



Wisconsin Crop Progress

July 9, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 14

Heat Wave Crests, Breaks

Wisconsin endured another week of brutal heat and minimal rainfall, taxing crops, livestock and people. Temperatures soared into the triple digits across much of the state, with daily high temperature records broken at all five major reporting stations. Nights provided little relief, with record high overnight lows observed in several cities. Northern Wisconsin received some timely rain, allowing crops to take advantage of the heat. However, non-irrigated crops in the drought-stricken southern portions of the state were reportedly in very poor condition. Many reporters noted that early planted crops were hanging on, but late planted crops were stunted and stressed. Soil moisture was 95-100 percent short to very short in four of the nine reporting districts. Pastures in these areas were in very poor condition as well, adding to the stress on herds. Saturday finally brought an end to the heat wave as temperatures dropped to more seasonal levels statewide, but rain is badly needed. There were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 11 to 15 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 92 to 98 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 67 to 74 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.0 inches in La Crosse and Madison to 0.76 inches in Eau Claire. 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/>

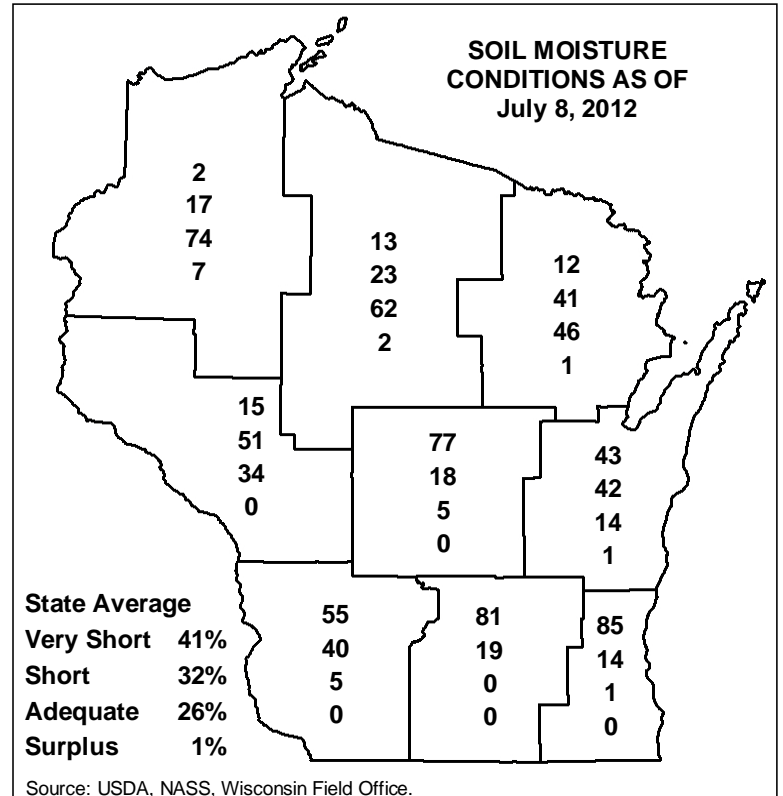
Corn had an average height of 54 inches and was 11 percent silking statewide. Reporters across the state noted corn curling in the extreme heat. Corn on light soils was reportedly in need of additional moisture even in areas that have received rain.

Soybeans were 16 percent blooming this week. Reporters noted that soybean growth had halted in some areas due to lack of moisture.

Oats were 14 percent harvested for grain. This is 2-3 weeks earlier than average.

Second cutting hay was 87 percent harvested. The **third cutting** was 5 percent complete, compared to 0 percent last year and a 0 percent five-year average. Yield and quality of the third crop are reportedly poor due to insect damage and short moisture. In the driest areas, growth of the third crop has reportedly halted.

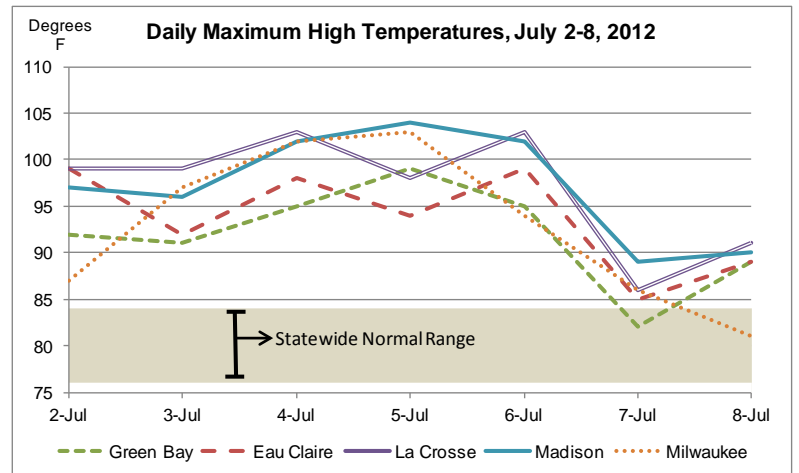
Winter wheat harvest was speeding along in southern and central Wisconsin, with good yields reported for both grain and straw. **Potatoes** were blooming and reportedly in good condition in Oneida, Langlade, Dunn and Portage counties. Early potatoes were being dug in Portage County. **Blueberries** were being picked in Chippewa, Eau Claire and Portage counties.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 8, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	24	24	25	25	2
Oats	3	8	24	57	8
Corn	12	19	26	36	7
Soybeans	11	20	28	36	5

