



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

April 16, 2001 - 3 p.m.

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Waiting with Anticipation for Warm Weather

Rain delayed fieldwork for another week. A common comment across the state was "Too much rain, not enough sun, and no field activity." Along with the rain came heavy winds and reports of damage to buildings around the state. Several reporters noticed wetlands and ponds that were down last fall were filling up with spring rains. A Taylor County reporter mentioned that flooding was more of a concern than fieldwork. Wet field conditions limited fieldwork to 1.4 days suitable. Soil moisture was 58% adequate, and 42% surplus.

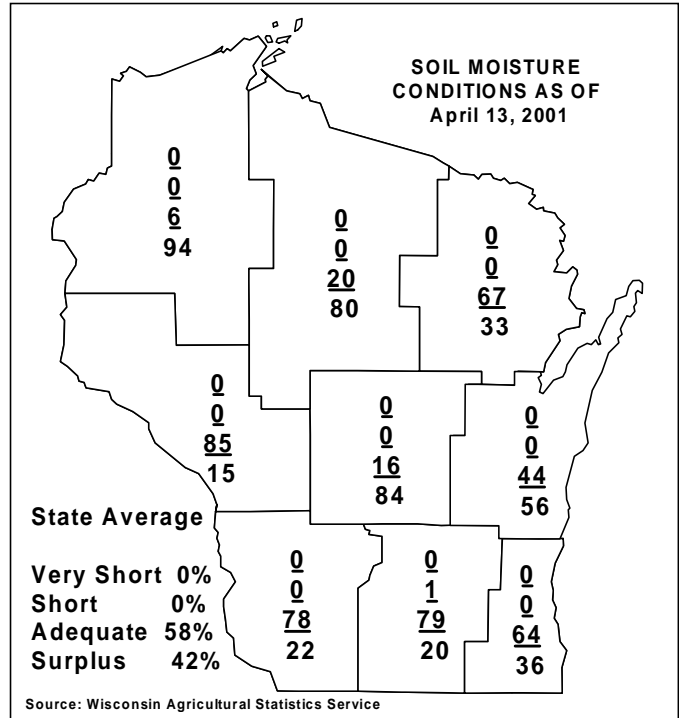
Corn left standing in the field from 2000 experienced wind damage last week. Harvest will be complicated with the down corn and wet field conditions.

Alfalfa, winter wheat, and rye continued to green up, with winter damage not yet noticeable. Winter wheat and pasture fertilization started last week in southern Wisconsin.

Maple Sap season may be near the end. Without the high and low temperature fluctuations, maple sap has slowed considerably. Comments were mixed on syrup yields. Many reporters were hoping for another short sap run to help the yield.

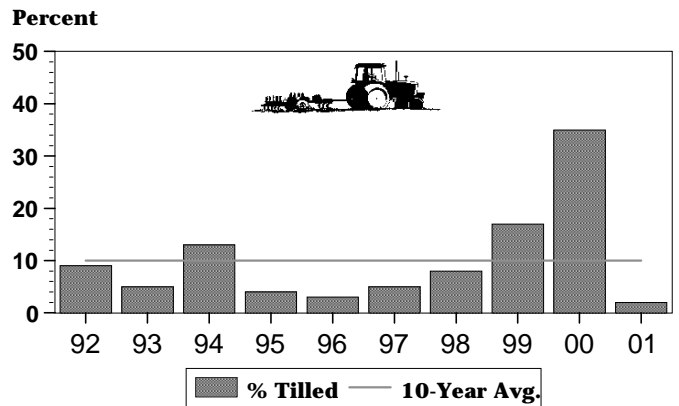
Potato planters were ready to go last week in Waushara County. If field conditions improve this week, potato planting is scheduled to begin.

Spring tillage was 2% complete statewide by the end of last week. Wet conditions kept growers out of the fields. Even light soils would not support the weight of equipment.



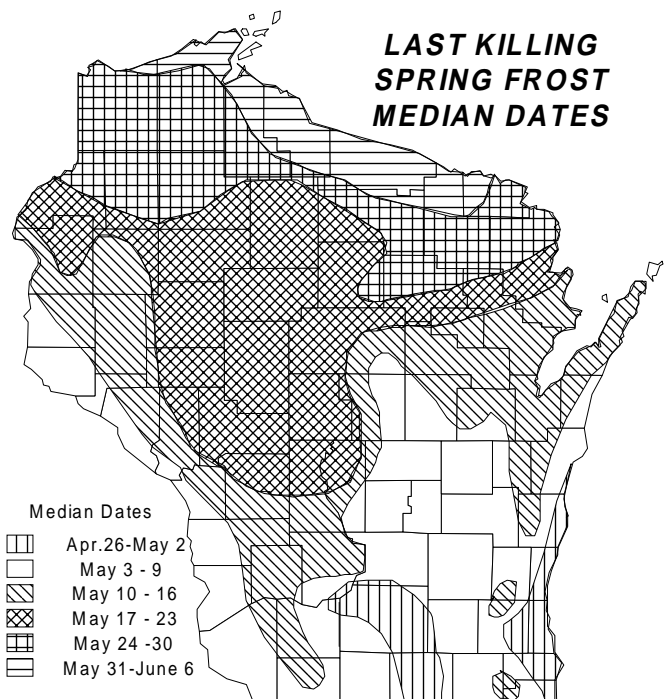
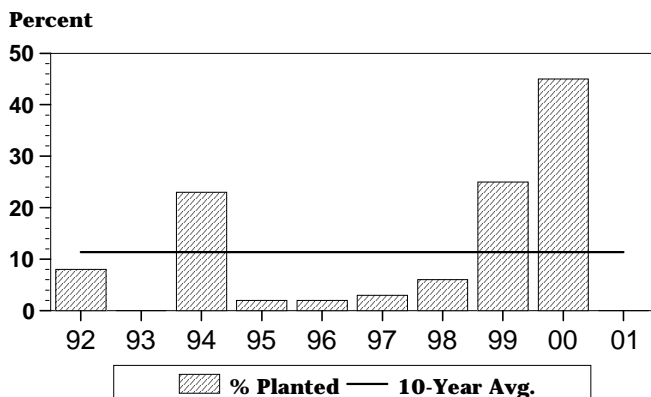
SPRING TILLAGE COMPLETED

