



Wisconsin Crop Progress

May 14, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 6

Planting Ramps Up Despite Wet Fields

Corn and soybean planting were in full swing this week though wet conditions kept farmers out of fields in some areas. The first cutting of hay was well underway with 92 percent of the crop suffering light to no freeze damage statewide. Frost damage to fruit crops was still being assessed, with reported effects varying from mild to severe depending on earliness of the bloom and local conditions. Soils remained saturated across central Wisconsin, where additional rain fell after last week's severe storms. Hail damage, soil erosion and ponding were reported in several counties. Statewide, there were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 2 to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 65 to 70 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 46 to 49 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.72 inches in La Crosse to 2.61 inches in Milwaukee. 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/>

Statewide, **corn** was 57 percent planted and 13 percent emerged this week. Wet field conditions kept planters off of clay soils. Several reporters commented that corn fields will need to be replanted after storm damage. A few reporters commented that damaged alfalfa stands will likely be replanted to corn in their area.

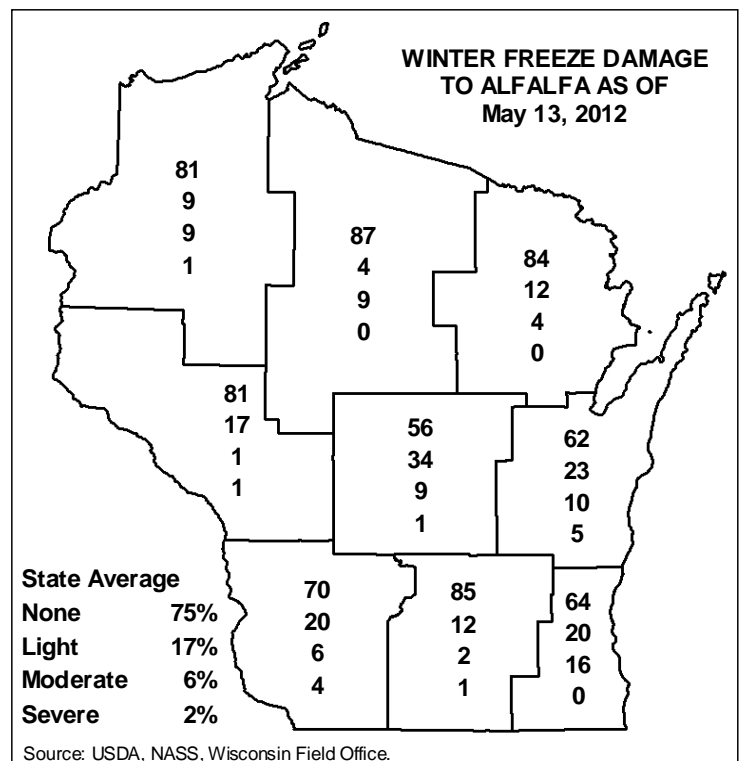
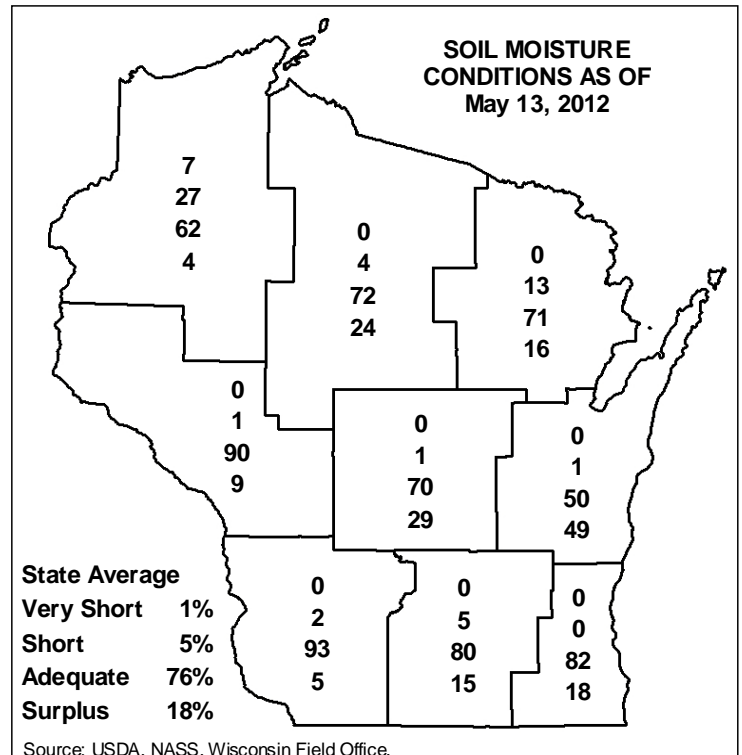
Soybeans were 16 percent planted, with producers planting as field conditions permit.

Oats were 94 percent planted and 72 percent emerged this week, with 83 percent of the crop in good to excellent condition statewide.

First cutting hay was 9 percent harvested this week. This year has seen the earliest start date for haying in the past 30 years of Crop Progress data.