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
Average corn height (in.)	51	56	55	61	46	46	52	59	51	54	40	37	45
Corn silked	7	2	9	13	6	4	17	13	17	11	1	0	2
Soybeans blooming	10	22	17	12	10	13	12	18	29	16	3	10	13
Oats Harvested	0	0	2	27	4	13	24	26	21	14	2	0	0
Second cutting hay	75	71	95	89	80	85	95	98	84	87	68	43	37
Third cutting hay	2	0	5	1	4	7	11	10	5	5	n.a.	0	0

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.

RUSK-G.P.: Very hot week this week, but at least we have some moisture. Rain on Monday and Friday night bracketed days in the upper 90s. Corn grew right through the heat with first tassels showing at the end of the week. Lots of spraying and top dressing of nitrogen, but corn height will shut most off that off pretty soon.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Crops are starting to show some stress from lack of moisture, but overall the crops still look very good. Third crop hay is coming back very well with second crop hay harvesting finishing up in most places. Corn is starting to tassel in some locations, which is very early for this area. Fields planted later in the season are significantly shorter. Soybeans look good so far. Small grains are getting close to harvest. Many reports of army worms and some leafhoppers.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Overall conditions are good to excellent in our area right now, just enough periodic moisture to stay ahead of the extreme heat. Severe weather seems to just keep missing us, corn, beans and potatoes look great.

DUNN-J.R.: Heat, heat, and more heat has taken its toll on the crops. Corn on lighter ground needs rain while the corn on heavier ground still looks great. Potatoes are blooming, corn is tasseling and kidney beans are looking good. We'll need some moisture soon to get third crop growing.

LACROSSE-I.H.: It is very dry, the high temperatures this last week took a toll on plants, animals and people. Everything needed hydration... still does.

MARQUETTE-D.B.: Everything without irrigation looks dead.

PORTAGE-J.B.: Irrigate is the "word". Many crops are severely hurt in the light soils if not dead without it. Other places corn is rolled. No rain to speak of in the last 2 weeks and hot heat. Second crop alfalfa is poor as very short in most places. Blueberry picking has begun and just "ok" at best. Green peas are mostly off and second crop of green beans planted. Normal crop a couple have said.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: As the calendar moves now into the second week of July, the harvest of winter wheat and oats are beginning. The winter wheat is being harvested first and so far, the yields have been okay. The crop had enough moisture early on so that the current dry weather really is not affecting it. The same will go for the oats, especially if it was planted early enough. Not too much of this crop has come off the fields yet. Some plants are still too green. Those two crops are probably the best looking crops at the present time. The lack of rain and the very warm temperatures are combining to put a lot of growing pressure on the corn, soybeans and, to a lesser extent, the alfalfa. For the most part, the corn and beans still do not look

too bad. Some plants are curling their leaves during the day, but at night, they open again. The lack of rain is causing the plants to grow shorter, so this may be an issue to be dealt with at harvest time. There are no corn cobs or bean pods being formed yet, but this will be happening soon. The alfalfa is being taken off the field, mainly second crop, but some third crop is just starting to be taken off. The yields have been declining since the first crop, but the quality is pretty good. Quite a few producers have had to deal with the variegated cutworm, army worm and aphids in alfalfa and soybean fields so far this summer. A lot of pesticide is being applied so these unwanted guests leave. The ground is dry with cracks in it all over. Producers are also noticing that fields are tending to be more bumpy than usual due to the dry weather. The plants are in a holding pattern at the present time, and hopefully some rain will fall soon to advance the growth of all crops.

GRANT-J.R.: With ears and pods being set by soybeans and corn, rain is the biggest priority right now. Pasture conditions are very poor and existing hay is needed to feed now with the lack of good pasture ground.

VERNON-K.L.: No rain this week. Temperatures in the 90s & 100s this week. Pastures almost down to nothing. Second crop hay is lighter compared to the norms. Winter wheat is under harvest. County needs rain, but looks better than others around us. Some corn has started to tassel. The county needs rain soon.

DANE-D.R.: Water levels are extremely short and no rain in June is putting the shrubs and trees under stress.

KENOSHA-R.R.: Winter wheat yields are very good: 70 + bushels per acre, 12 percent moisture, test weight at 61 pounds.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 8, 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 Jul. 7	Mar. 1 To Jul. 7 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	94	67	99	62	81	+11	1558	1068	0.76	4.42	-0.78	16.19	+0.78
Green Bay	92	67	99	60	80	+11	1485	971	0.37	1.85	-2.35	12.40	-1.37
La Crosse	97	74	103	65	86	+13	1762	1211	0.00	3.24	-1.74	14.78	-1.11
Madison	98	73	104	62	86	+15	1694	1186	0.00	0.35	-4.65	11.43	-4.89
Milwaukee	93	73	103	68	83	+12	1496	n.a.	0.07	0.97	-3.43	13.61	-3.61

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.