Seventy percent of the potatoes are planted.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Planting progressed at a break neck pace last week, but came to a screaming halt on Saturday. Corn, soybeans, oats, snap beans, and hay field seedings were all happening during the past week. Some fields may have been wetter than preferable, but when planters got to fields, they were planted regardless of soil conditions. Potatoes and green beans have begun emerging. Apple trees are in full bloom. Winter wheat looks very good with the exception of late planted fields that have been too wet to get fertilizer applications this spring. Alfalfa hay fields nearly doubled in size, from 10.0 inches to 18.0 inches, in just the last week.

BUFFALO-S.M.: Cool nights coupled with moist soil conditions have resulted in corn emerging slightly yellow.

ST CROIXR-F.M.: Wow, what a difference a week of good weather makes. Thousands of acres of corn were planted along with lots of soybean acres. A few producers are done with their spring planting. However, most producers still need more time to wrap up their planting. The entire county received rain over this past weekend. Most alfalfa fields look real good. Yields for first crop should be good.

JUNEAU-J.W.: Weather was good for forage growth. It was a productive week in the fields. Most guys were able to get quite a bit done.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Potatoes and early planted corn just starting to emerge. Had a hard frost again Wednesday morning. Snap bean plantings still on schedule. Now

that we are starting to get some growing conditions we are finding that some hay fields didn't fare as well as earlier anticipated.

CALUMET-B.L.: In our county corn is nearing 50% planted with our rolling upland lighter soils about 70% planted and our heavier lower reddish clays about 10% planted. Direct seeding is going when fields are ready and soybeans as well are being planted in the drier areas. Alfalfa seems to be growing well and is probably further along than our spring conditions would indicate. Many gardens are starting to get planted. This Friday, May 20th there are many fields worked and ready to plant. This could be a huge planting day here as we have a wet weekend in store from what the weather channels say.

RICHLAND-J.C.: First crop alfalfa is starting to be cut. We have areas that could use a little rain. Pasture conditions have finally improved. We need to start getting some heat to help the emerged corn.

COLUMBIA-B.K.: Making good progress with planting and tillage. Small amount of alfalfa being chopped. A lot of the oats and corn are starting to emerge.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: Alfalfa is looking very good. Hear of farmer's wanting to cut hay by Memorial Day. Alfalfa is almost knee high on lighter soils. Oats emerging very even. Oat and peas just starting to emerge. Did not see any corn up yet - just need warm and dry weather!



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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 22, 2011

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 21	Mar. 1 to May 21 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	70	43	80	31	57	-1	269	325	0.59	7.44	0.36	9.29	0.36
Green Bay	64	45	75	34	54	-3	195	271	0.62	10.56	4.24	13.13	4.61
La Crosse	71	47	81	36	59	-2	323	379	0.08	8.99	1.38	10.90	1.09
Madison	67	44	77	35	56	-2	305	372	0.09	7.91	0.16	10.78	0.52
Milwaukee	58	44	66	38	51	-5	198	n.a.	0.53	10.00	1.53	13.46	1.55

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.