



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 24, 2004

Vol. 04, No. 07

Warm, Sunny Days Needed

This past week there was an abundance of rain. Severe thunderstorms and heavy rains over the weekend left ponds of water in some fields and saturated the soil in many areas of the state. In some areas, flooding has become a problem. Farmers, in some areas, have gone from not enough rain to too much rain. Soil moisture conditions were reported to be 3% short, 50% adequate, and 47% surplus. The southcentral area of the state received over 5 inches this past week. The rest of the state received 1 to 3 inches, with the exception being the northeast, which received less than an inch. Season-to-date precipitation is above normal in most parts of the state.

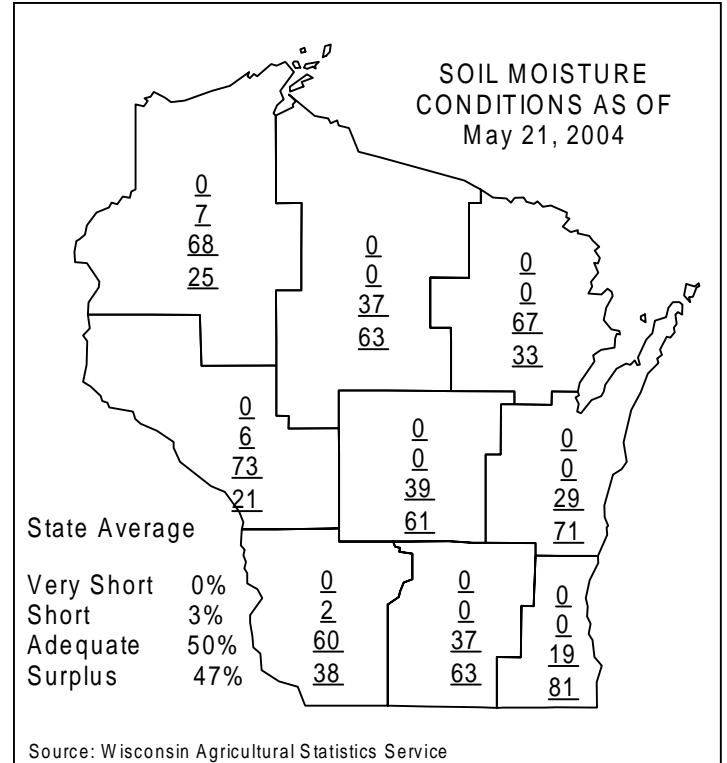
Average temperatures were near normal for this time of year. Temperatures ranged from highs in the mid 80's to lows in the 40's. There was an average of 3.0 days suitable for fieldwork this past week.

Spring tillage is 87% complete, ahead of both last year at 81% and the 5-year average of 85%. Some farmers are reporting frustration with the wet weather. The excess rain is slowing fieldwork down to a crawl. Farmers are hoping for some warm, sunny days to dry out the fields in order to complete spring planting.

Oats emerged are reported at 90%, compared to last year's average of 71% and the 5-year average of 79%. **Corn** planting is reported at 78% completed this year, compared to 70% last year and the 5-year average of 78%. Emergence of corn is reported at 47% this year, ahead of last year's average of 28% and the 5-year average of 43%. **Soybean** planting is reported at 41% completed this year, ahead of last year's average of 33%, but behind the 5-year average of 48%. Soybean emergence is reported at 14% this year, ahead of last year's average of 3% and the 5-year average of 13%. Field crops are showing good growth. Farmers are worried that standing water will cause them to replant some corn and soybeans. It is unclear how much will have to be replanted at this time.

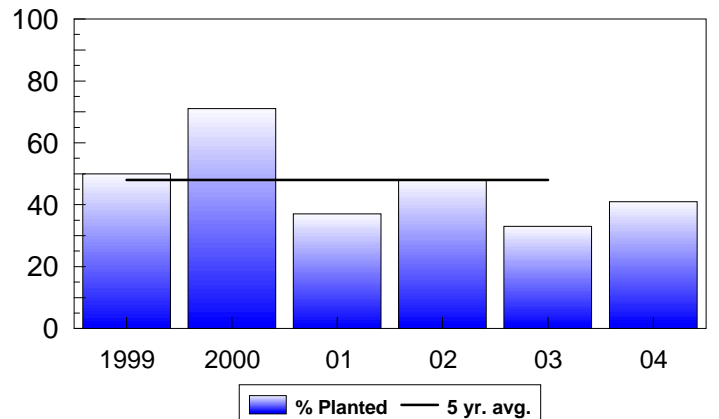
Pasture conditions were reported as 2% very poor, 4% poor, 24% fair, 52% good, and 18% excellent. **Winter wheat** conditions were reported as 1% very poor, 2% poor, 23% fair, 47% good, and 27% excellent.

