



# Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



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Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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For the week ending May 20, 2018  
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## Fieldwork Surges with Favorable Weather

There were 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending May 20, 2018, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. However, there was variation in the number of days suitable for fieldwork across the state. Reporters in northern and especially northwestern Wisconsin noted a full seven days of sunshine, allowing excellent progress with planting and tillage. Soils there were reportedly very dry, even hampering germination in some areas. Producers in southern Wisconsin were able to get lots of seeds in the ground before another rainy weekend slowed fieldwork. Reporters noted that low spots and heavy soils remained too wet to support machinery in many areas. The Southeastern district was particularly wet, with some fields reportedly drowned out or unlikely to be planted at all. Farmers were gearing up to start the first cutting of hay. Reporters commented that fruit trees were blooming later than usual this year.

**Topsoil moisture** supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 6 percent short, 78 percent adequate and 16 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 5 percent short, 83 percent adequate and 12 percent surplus.

As of May 20, **spring tillage** was 69 percent complete statewide, 6 days behind last year and 3 days behind the 5-year average.

**Corn** planting was 56 percent complete, 3 days behind last year and 4 days behind the average. Corn emerged was at 21 percent, 1 day ahead of last year but 1 day behind the average.

Thirty-three percent of the state's expected **soybean** acres have been planted, 3 days ahead of last year but 1 day behind the average. Seven percent of the state's soybeans have emerged, 4 days ahead of last year and even with the average.

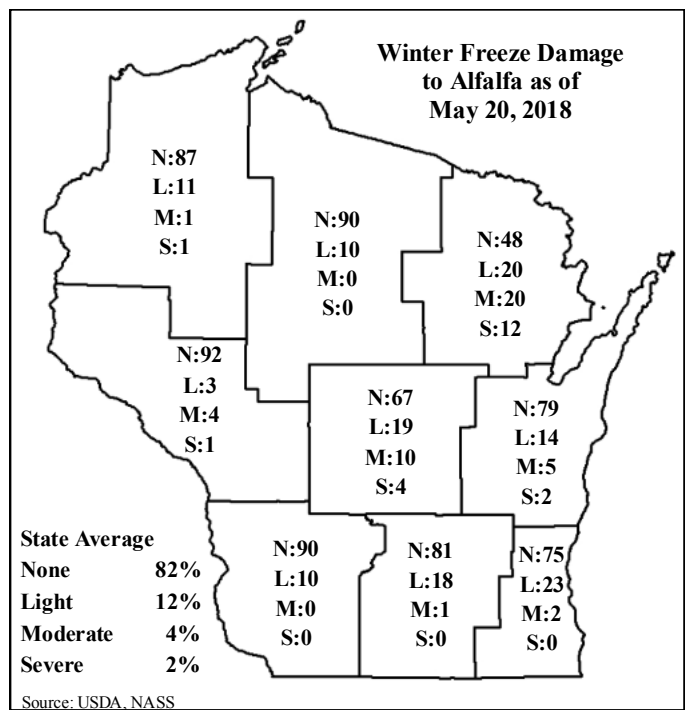
**Oats** planted were reported as 67 percent complete, 9 days behind last year and 7 days behind the average. Oats emerged was at 36 percent, 8 days behind last year and 8 days behind the average.

**Potato** planting is reported as 69 percent complete, 9 days behind last year.

**Winter wheat** was 81 percent in good to excellent condition statewide, up 4 percentage points from last week.

The first cutting of **alfalfa** was reported as 1 percent complete. Alfalfa freeze damage was rated 2 percent severe, 4 percent moderate and 12 percent light as of May 20. Eighty-two percent of the state's alfalfa was reported with no winter freeze damage. All hay condition was reported 81 percent in good to excellent condition, up 3 percentage points from last week.

**Pasture** condition was rated 74 percent in good to excellent condition, compared to 65 percent in good to excellent condition last week.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 20, 2018

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Hay, All.....	1	3	15	62	19
Pasture & Range .	0	3	23	56	18
Winter Wheat.....	0	3	16	60	21

