

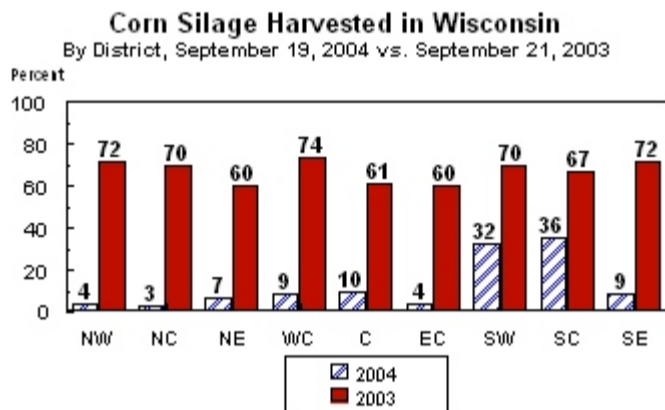
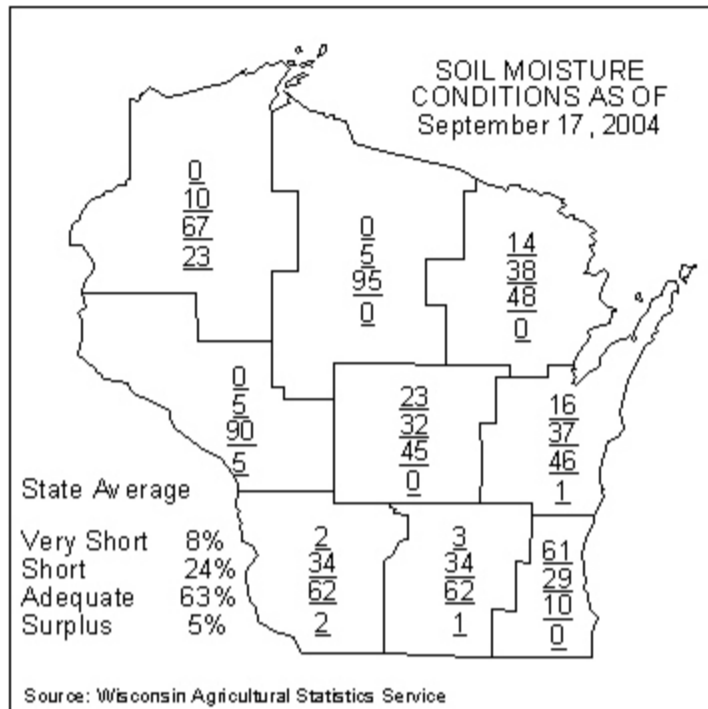
Rain and Warm Temperatures Helpful

Last week's warm temperatures and scattered rains were helpful to most crops, especially the corn and soybeans. Temperatures were 5 to 8 degrees above normal for this time of year, ranging from the low 40s to the mid 80s. Growing degree days are generally below normal in most parts of the state, except in the west central area where they are normal. In the west central part of the state, around 3 inches of much needed rain fell. Trace amounts of precipitation were reported throughout the rest of the state. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 8% very short, 24% short, 63% adequate, and 5% surplus. There was an average of 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

In the northwestern, west central, and southwestern parts of the state, the warm September temperatures and rain has improved the outlook for the **corn** crop. Corn is starting to mature nicely and chopping has begun. Corn silage quantity and quality look good in the western parts of the state. Corn for grain has started to mature, but is two weeks behind normal. Some ears and husks are starting to turn brown. In the eastern and southeastern parts of the state, the lack of moisture is becoming critical. **Soybeans** in the western and southwestern parts of the state look good. Soybeans are turning yellow and starting to drop their leaves. In the central parts of the state, a lot of the soybeans are still green and some farmers are considering harvesting for silage. In the eastern part of the state, the lack of moisture is starting to show. Some areas are reporting small pods and little beans. Third crop **hay** is about complete across the state with most farmers reporting a good crop. The fourth crop hay looks good in most areas of the state. Farmers are keeping their fingers crossed hoping for a late frost.

Corn in dough stage is at 80%, behind both last year's 100%, and the 5-year average of 97%. Corn in dent stage was reported at 43%, well behind both last year's 82%, and the 5-year average of 80%. Corn in the mature stage was reported at 5%, well below last year's 30%, and the 5-year average of 29%. Corn is being harvested for silage and was reported at 14% complete, well behind last year's 62%, and the 5-year average of 41%. **Soybeans** turning color were reported at 56%, behind both last year's 86%, and the 5-year average of 81%. Soybeans dropping leaves were reported at 27%, behind last year's 52%, and the 5-year average of 43%. Third cutting **hay** harvest is 89% complete, behind last year's 93%, and the 5-year average of 92%. Fourth cutting hay was reported at 21% complete, behind last year's 25%, and the 5-year average of 28%.

Cranberry growers have had to delay the start of the harvest season because the warm temperatures are delaying the berries from turning red. **Sweet corn** and **potato** harvest is going strong with potatoes looking to be a very good crop. **Beets**, **green beans**, and other vegetables are still being harvested. **Pears** and **plums** are almost ripe.



