



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

April 22, 2002

Vol. 02, No. 3

## Suddenly Summer

Locations throughout the state saw temperatures reach the mid-eighties to low-nineties at least one day last week; 15 degrees above normal. There were 4.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week. The sudden good weather early in the week caused a jump in field activity for the state. By the end of the week temperatures decreased, and most of the state received some precipitation. Planting progress varies across the state, as weather conditions resulted in areas with less than ideal field conditions.

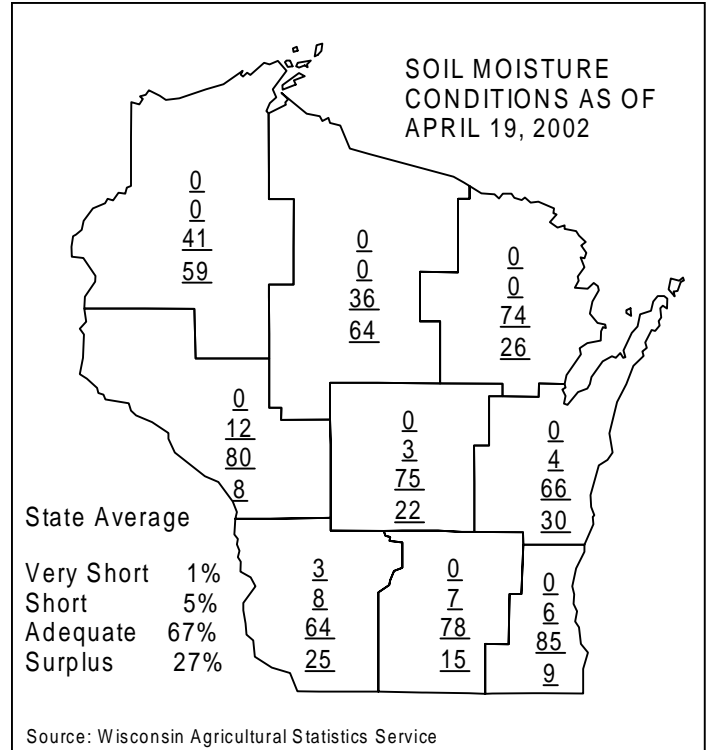
The northern districts reported frost out of the ground leaving soft, wet field conditions early in the week. Later in the week localized heavy rainfall or light snow accumulation resulted in minimal field activity. Central Wisconsin districts reported several farmers busy sowing oats on lighter soils and preparing for corn planting, while other farmers were waiting for the fields to dry after localized rain. A few farmers reported planting **corn** in the southern districts last week, as warm temperatures and southerly winds created ideal conditions. Many farmers reported planting oats and applying Anhydrous Ammonia to fields in southern Wisconsin.

**Oats** planted reached 29 percent complete, ahead of last year's 7 percent and the 5-year average of 27 percent. Southern Wisconsin districts reached 50 to 75 percent complete after last week's increased temperatures, well ahead of the northern two-thirds of the state.

**Winter wheat, alfalfa** and **pasture** fields were reported looking great as last week's warm temperatures brought the "green" out in fields for the southern two-thirds of the state. Pasture conditions were reported 69 percent good-to-excellent, statewide.

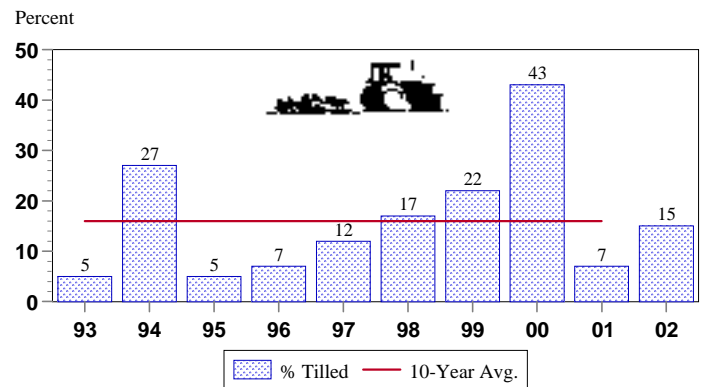
**Spring tillage** averaged 15 percent complete, ahead of last year's 7 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 20 percent. Southern Wisconsin farmers reported fertilizer and some herbicide applications last week.

The **maple syrup** run reached completion last week with warm temperatures and budded trees in some locations. A Waushara County farmers reported planting **potatoes** and **peas**. **Asparagus** harvest was reported in Door County during last week's warm weather.