Wisconsin Fieldwork and Crop Progress as of May 20, 2018

Item	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	59	33	64	42	26	58	71	58	56	30	63	66
Corn Emerged .....	17	17	7	14	11	1	33	36	34	21	8	18	25
Oats Planted .....	74	64	72	70	53	42	75	96	77	67	43	87	83
Oats Emerged.....	37	20	25	28	30	17	57	80	59	36	18	58	57
Potatoes Planted.....	62	90	95	80	60	n.a.	84	80	n.a.	69	33	92	n.a.
Soybeans Planted.....	40	37	18	32	19	14	39	47	31	33	13	27	35
Soybeans Emerged.....	3	0	0	5	1	0	10	17	13	7	2	3	7
Spring Tillage .....	71	67	54	75	57	43	77	88	74	69	47	80	76

n.a.=not available

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Supplies as of May 20, 2018

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	6.1	6.4	5.7	5.8	5.0	5.3	4.9	4.3	2.8	5.2	3.2	2.6
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short.....	30	13	7	10	0	0	0	2	0	6	2	0
Adequate.....	66	87	70	82	74	79	89	77	53	78	71	56
Surplus.....	2	0	23	7	26	21	11	21	47	16	27	44
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short.....	13	0	0	8	0	0	12	8	0	5	5	0
Adequate.....	85	100	65	86	75	84	79	83	75	83	76	65
Surplus.....	2	0	35	6	25	16	9	9	25	12	19	35

# 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.

**BAYFIELD/DOUGLAS-C.B.:** Nice weather this week. Starting to dry out. Cattle will be out on pasture soon.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Most of the crops are in the ground and right now looking good, but we really need some rain. With modern planting technology things are coming up well, but they will start to run out of moisture soon. No first crop hay yet but might start this week.

**LINCOLN/MARATHON-D.E.:** Spring tillage is wrapping up quickly. Corn and small grains are emerging. Little to no winter kill is evident in alfalfa and hay fields are looking good at this point. Potatoes are in and the shades are up on ginseng.

**MARINETTE-L.B.:** Planting and field work are in full operation. Some manure being hauled yet.

**ST CROIX-D.K.:** No rain in 3 weeks. Irrigating is happening all over, mostly on alfalfa. First cutting is not far away.

**ADAMS/JUNEAU-J.W.:** Three days of nice weather allowed farmers to make a lot of progress in the field. A lot of planting got done until rain came Saturday night. There was one report of significant winterkill in new seeding and established stands of alfalfa but most have reported their normal or expected amount of winterkill so they didn't seem too concerned. Due to the standing water, producers are contemplating whether to wait and plant, switch crops, or call it prevent plant since the forecast doesn't look very good.

**MANITOWOC-M.R.:** A much-needed week of dry weather allowed planting of corn, soybeans, and new seeding alfalfa to get underway this week.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** There finally has been a week that allowed a lot of planting to get done. However, planting is behind normal. At this time, most of what is going into the ground is oats or corn. There are still spots in some fields that are too wet to get into. These spots will have to be tilled and planted later in the season or the weeds will come in. There is plenty of moisture in the soil, so any crop planted now should emerge within a short period of time, providing there are warm temperatures. Manure was applied this past week to many

fields. This job will continue this coming week. More planting of corn, oats and soybeans will take place this coming week, as long as the dry weather holds out. Unfortunately, since the ground is so moist, it does not take much rain to stop fieldwork for a day or two. Many producers are hoping to get all the planting done by the end of May and then start cutting first crop hay. Some will want to cut the first crop before the end of the month, regardless of whether the planting is done. Alfalfa is looking quite good in this area. There hasn't been much winter kill at all. In fact, it may not be too much longer and the first crop could start lodging. This will add up to a lot of tonnage for area producers, which will help if they are short on feed.

**SAUK-C.N.:** Able to make some progress with corn planting, but looks like more rain possible in this coming week's forecast.

**DANE-F.P.:** There are wet spots in fields with standing water. Soils are wet which has slowed planting.

**DODGE-M.P.:** The rain held off this week allowing farmers to get fields worked and planted. Corn will hopefully be completed soon allowing soybeans to get planted. Winter wheat and alfalfa look good and don't appear to have much winter damage.

**OZAUKEE/WASHINGTON-G.S.:** Had a few good days to get some fieldwork done. Rain in the forecast over the weekend may impact planting progress.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 20, 2018

City	Temperature (degrees F)						Growing degree days (modified base 50) <sup>1</sup>		Precipitation (inches)				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to May 19	Mar. 1 to May 19 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date	Year dep. from normal*
Eau Claire	77	47	84	36	62	+5	324	299	0.00	5.25	-1.56	8.21	-0.43
Green Bay	70	48	82	41	59	+3	248	249	0.10	9.71	+3.57	12.51	+4.12
La Crosse	78	54	86	46	66	+6	408	351	0.23	9.51	+2.14	12.41	+2.87
Madison	74	51	82	45	62	+5	334	345	1.41	11.66	+4.14	16.69	+6.64
Milwaukee	68	47	76	41	57	+2	269	n.a.	1.24	9.84	+1.58	14.66	+2.94

<sup>1</sup> 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. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more 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/>

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.