



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

October 22, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 29

## Fall Rains Help Recharge Soils

Soaking rains continued for much of Wisconsin this week, with seasonal temperatures reported. Rains were heavy in spots, but thirsty soils absorbed the moisture well in most areas. Soil moistures improved on average, with only 55 percent short to very short statewide this week, compared to 79 percent last week. Some reporters in eastern and central Wisconsin noted that the ground was too wet for fieldwork. Moisture bypassed the Northwest District, however, where soil moisture was 93 percent short to very short. Rains slowed harvest and tillage for most, but reportedly benefited fall-planted crops, hay stands and trees. Pastures also showed improvement, with 73 percent in poor to very poor condition this week, compared to 78 percent last week. There were 3.8 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 3 degrees below to 2 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 57 to 60 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 36 to 44 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.05 inches in Eau Claire to 2.64 inches Green Bay. 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/>

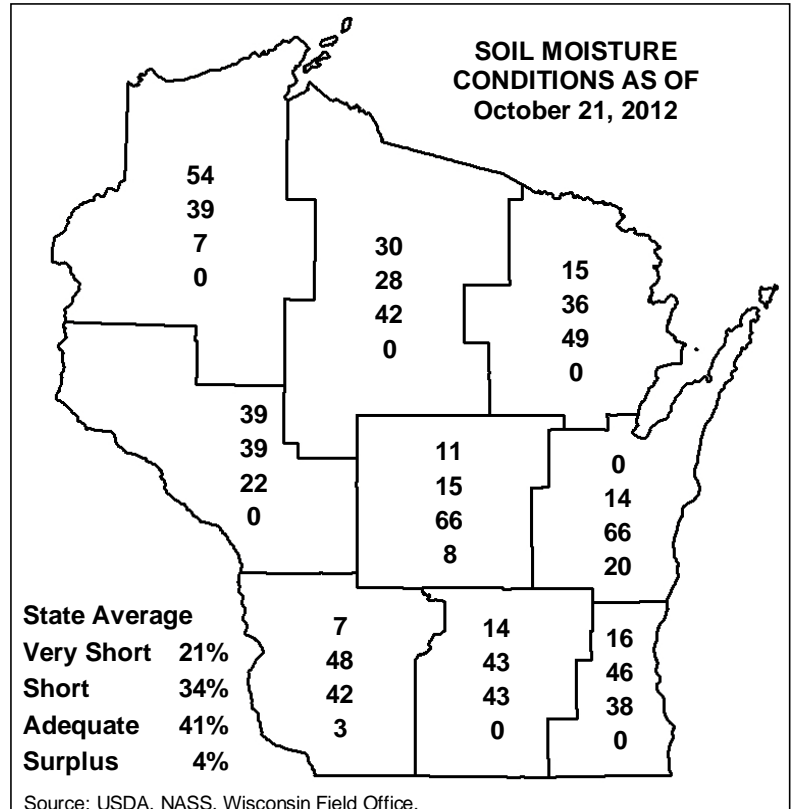
**Corn** was 66 percent harvested for grain statewide. Reports from the northern parts of the state indicated better than expected yields, while reports from elsewhere indicated poorer than average yields with large variations depending on local conditions. Chopping and baling of corn stalks continued.

**Soybeans** were 94 percent harvested and wrapping up for most. Reporters commented that bean straw was being harvested and baled.

**Fifth cutting hay** was 74 percent harvested. Reporters commented that the crop was spotty, with below average yield.

**Fall tillage** was 37 percent complete. Liquid manure applications were ongoing.

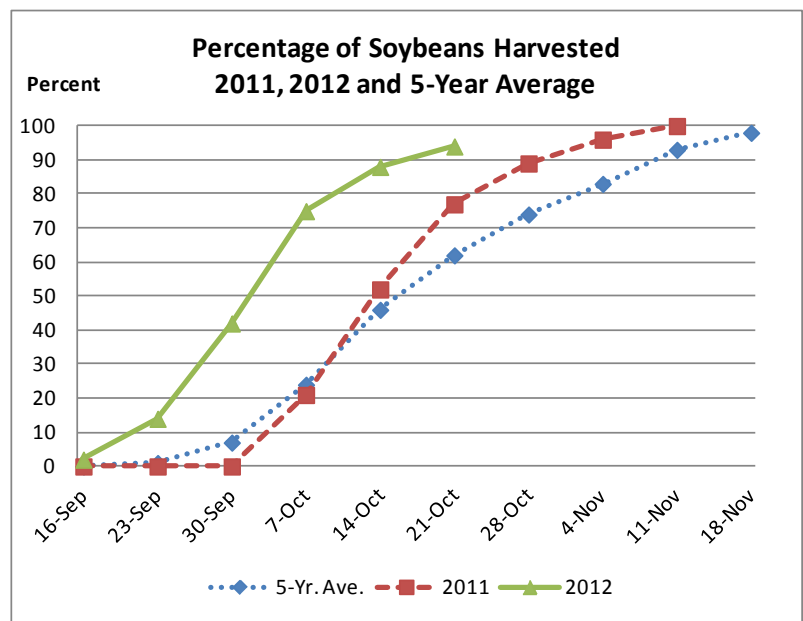
Reporters noted that the **cranberry** harvest was continuing in Portage County and about done in Sawyer and Oneida Counties.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 21, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	38	35	20	6	1