Wisconsin Crop Condition as of April 19, 2002					
Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	4	5	22	50	19

**SPRING TILLAGE COMPLETED**  
Wisconsin State Average  
April 21, 1993-2002



Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 21, 2002												
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 planted	6	1	5	16	9	9	67	51	75	29	7	27
Spring tillage	3	1	10	18	9	16	24	13	32	15	7	20

**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**BURNETT-R.B.:** Frost is almost all gone, but too wet to get in the fields.

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Some tillage and oat planting took place last week. Snow over the weekend put an end to any fieldwork.

Alfalfa stands appear to have survived the winter well. Apple growers concerned about snow and cold temperatures.

**ONEIDA-P.L.:** Saw some seed potatoes loaded and ready for planting, but looks like it might be a while yet. The maple trees are budded, so it looks like the syrup season is over. We only had a few days to collect sap.

**MARATHON-M.K.:** Still wet in fields. Some of the hayfields did have some damage.

**TAYLOR-D.E.:** The snow yesterday did not help matters at all. Fields were getting green and grass was growing, but fieldwork right now is in a holding pattern.

**FOREST-A.K.:** Maple syrup season was good. No fieldwork as of yet.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Warm weather has really helped both wheat and alfalfa get off to a good start. Some of the plants showed signs of distress, and those couple of warm dry days got them in a healthier position.

**JACKSON-J.W.:** Farmers are busy sowing oats and getting ready for corn planting. Alfalfa came through just fine and looks great.

**MONROE-W.D.:** Warm weather helped the hay get a good start. Many farmers sowing oats. Hayfields look great, no winterkill. Had some rain, but not enough to stop all work.

**PEPIN-H.R.:** Potato planting good on the sandy soils. Maple syrup season has ended, better season than last year. Some corn planted on the sandy soils. Alfalfa really looking good.

**JUNEAU-R.C.:** Some alfalfa was planted on Tuesday and Wednesday. Hay and wheat fields look good now, as they are turning green.

**WAUSHARA-A.S.:** Some farmers are planting potatoes and peas. Too late to sow the oats. Can not tell pasture conditions. Can not tell damage to winter wheat; too early to tell, although it doesn't appear to be much damage.

**CALUMET-M.G.:** Hay and winter wheat looks great!

**OUTAGAMIE-E.W.:** Most fields have soft spots and only manure hauling being done at present. Maple syrup season was

reportedly very good locally. Hay and wheat fields both look good, and pasture greening up nicely. No planting done yet.

**WINNEBAGO-J.K.:** First week where fields were dry enough to work. Some oats and alfalfa seedings have gone in.

**GRANT-G.C.:** Everything looks green. Alfalfa came through the winter in good condition. Some oats are up and easily rowed. Corn being no-tilled into bean ground. Fields are working up nicely.

**IOWA-K.V.:** About 2 percent of the corn acres are planted. Pastures and hayfields have changed over night since we had warm weather.

**GREEN-F.Z.:** Alfalfa has grown 6 to 8 inches. Some oats are up. Have not heard of any corn planted yet-will be soon probably.

**JEFFERSON-C.B.:** Spring tillage and manure applications began with the unseasonable high temperatures. Saw two planters rolling into no-till corn on Thursday. Winter wheat survived the winter remarkably, finding 14 to 20 plants per square foot. Alfalfa is starting to regrow, seedings are beginning to green up! Next week will give us better conditions to begin checking hayfields. Don't anticipate any problems.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Anhydrous Ammonia applied, and most are done with oats. Very few corn planters going with weather forecast of 30-degree nights. Peas are in the ground. Alfalfa looks like it came through the winter in very good shape, little winterkill.

**RACINE-L.F.:** With the wonderful summer-like weather last week, a few got the itch to get going. Saw some no-till soybeans going in!

**WALWORTH-A.A.:** Lots of fertilizer and some herbicide being applied. Manure being spread. One farmer planted 60 acres of corn on Thursday.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 21, 2002**

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 April 20	Mar. 1 to April 20 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	74	48	91	31	61	15	124	69	0.40	4.33	0.60	6.41
Green Bay	72	46	84	33	59	14	114	59	0.43	3.30	-0.45	5.40
La Crosse	75	53	90	38	64	15	151	93	0.46	3.52	-0.67	6.16
Madison	75	50	87	37	62	16	149	96	0.48	4.02	-0.49	6.82
Milwaukee	75	51	88	37	63	17	143	n.a.	0.53	4.52	-0.61	7.42

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.