State Averages for April 15, 1992-2001



STATE AVERAGE OATS PLANTED

April 15, 1992-2001



Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.D.: Still too cold and wet for fieldwork. Frost is gone. Too early to know about the condition of hayfields. Maple syrup reports are poor.

RUSK-H.D.: Frost is out. Snow has melted, but heavy rains keep the farmers off the fields, except for some manure hauling earlier this week. Maple syrup has been slow; still running, but slow.

PRICE-A.B.: Maple sap is the outdoor sport. Some machinery and barn repair.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Between the snow melting and the amount of rain received, flooding was more of a concern than fieldwork.

FLORENCE-L.O.: Snow cover finally melted off fields. Fields too wet for equipment.

SHAWANO-J.S.: All frost out of the ground. Nearly all snow melted away. Recent rains have kept soil too wet for fieldwork. A small amount of manure spreading on light ground is occurring.

PIERCE-D.J.: Sap season short. Many producers stated that sap is down from last year. High water is now a problem, although some soaked in ground due to very little frost.

TREMPEALEAU-J.Z.: Heavy rain this week; it will take a few days to dry out with ideal drying conditions. More rain predicted for the weekend.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Most frost gone, except under snow banks. Fields are still plenty wet, but are starting to work sandier fields. Will probably be a few potatoes going in on Good Friday, with many growers starting next week. First pea planting scheduled for next week also.

WAUSHARA-A.S.: Wheat and rye greening up nicely. Big rain Tuesday night and Wednesday with 1 to 3 inches. Will be too wet for a few days. Needs to warm up a little more. Potato planters sitting. Acreage for grain looking mighty clean and nice from all the springtime rain.

WOOD-F.M.: Ground is very wet. Hayfields starting to green, but too early to determine if there are any weather-related damages. Corn that is still on fields has lots of wind damage.

BROWN-C.F.: Snow is all gone. More green is coming through on winter wheat. Too early to tell how alfalfa survived the winter. Farmers still getting equipment ready. Turfgrasses are greening a little.

CALUMET-D.G.: No fieldwork done; too wet. No frost in ground. Hay and winter wheat are in excellent condition. No tillage done. Maple syrup season over. Lots of standing water.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: No frost in ground. A little ground was worked. Getting tractors started and equipment removed from storage for maintenance in anticipation of future fieldwork, once fields dry and it warms up.

GRANT-G.C.: One farm direct-seeded some alfalfa; the only farmer in the field. Alfalfa very slow in greening up.

IOWA-K.V.: Winter wheat has been fertilized and is looking good. Everyone is waiting to start fieldwork. Alfalfa looks like it made it through the winter fine.

VERNON-K.A.: Manure hauling and pasture fertilization has started. Wet in some spots yet. Rained 3.3 inches on Wednesday, and predicted cooler weather will delay things another week.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Winter wheat is greening up nicely; hay hasn't started yet. Fields get just about fit and then another rain comes. Rain all seems to soak in very well.

DANE-D.F.: Rains prevented any fieldwork this past week. Alfalfa and winter wheat appear to have wintered quite well.

JEFFERSON-M.H.: Nice 2.0 inch soaking rain early in the week. Still waiting for soil to warm up. Not much field activity yet.

WALWORTH-A.A.: Soft fields; no fieldwork. Winter wheat and alfalfa look good.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Had 1.8 inches of rain for the week. Water puddling in fields; ditches are full. Frost is gone. Hay is .5 to 2.0 inches tall. Wheat is dark green and growing 2 to 3 inches tall. No planting; too wet. Trees starting to bud.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Rainy and cold. New seeding looks okay. Hoping for dry, warm weather.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 15, 2001

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 Apr. 14	Mar. 1 to Apr. 14 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	55	37	64	28	46	3	33	32	2.27	4.59	1.71	6.19
Green Bay	55	39	61	36	47	5	41	28	1.45	3.50	0.38	5.95
La Crosse	60	41	69	32	51	5	56	52	1.66	4.49	1.24	6.67
Madison	61	41	68	36	51	7	70	56	1.41	2.40	-1.02	6.03
Milwaukee	57	41	68	38	49	6	54	n.a.	1.90	2.76	-1.55	7.35

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 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.