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 21, 2012

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 harvested for grain	80	81	57	70	54	46	73	66	65	66	54	33	31
Soybeans harvested	97	95	91	97	91	85	90	99	95	94	88	77	62
Fifth cutting hay	37	0	91	83	33	62	96	99	74	74	66	n.a.	n.a.
Fall tillage completed	43	57	26	26	47	34	36	32	44	37	29	29	26

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.:** Great week for harvesting corn and soybeans. Many producers are harvesting cornstalks and rolling them into big round bales or big squares.

**WASHBURN-R.H.:** Fall is here and weather is nice right now. Preparing for winter. Some fall grain was planted.

**MARATHON-S.N.:** It rained! Harvest has come to standstill with the 2.25 inches of liquid sunshine received during the week. A large portion of corn is harvested. As long as rain was received, corn and soybeans are bushelling well. Fall seeded crops are slow to sprout with the lack of moisture.

**FLORENCE-T.B.:** Not much went on this week. Rain early in the week with scattered showers daily made harvest and tillage conditions somewhat wet. Even with the moisture we have had, germination of winter grains is slow.

**DUNN-J.R.:** Corn harvest continues in full force. Yields are all dependent on soil type, planting date, and maturity. Rain that was received this week wasn't enough to even make a puddle in the yard.

**PIERCE-G.A.:** Subsoil moisture very low going in to mid-late fall. Alfalfa stands on eroded areas of fields look tough.

**WAUSHARA-K.W.:** Increased lodging showing up in remaining corn fields. Received another inch of rain October 18-19. Subsoil should be pretty well soaked up with a total of around 6.0 inches of soaking type rain. Rain has soaked up soybeans that shattered on the ground and they are now very evident.

**WOOD-M.L.:** Actually heard a few people complain about rain. A nice break with steady rain, all of it soaking up.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** The rain began falling about 10 days ago, and since then, the weather really hasn't been good to harvest crops. There have been a few days when the sun shone and some corn was harvested, but the ground is very wet now and mud is almost everywhere. This is such a change from just a few weeks ago. For the most part, the rain has been welcomed since conditions have been so dry. The wet conditions have slowed down any type of fieldwork. The planting of winter wheat has just about wrapped up and the harvest of soybeans is nearly complete. For those who are still looking to do either of these two cropping jobs, the weather has been a challenge now with rain almost every other day. On the bright side, though, fall tillage will be much easier now with the added moisture. The yield of the corn coming off the fields have been quite impressive. It is very common to see 150 to 200 bushels per acre. In this area,

these numbers don't happen often, so everyone is happy. Moisture content has been in the range from 15 to 20 percent and test weights right around 56 lbs. per bushel. This is on top of great yields for soybeans too. As has been said before, the little rain that fell this past summer came just at the right time and the crops really responded. Much of the remainder of the standing corn should be taken off this next week. At that time, fall hauling of manure will take place and then the fall tillage. This area is on pace to be nearly done with all its fieldwork by early November. Winter wheat emergence is coming along, though some areas have been drowned out with all the rain that has fallen.

**OUTAGAMIE-D.F.:** Too wet!

**VERNON-K.L.:** The county received another 1.0-2.0 inches of rain, which slowed down some harvesting. Farmers working on corn and soybean harvesting whenever possible. Some producers have started baling soybean fodder. Not as much fall tillage being completed as expected by this date. Looking forward to more rain this week.

**COLUMBIA-S.H.:** Corn and soybean harvest picked up again on Tuesday and Wednesday after some very needed weekend rains. Combines were stopped again on Thursday and Friday due to rain showers. Soybeans are about 90 percent harvested and corn grain is over 50 percent harvested in the county.

**DODGE-R.H.:** The rain from last week and this week is about 4.0 inches.

**WASHINGTON-J.N.:** A lot of winter wheat is greening up. Corn yields are 20 to 100 bushels to the acre all depending on what soil it is on. So far this week we had 3.5 inches of rain.



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### Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 21, 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 Oct. 20	Mar. 1 To Oct. 20 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	57	36	64	25	46	-1	3217	2554	0.05	1.41	-3.81	20.57	-7.99
Green Bay	57	41	69	37	49	+1	3085	2414	2.64	5.48	+1.03	27.41	+2.72
La Crosse	59	38	72	28	48	-3	3536	2894	0.95	2.73	-2.05	21.72	-6.48
Madison	60	43	69	37	51	+2	3468	2848	2.48	4.82	+0.40	21.79	-6.50
Milwaukee	59	44	69	38	52	+1	3325	n.a.	0.89	4.16	-0.67	24.01	-4.91

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.