Item	V-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	4	12	39	40	5
Soybeans	3	11	28	45	13
Corn	6	20	21	40	13



Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 19, 2004

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
Corn in dough stage	67	73	51	80	85	68	95	88	81	80	100	97
Corn in dent stage	22	14	20	31	36	24	73	59	47	43	82	80
Corn mature	7	1	2	4	9	1	5	5	8	5	30	29
Corn hrvt. for silage	4	3	7	9	10	4	32	36	9	14	62	41
Soybeans turning color	35	20	24	50	40	31	80	74	46	56	86	81
Soybean dropping leaves	11	2	4	19	6	10	60	36	23	27	52	43
Third cutting hay	87	85	88	87	97	88	89	93	88	89	93	92
Fourth cutting hay	11	8	6	26	15	15	31	40	12	21	25	28

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Corn crop is poor with few cobs. Second crop hay is short and very little on the fields. Many farmers will be short on feed. Hay is at a premium.

POLK-C.S.: Third and fourth crop hay is yielding quite good. Most has been put up in good condition. Corn and soybeans have a good chance to produce good grain if frost holds off until our average freeze date. Corn is starting to dent, but fields vary a lot. Still looking for a milk line.

PRICE-M.K.: More rain this week is just what we needed. Topsoil moisture is in good shape, and there was enough to start replenishing sub-soil moisture, as well. Continued warm weather is helping all crops.

VILAS-L.K.: Some first crop hay is still being made. Rye is being harvested.

FOREST-A.K.: Second crop hay has been put up. Corn is growing nicely. Combining of oats going on, it is a fair crop.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Heavy rain has arrived in some places of the county while others didn't get more than a few drops, leaving some very dry soil areas. Some are starting to plant wheat this week. Corn will begin to come off this next week for silage on those fields that were planted early. A few soybean fields are starting to lose their leaves.

DUNN-S.S.: Rain and above normal temperatures are doing a lot for the corn, soybeans, and hay as well. Still some third crop hay to be made. Corn and soybeans still could use another two weeks. Have not heard of any reports of corn plant moisture. The corn that has been made for silage is not the greatest. Most of it froze early and started drying up.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Recent rain and warm weather have improved the outlook for corn and soybeans greatly. Hay will be going into winter in better condition this year than last year.

WAUPACA-D.H.: The good weather is favorable for harvesting third and fourth crop hay. Yields are below normal due to dry weather. Quality is excellent. Corn is maturing now that it has warmed up. Soybeans are turning color. We hope the killing frost holds off for a least a month to allow row crops to mature.

WOOD-F.M.: Warm weather has helped soybeans and corn to develop. Hay supplies are reported as being above average.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Not much hay being cut this week. Oats look good. A few grasshoppers around. No silage being made around here.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Alfalfa crop has been very good despite the dry conditions. Need rain soon to help the soybeans mature. The late corn also needs rain and warm weather. Some have started to fill silo or bags with corn or third crop alfalfa. Corn seems to be about at the right moisture for harvest.

GRANT-E.B.: Even though the soil is dry, the high humidity makes it hard to get hay dry. A few fields of soybeans have been hit hard with white mold. Lots of corn leaf diseases showing up within the last 10 days.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Corn silage is average or better. Will start soybean harvest this week

DODGE-G.R.: Third crop alfalfa cutting continues. Weather has been dry enough for some baling. Most is haylage bound into silos, bags, or bunkers. Corn is slowly maturing, but most will not be ready unless 1st killing frost is late. Some winter wheat ground being prepared; not much planted locally as yet. Soybeans have been turning color rapidly this week.

ROCK-S.H.: Powdery mildew in soybeans and alfalfa. Wind leveled some corn acres. Corn roots are poor due to laying in soybean ground the previous year and feeding on un-protected roots. Some are harvesting soybeans, moisture at 13%. Corn yields are going to be below earlier expectations.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: This year we are getting hit on both ends of the growing season. Spring rain and fall drought. Soybeans had a chance of an average crop, but they are losing yield every day now.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Very dry, corn is not filling. Soybeans aborting pods, which are poor, close to 100% loss.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
608-224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia
Director

Michael Lester
Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 19, 2004

City	Temperature						Growing Degree Days 1/ (Modified Base 50)		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	March 1 to Sept 18	March 1 to Sept. 18 normal*	Last week	Since Sept 1	Sept 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	78	56	86	47	67	8	2294	2341	2.71	3.16	0.73	24.85
Green Bay	79	55	84	42	67	8	2132	2205	0.20	0.57	-1.39	25.63
La Crosse	79	57	87	49	68	5	2633	2634	3.25	3.39	1.21	36.47
Madison	79	57	85	45	68	8	2437	2578	0.61	1.08	-0.91	33.31
Milwaukee	78	60	86	53	69	6	2333	n.a.	0.21	0.24	-1.94	27.62

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>. T = trace. n.a. = not available.

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