Spring tillage rose to 79 percent complete. Fertilizer spraying and other chemical applications were ongoing.

Winter wheat was reportedly looking good across much of the state. **Potatoes** were emerging in Marquette and Portage Counties. **Snap beans** were being planted in Trempealeau and Shawano Counties. Early planted **peas** were reportedly in good condition. **Strawberry** plants were blooming this week, with frost damage reports ranging from light to a 50 percent loss in Waupaca County. **Asparagus** also suffered frost damage in Waupaca County.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 13, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	3	22	59	15
Oats	1	1	15	69	14

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	70	53	53	62	52	23	72	61	66	57	34	29	53
Corn emerged	8	3	8	14	6	5	15	17	29	13	n.a.	0	10
Soybeans planted	13	15	14	12	10	6	21	20	24	16	5	8	18
Oats planted	94	90	96	96	85	95	98	100	100	94	86	46	78
Oats emerged	78	58	63	74	61	74	90	77	55	72	51	17	52
First cutting hay	1	1	0	3	2	3	29	18	13	9	n.a.	0	0
Spring tillage	80	80	78	88	75	56	91	84	73	79	67	45	66

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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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-T.J.: Most producers will wrap up planting this week and prepare for harvesting first cutting alfalfa next week.

ONEIDA-B.E.: Average high last week - 67, Average low last week - 38, 0.65 inches rain, please note these temp readings are taken from low-lying areas around the farm. Things are really greening up here, including the weeds! Herbicide applications continue, and fertilizer applications afterwards. Cleaning out drainage ditches in the cranberry beds now, getting ready to do some pruning or cutting of the vines, to plant in some bare spots.

SHAWANO-B.R.: It is plenty wet now with many farmers not able to do any field work this week. Those fields that are tilled heavily did some limited action. Had some corn planted in the area on April 13 which is just starting to emerge now. Alfalfa growth slowed considerably with the cool wet weather. Wheat looking very good.

DUNN-J.R.: Corn is starting to emerge. Last weekend's rain has left standing water in low spots. Some first crop is being cut. More hay would be cut if fields were drier.

LACROSSE-I.H.: There is a short window of opportunity for planting this week, and from the look of the forecast, it will be limited then as well. After a wet start in the beginning of the week, farmers were scurrying around the clock trying to get corn planted. Tractors could be heard late into the night as corn planting was first on the minds of the farmers. A visit to a friend in the next county (north) made us count our blessings as he told us of over 4 inches of rain in 15 minutes and hail the size of golf balls on Thursday. Damage to the farm was quite extensive and corn that he had emerging was washed out...he spoke of replanting over 50 acres.

JUNEAU-J.W.: The later part of the week was great for planting, a big push was made on getting corn and soybeans planted. Several people will be making hay while planting. It's going to be a busy week.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Close to 4.0 inches of rain over the weekend has slowed everything down. The older alfalfa stands have a good crop of dandelions coming through. Oats and wheat are up and look good.

FOND DU LAC-M.R.: Planters are rolling again, although some fields remain too wet. Anticipate alfalfa harvest to begin in earnest this week.

OUTAGAMIE-J.B.: Wet and cold. Hay and wheat looked good in March, but now it is too wet.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: Corn planting resumed last week. First cutting alfalfa hay started as well. Winter wheat is looking good. Overall freeze damage to the apple crop in the county was 20-25 percent. Pear and plum crops were hit pretty hard, grapes seem to be okay. One orchard having a few Tart Cherry trees indicated 80 percent loss while another orchard also having Tart Cherry trees indicated very little damage. The first bloom on strawberries was lost but second bloom and third bloom stage are coming on strong and picking should begin within a couple of weeks. Spring vegetable planting is progressing very well. The warm weather is welcome and hopefully will get planting and other field work back on track.

GRANT-G.M.: We need a little rain.

COLUMBIA-K.R.: Now that the weather is nicer planting is in full swing. The hay dropped some leaves and value during the frost period, but harvest is progressing.

ROCK-C.O.: Making 1st crop hay, finishing corn planting, planting soybeans all the same week. Bugs are in the alfalfa, so harvest has begun. Corn popping up, but not setting any records for growth.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Over 3.0 inches of rain on Sunday has stopped most activity.

WALWORTH-N.W.: A flurry of activity in the fields this past weekend. A lot of corn and soybeans were planted. Hay fields were also being cut and some taken for round bales. Peas are looking good.



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

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 13, 2012

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 12	Mar. 1 to May 12 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	67	46	74	38	57	2	497	230	0.80	7.41	1.39	9.79	1.90
Green Bay	66	46	76	39	56	2	410	190	0.79	7.01	1.45	9.53	1.72
La Crosse	70	49	82	42	60	2	572	277	0.72	6.78	0.14	9.30	0.45
Madison	69	48	79	38	59	4	547	274	1.05	6.83	0.00	9.26	-0.09
Milwaukee	65	47	77	41	56	3	399	n.a.	2.61	8.71	1.14	11.56	0.45

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.