Sweet cherries in Door County were reported in late bloom stage. **Tart cherries** were reported to be in full bloom. **Apples** were in the late pink to early bloom stage. All fruit trees look good, although slightly behind last year due to the cool weather conditions, cold lake temperature, and a late snow cover.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 21, 2004					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	2	4	24	52	18
Oats	0	2	25	54	19
Winter wheat	1	2	23	47	27

Percentage of Soybeans Planted
May 23, 1999-2004
Wisconsin



Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
	Oats emerged	86	89	77	96	96	71	97	99	100	90	71
Corn planted	77	85	49	82	75	61	88	83	83	78	70	78
Corn emerged	23	25	12	32	47	27	78	66	70	47	28	43
Soybeans planted	38	37	21	32	47	28	69	39	40	41	33	48
Soybeans emerged	3	1	2	3	13	3	41	19	16	14	3	13
Spring tillage completed	90	91	73	93	82	76	95	85	90	87	81	85

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Corn is beginning to emerge. Some hay is being harvested as green chop. Weeds are beginning to emerge in corn fields planted earlier this month.

POLK-C.S.: Alfalfa survived the winter quite well. Winter wheat fields were destroyed and planted to other crops. The few fields that remain are improving with heat and rain. Most crops have been planted. The last of the soybeans are going in. Crops are emerging slowly; more heat is needed. Post emerge sprays are going on fields.

ASHLAND-A.R.: Fields too wet for fieldwork. Grains are planted and emerging. Lots of corn has been planted.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Wet weather stalled planting, and the cold weather is holding crops back. Ginseng is two weeks behind and hayfields are slow growing. Oats look good so far, but corn is just peeking out.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Very little fieldwork done again this week. Some corn is starting to emerge. With rain still falling, we will probably start switching to soybeans on those fields that were intended for corn when it dries up again.

BUFFALO-R.S.: There has been no field activity, too wet. Rye is all headed out. Alfalfa is very tall, but no buds yet, but saw some haylage harvested. Emerged corn is yellow and standing in water. Hard to get in fields to spray corn before emergence.

MONROE-W.H.: Recent rainfall and wet, cool soil conditions has slowed fieldwork down to a crawl. This week most of the alfalfa will likely be in the optimum stage for first cutting harvest. Wet field conditions will probably delay that harvest.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Slow going, only can work on sandy soils. Too wet to spray corn. Weeds are emerging rapidly. Potatoes are emerging and looking good. Sweet corn, soybean, and snap bean planting is going on sandy soils.

WOOD-M.L.: How quickly things change. Soil is now saturated and the remaining fields to plant will be a while. Water is standing on planted fields. Hay has lodged, but is growing well. Hay will need to start coming off soon.

Dandelions have been prominent this spring, but now hay growth should be ahead of the dandelions.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Alfalfa and winter wheat are very good. Not much winterkill unless water stood in spots.

Nothing was done this week, too much rain. Lots of corn, soybeans, and oats to plant yet.

OUTAGAMIE-E.A.: Alfalfa looks very good. Much too much rain; fields too wet to work.

GRANT-G.C.: All alfalfa is in excellent shape. Everything looks good. Corn and soybeans have emerged with no hard crust to break through. There is not much weed pressure yet. All crops that were going to be planted on time have been planted, with excellent emergence the last few days.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: Will be several thousand acres of corn and/or soybeans that will probably need to be replanted if dryer weather allows.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Too much rain to get into the fields. Corn and soybeans are still to be planted. The corn that is up has poor color. Alfalfa is just about ready, looks great.

DANE-D.F.: Weekend rains have stopped all fieldwork. Five to ten percent of fields may need replanting or be lost due to flooding. Reports of winter wheat starting to head out, also some lodging. Alfalfa ready to harvest once soil dries enough to harvest.

RACINE-L.F.: Rains have to stop soon. Large areas of pooled water means replanting on many farms.

WALWORTH-P.R.: Cool, wet conditions are preventing fieldwork and slowing emergence. Some areas will have to be replanted. Alfalfa weevil larvae is present. Some alfalfa is ready to be cut, but will be delayed because of rain.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 23, 2004

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 22	Mar. 1 to May 22 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	70	46	77	37	58	-1	386	347	0.67	7.13	-0.14	10.07
Green Bay	68	48	82	42	58	0	310	291	1.45	10.13	3.68	12.98
La Crosse	73	52	80	46	63	1	504	405	2.63	10.45	2.77	12.70
Madison	71	49	84	39	60	1	433	398	5.46	12.27	4.46	14.33
Milwaukee	68	47	85	40	58	0	383	n.a.	3.06	12.36	3.90	14.89

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.