



# Wisconsin Ag News – Crop Progress & Condition

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[www.nass.usda.gov/wi](http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi)

Cooperating with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

May 18, 2026 - For Immediate Release

Wisconsin had 6.1 **days suitable for fieldwork** statewide for the week ending May 17, 2026, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. A mostly dry week allowed farmers to make significant progress on planting and spring tillage.

**Topsoil moisture** condition rated 1 percent very short, 13 percent short, 63 percent adequate, and 23 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** condition rated 0 percent very short, 7 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 21 percent surplus.

**Corn** planting was 62 percent complete compared to the 5-year average of 59 percent. Corn was 13 percent emerged. **Soybean** planting was 54 percent complete compared to the average of 50 percent. Soybeans were 9 percent emerged.

**Oat** planting was 68 percent complete compared to the average of 75 percent. Oats were 36 percent emerged. Oat condition was rated 76 percent good to excellent. **Winter wheat** fields were 4 percent headed. Winter wheat condition was 62 percent good to excellent, up 3 percentage points from last week.

The first cutting of **alfalfa hay** was just beginning. **All hay** condition was 72 percent good to excellent, up 1 percentage point from last week.

**Spring tillage** was 83 percent complete compared to the average of 77 percent.

**Pasture and range** condition was 57 percent good to excellent, up 3 percentage points from last week.

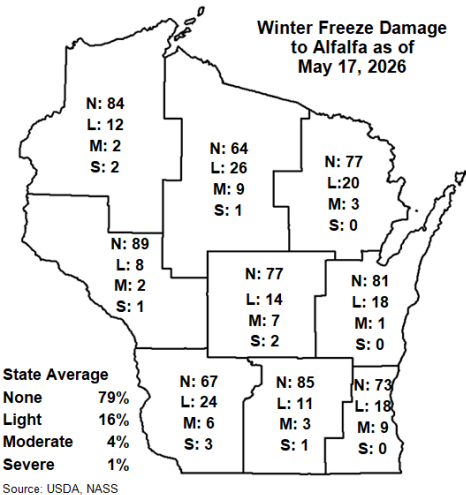
Crop Progress and Condition charts can be found at [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Charts\\_and\\_Maps/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/2026/WI\\_2026.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Charts_and_Maps/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2026/WI_2026.pdf)

## Crop Condition as of May 17, 2026

| Item                    | Very Poor | Poor      | Fair      | Good      | Excellent |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                         | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Hay, all .....          | 1         | 4         | 23        | 58        | 14        |
| Oats .....              | 0         | 1         | 23        | 67        | 9         |
| Pasture and range ..... | 2         | 11        | 30        | 48        | 9         |
| Wheat, winter .....     | 1         | 4         | 33        | 51        | 11        |

## Crop Progress as of May 17, 2026

| Item                   | Districts |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | State     |           |           |            |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|                        | NW        | NC        | NE        | WC        | C         | EC        | SW        | SC        | SE        | This week | Last week | Last year | 5-year avg |
|                        | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent)  |
| Corn planted .....     | 73        | 41        | 56        | 69        | 44        | 40        | 75        | 76        | 57        | 62        | 31        | 69        | 59         |
| Corn emerged .....     | 8         | 2         | 3         | 11        | 8         | 3         | 25        | 19        | 19        | 13        | 1         | 20        | 18         |
| Oats planted .....     | 78        | 47        | 53        | 83        | 64        | 46        | 82        | 93        | 80        | 68        | 47        | 79        | 75         |
| Oats emerged .....     | 40        | 11        | 15        | 50        | 16        | 15        | 67        | 55        | 47        | 36        | 23        | 44        | 46         |
| Soybeans planted ..... | 55        | 30        | 44        | 68        | 35        | 39        | 55        | 67        | 52        | 54        | 28        | 62        | 50         |
| Soybeans emerged ..... | 5         | 1         | 3         | 10        | 8         | 2         | 15        | 11        | 12        | 9         | 0         | 17        | 13         |
| Spring tillage .....   | 81        | 68        | 71        | 95        | 71        | 70        | 89        | 96        | 85        | 83        | 61        | 84        | 77         |

