

Planting Continues Despite Rain, Frost

A warm, dry start to the week helped tillage and planting totals jump, and melted the last of the snowcover in northern Wisconsin. However, muddy conditions confined fieldwork to light soils in many areas. Late in the week, a cold front brought more rain and more chilly temperatures. Hard frosts over the weekend reportedly prompted concern for budding fruit trees, though reporters noted that flower development is not as advanced as it was during the killer frosts of April 2012. Corn, soybeans, oats and vegetables were being planted where conditions permitted. Reporters commented that the high percentage of tillage completed last fall will help fieldwork go faster in this unusually late spring season. There were 3.6 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were normal to 3 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 63 to 71 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 39 to 46 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.57 inches in LaCrosse to 1.57 inches in Madison. 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, **spring tillage** was 26 percent complete. **Manure spreading** was ongoing, as pits remained close to overflow in many areas.

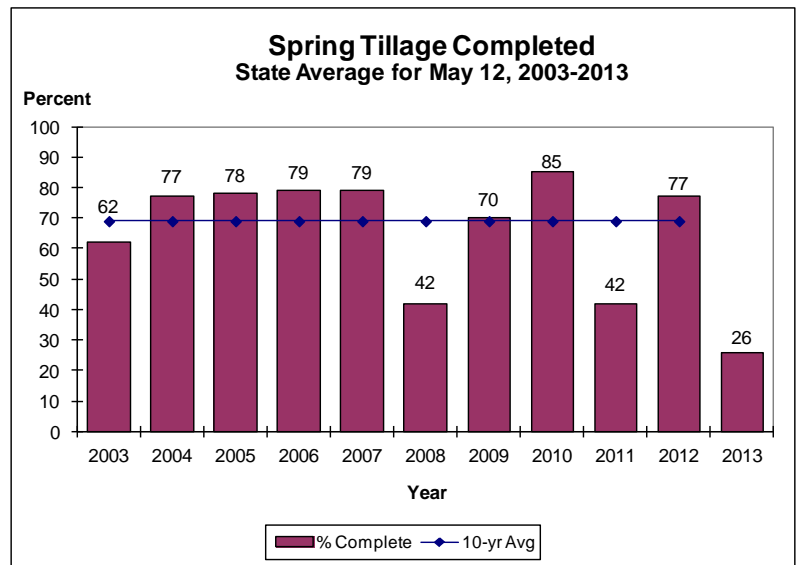
Corn was 14 percent planted, 32 percentage points behind the five-year average.

Soybeans were 1 percent planted this week, compared to 14 percent last year and a 13 percent five-year average.

Oats were 35 percent planted and 12 percent emerged.

Alfalfa winterkill was reportedly severe in some areas, with damage especially heavy on older stands. Producers were reportedly deciding which fields must be replanted and feed supplies remained tight. **Pastures** improved with the warm days, with 14 percent reported in poor to very poor condition this week compared to 40 percent last week.

Winterkill to **winter wheat** was reportedly less severe than to alfalfa, though damage was significant in some areas. **Peas** were being planted in Trempealeau, Portage, Dodge and Ozaukee Counties. **Potato** planting was reported in Barron and Portage Counties. The earliest varieties of **apples** were beginning to bud statewide. A Waupaca County reporter noted that **strawberries** looked good but **raspberries** showed a 10 percent winterkill.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 12, 2013

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	3	11	51	30	5

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 12, 2013

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
	Percent									Percent			
Corn planted	2	0	4	5	15	5	27	26	19	14	4	54	46
Oats planted	6	2	7	14	49	20	70	83	57	35	18	93	76
Oats emerged	0	0	0	1	7	6	28	38	10	12	0	69	50
Spring tillage	6	4	15	16	29	17	51	50	23	26	12	77	63

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions, May 12, 2013

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	3.3	2.5	2.7	3.3	4.0	3.6	4.2	3.8	3.6	3.6	2.6	4.0
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Short	2	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	5
Adequate	84	70	34	73	82	63	90	67	64	73	70	74
Surplus	14	30	66	24	18	36	10	31	36	26	28	20
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	n.a.
Short	19	0	0	25	9	2	15	7	2	10	13	n.a.
Adequate	77	99	53	70	86	81	83	73	74	79	74	n.a.
Surplus	4	1	47	4	4	16	1	20	24	10	11	n.a.

