



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

October 3, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 26

## Cold, Wet Week Slows Harvest

Rain slowed or halted harvest activities across much of Wisconsin last week, with only 3.5 days suitable for fieldwork statewide. Strong winds accompanied some storms; gusts as high as 70 mph were reported in Kewaunee County, where many late planted corn fields suffered damage. Lodged cornfields were reported in Fond du Lac county as well. With the cool, overcast days many areas saw overnight temperatures in the 20s and low 30s. Frosts helped corn dry down.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1 to 5 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 61 to 65 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 45 to 50 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.96 inches in Eau Claire to 2.57 inches in Green Bay. Growing degree days for corn remain above normal for all reporting stations. 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/>

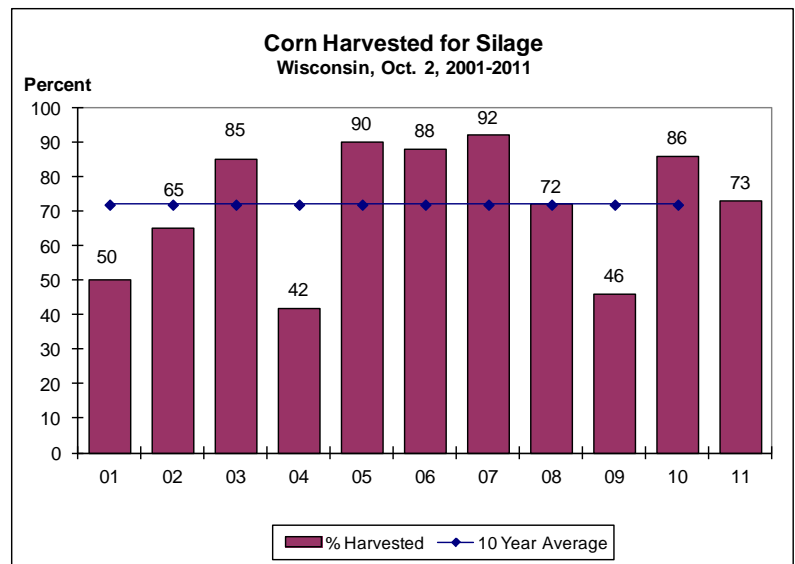
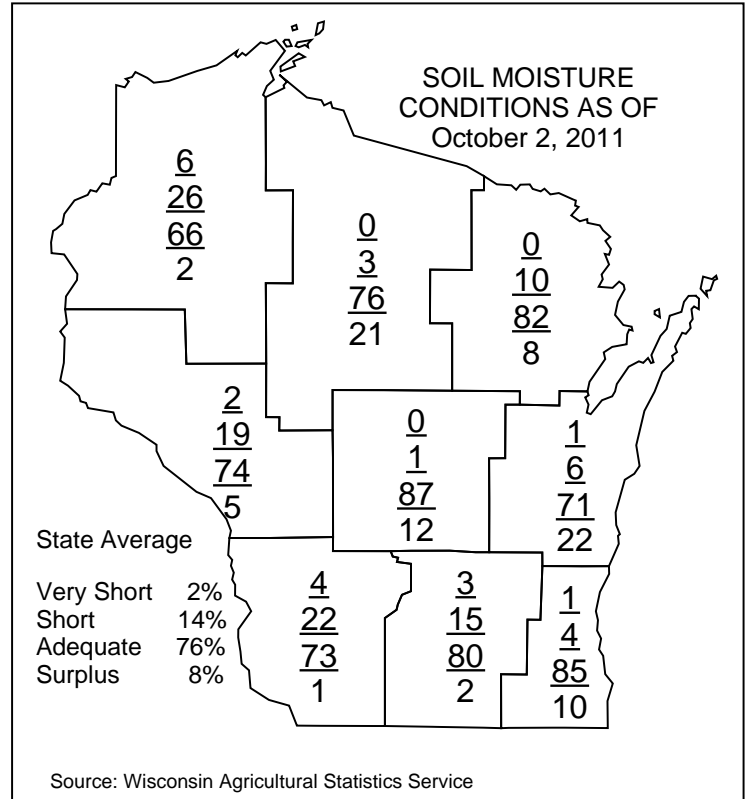
**Corn** was 57 percent mature and 5 percent harvested for grain. Some high-moisture corn was combined for feed, with reports on plant moisture varying widely. In spite of the rain, corn **silage** harvest reached 73 percent complete.

Statewide, 97 percent of **soybeans** had leaves turning color, with 74 percent dropping leaves. The soybean harvest was slow to start this year, with only 2 percent harvested so far, compared to 20 percent last year and a 12 percent five year average. Many reporters noted that soybeans need additional time to dry down.

Fourth crop **hay** was 86 percent harvested. Though the weather was poor for haying, additional moisture received this week should help increase plant reserves in hay fields and pastures preparing to overwinter.

This week's rain also delayed **fall tillage**, which was 11 percent complete.

The **cranberry** harvest began in earnest in Portage and Oneida Counties. **Apple** orchards were open across the state, with good quality and yields reported. The strong winds knocked fruit off the trees in some areas. The **grape** harvest was about half completed in Dane County. **Onions, garlic, carrots** and **winter squash** were being harvested as well.



Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	2	7	17	50	24
Soybean	2	5	19	50	24
Pasture	4	20	34	39	3

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

## Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 2, 2011

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 silage harvested	65	56	66	76	78	62	88	85	74	73	57	86	77	
Corn mature	65	40	40	61	63	40	49	70	65	57	38	80	61	
Corn for Grain Harvested	4	7	5	3	7	2	6	6	1	5	n.a.	17	8	
Soybean leaves turning	94	99	99	97	96	92	98	96	100	97	89	98	98	
Soybean leaves dropping	68	91	63	71	72	66	83	71	85	74	49	86	85	
Fourth cutting hay	73	86	81	83	85	78	97	97	84	86	76	73	64	
Fall Tillage completed	7	17	10	4	23	15	7	10	10	11	7	15	3	

**Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

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

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** A wet week slowed remaining corn silage harvest. No soybeans harvested yet. Apple crop is very good.

**WASHBURN-R.H.:** Apple crop was excellent. Good color on the apples. Corn silage being harvested.

**ONEIDA-P.L.:** We had nine days in a row with scattered showers to end September, but didn't get a lot of rain only about another inch which made for 2.5-3.0 inches total for September. It was enough along with the over cast skies to not allow any dry down for the corn and beans. They kept on harvesting potatoes and the cranberry harvest is in full swing now. Cranberry harvest seems to be as good or better than the last couple of years. It was no weather for hay harvest, however this next week may lead to some activity in that area. The apple orchards were open for picking and the quality looks good but the apples appear smaller this year. The wind has dropped a lot of fruit, and tree leaves. Along with the rain we had strong winds and frost down in the high 20 degree range. October came in sunny and clear.

**SHAWANO-J.N.:** We finished up with about 2.5 inches of rain last week. Corn harvest for silage was delayed for a few days, but started up again this weekend. About 75 percent is harvested. Soybeans drying up fast, may be harvesting by the end of the week, weather permitting. Some early high land corn was taken off for grain. Yields were good and moisture around 30 percent. Manure is being applied as soon as the corn comes off. Winter wheat planting is pretty much wrapped up. Some fourth crop hay still out there to be harvested, will likely be taken after producers finish their corn silage.

**EAU CLAIRE-A.B.:** Apple orchards are very busy, customers picking and buying product. Corn silage harvest is progressing well. I witnessed one field of corn harvested for high moisture grain. I tested one of my corn fields this morning and found the moisture at 19.8 percent. No soybeans harvested yet but producers are preparing to begin this week. Some manure being spread on corn stubble. I have not seen any tillage to date.

**MONROE-M.Y.:** We got 1.5 inches rain last Sunday and Monday and a few sprinkles since. No drying weather.

**JUNEAU-J.W.:** Harvesting of corn silage is in full swing and yields are pretty good. Some shelling has started as well with moisture around 25-30 percent. Corn yields on the lighter soils are down because of the hot, dry August and soybean yields will be a little lower as well. Corn is further along than the soybeans which still need to dry down. With the frost over the weekend and warm temperatures this week the crops should really dry down quick.

**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** The past week's unfavorable weather has slowed down crop maturity. Soybeans are losing leaves. Early planted corn is nearing maturity. Apple crop looks great.

**DOOR-R.S.:** Got a lot of rain.

**WINNEBAGO-S.E.:** Some of the frost did damage to the corn that was not yet mature. It wasn't a hard freeze.

**SAUK-J.P.:** Fruits and vegetables that didn't freeze doing well. Corn silage harvest in full swing. No corn harvest for grain yet. No soybeans either. A little fall tillage down where corn harvested. Fourth crop hay nonexistent, none grew. Too hard to get dry now, such short days.

**VERNON-K.L.:** The county received 1.5-2.0 inches of badly needed rain. HM corn being harvested, as well as silage corn. Parts of the county still have not had a killing frost. Winter wheat & rye are being planted.

**GREEN-D.M.:** We received much needed rain, however timing was bad to get my last crop of hay in, which has now been down for two weeks. Some corn fields have been opened up for high moisture harvest.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Rain every other day has limited field work. Corn is mature but not ready for picking; however, a local elevator is paying 40 cents over the market to entice guys to pick. Bean harvest will begin once we get more than a few hours of sun.

**KENOSHA-R.R.:** Rained all week with a total of 5.0+ inches that fell; the ground sucked it up leaving little standing around. Winter wheat that was planted, is coming up and looks good. On the other hand cabbage heads and tomatoes are splitting due to the water. Need some drying winds to dry soybeans.

**WASHINGTON-J.N.:** Total rain was 4.5 inches, adequate moisture.



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Director

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 October 2, 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 Oct. 1	Mar. 1 to Oct. 1 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	62	45	65	29	54	-1	2579	2426	0.96	1.78	-2.08	29.26	2.17
Green Bay	63	46	71	35	54	-1	2443	2293	2.57	4.55	1.37	31.38	7.97
La Crosse	62	46	68	33	54	-5	2879	2740	1.32	3.04	-0.45	31.15	4.30
Madison	65	45	70	34	55	-2	2770	2688	1.79	3.31	0.16	23.61	-3.21
Milwaukee	61	50	67	43	56	-3	2635	n.a.	1.32	2.92	-0.47	26.21	-1.37

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.