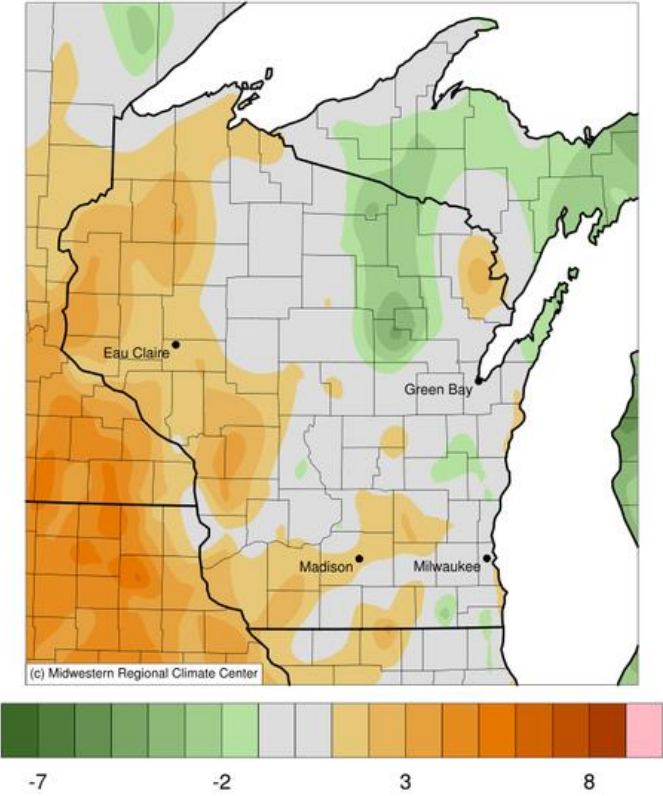


The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications).

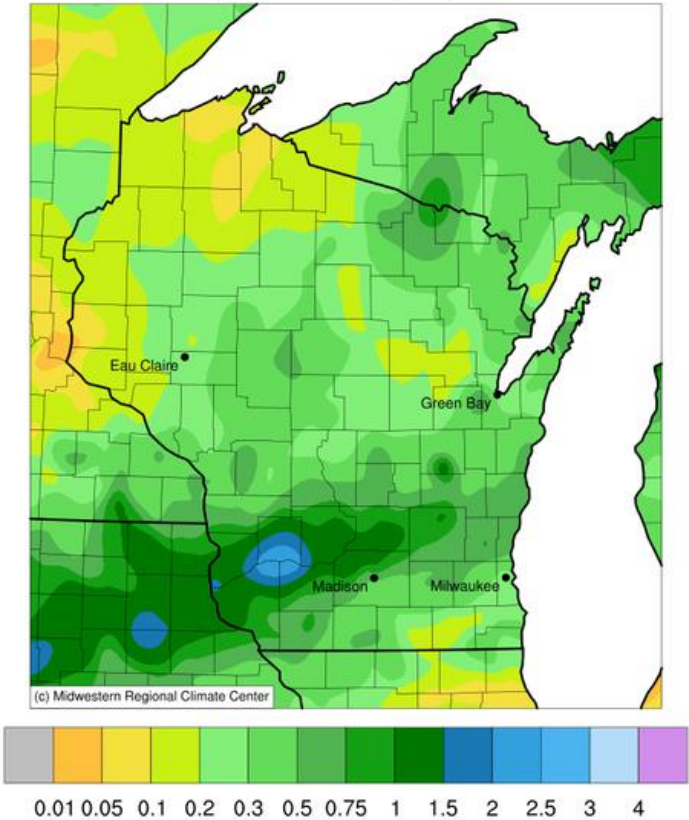
Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Condition as of May 17, 2026

| Item                | Districts        |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | State     |           |           |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                     | NW               | NC        | NE        | WC        | C         | EC        | SW        | SC        | SE        | This week | Last week | Last year |
| Days suitable ..... | (days)           | (days)    | (days)    | (days)    | (days)    | (days)    | (days)    | (days)    | (days)    | (days)    | (days)    | (days)    |
|                     | 6.4              | 6.8       | 6.0       | 6.8       | 6.6       | 5.9       | 5.4       | 5.6       | 5.8       | 6.1       | 6.2       | 5.7       |
| Topsoil moisture    | (percent)        | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
|                     | Very short ..... | 2         | 0         | 0         | 4         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 5         | 1         | 0         | 4         |
|                     | Short .....      | 8         | 2         | 6         | 13        | 12        | 13        | 20        | 19        | 13        | 8         | 17        |
|                     | Adequate .....   | 67        | 57        | 50        | 76        | 63        | 41        | 74        | 70        | 63        | 62        | 70        |
|                     | Surplus .....    | 23        | 41        | 44        | 7         | 25        | 46        | 6         | 11        | 23        | 30        | 9         |
| Subsoil moisture    | Very short ..... | 1         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 4         |
|                     | Short .....      | 6         | 0         | 8         | 7         | 1         | 3         | 9         | 13        | 7         | 4         | 19        |
|                     | Adequate .....   | 71        | 53        | 47        | 83        | 63        | 77        | 83        | 76        | 72        | 71        | 70        |
|                     | Surplus .....    | 22        | 47        | 45        | 9         | 36        | 20        | 8         | 11        | 21        | 25        | 7         |

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals  
May 11, 2026 to May 17, 2026



Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
May 11, 2026 to May 17, 2026



Temperature and Precipitation Maps, courtesy of the Midwest Regional Climate Center, are available at: <https://mrcc.purdue.edu/newclimate/home>

Additional soil moisture data are available at: <https://cloud.csiss.gmu.edu/Crop-CASMA/>