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Alert! The window to respond to the Census of Agriculture is almost closed!

There are only a few weeks left to complete and return the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Because time is running out, NASS may contact you or farmers in your area by phone or in person to collect information for the Census. **Help ensure you and your industry have the most complete set of agricultural statistics available for your country and county.** For more information or for help filling out your Census form, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (888) 424-7828.

Wisconsin Crop Progress

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.: First week of nice spring weather. Some farmers were able to haul manure and some were doing spring tillage. In addition some oat fields were planted.

RUSK-G.P.: Alfalfa and winter small grains seem to be coming out of winter in pretty good shape. Snow from last week melted off by Tuesday and then we got a good rain on Thursday, so limited field activity this week. Some oats going in but no corn yet. Next week things should start to open up. Fruit trees are starting to show buds, a bit of a concern with hard frost coming the next two nights. Some fertilizer going down on hay fields before the rain. Ok with floaters but some stuck tractors out there.

MARATHON-S.N.: Beautiful weather with sunny skies, temperatures in the 70s and one-half inch of rain mid-week. Farmers reporting winterkill on alfalfa. Need a stiff wind and sunny days to dry out the land for tillage and seeding activities.

TAYLOR-D.E.: There are some signs of winterkill in new seedings. Some bare spots are showing up in the fields. It has been very wet and cold with very little field work done to date. Some manure injection and spreading has begun. The cold weather from the weekend was a setback and there was frost again this morning. Leaves are coming out slowly and no blooms on fruit trees, which was good because then they didn't freeze today. Hoping for some warm weather soon.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Severe to moderate winter kill in both wheat and alfalfa, 50 to 80 percent. Even new seeding and high residue alfalfa hit hard. Very limited planting, a lot of fields too wet to enter, just waiting for the next snow squall. Will need a long growing season in the north.

PIERCE-M.B.: Alfalfa winterkill has been a problem for the whole county.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Most old (3 years plus) stands of alfalfa are very compromised if not doomed. Most new seedings look surprisingly good. Hay and forage will be very short for some time to come

PORTAGE-D.Z.: As much as 80 percent alfalfa winter kill in some areas; winter wheat fared somewhat better. Corn planting just underway on fields. Some heavy soils may be 10 days to two weeks yet.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: There was definitely some winterkill on the alfalfa and winter wheat in the county. Receiving information from producers and crop consultants that approximately 50-75 percent of the alfalfa in the county was damaged. We finally had a few nice warm, sunny days strung together and some tillage and planting was able to take place in the county.

WINNEBAGO-S.E.: Lots of winterkill problems in alfalfa and wheat. Still too wet for most fields.

VERNON-K.Y.: Very cold and wet conditions the past week. Much needed rain holding up field work. Manure hauling and fertilizer applications in some areas. Minimal amount of corn planted. Pastures very slow growing and low feed concerns with many producers.

COLUMBIA-S.H.: Farmers took advantage of some good planting earlier this week. However, 3 inches of rain fell on Thursday into Friday morning and brought planting to a halt. Hayfields, pastures, and winter wheat are beginning to show faster growth due to warm temperatures earlier in the week. All are still behind average spring growth. Many winter wheat fields are being destroyed and replanted due to winterkill from standing ice and water.

DANE-D.R.: Grass in lawns uneven in regrowth; show winter injury. Many trees and bushes damaged from heavy snow fall. Spring flowers in bloom. Some dandelions showing.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Not much winter kill in wheat or in alfalfa either.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Corn planting just got under way in earnest and we received between 1 and 2 inches of rain. The lower fields will take another week to two weeks to dry out.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 12, 2013

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 11	Mar. 1 To May 11 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	69	39	81	35	54	0	139	213	0.63	9.47	+3.56	12.04	+4.28
Green Bay	67	41	79	37	54	+1	151	176	0.76	7.61	+2.14	12.26	+4.55
La Crosse	71	46	81	42	58	+1	174	256	0.57	9.86	+3.29	12.26	+3.51
Madison	68	45	80	41	57	+3	208	254	1.57	10.74	+4.03	16.02	+6.76
Milwaukee	63	44	76	40	53	+1	158	n.a.	1.07	10.15	+2.64	16.35	+5.31

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.



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