







# AgWOW

### Ag Weather Outlook for Wisconsin

Week of August 12, 2025

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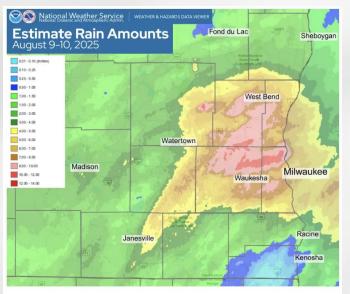
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### **Key Points**

Navigate to select slides by clicking on the links below.

- 1) Last week was characterized by torrential downpours and severe storms.
- 2) Precip was concentrated in the south, with widespread 2" and large pockets of 5". Pockets of >10" near Milwaukee.
- 3) Soil moisture made jumps after the rains, and drought is still non-existent in WI.
- 4) Late August is showing a lean towards being <u>cooler than normal</u> statewide.
- For this week's agronomic recommendations from UW Extension, click <u>here</u>.
- For this week's crop progress updates from USDA NASS, click <u>here</u>.

### Wx Highlight → Torrential Downpours & Severe Storms



Precipitation analysis of radar from August 9-10, 2025. Source: NOAA's Weather & Hazards Data Viewer.

- Historic deluge: 5-12" of rain fell overnight Aug 9-10 across southeast WI.
  - One location in NW Milwaukee reported a 24-hour rain total of 14.5" this report needs to be verified.
- Severe impacts: Rivers hit record crests and major flooding closed roads, canceled events, and cut power.
- More info: <u>climatology.nelson.wisc.edu/historic-flooding-in-southeast-wisconsin-august-2025/</u>

- Powerful winds & storms: Severe thunderstorms swept across east-central WI on Aug 9.
  - Wind gusts up to **55 mph** recorded in Door County.
  - 48-hour rain totals of 1"+.
- Widespread impacts: Hundreds of trees were knocked over as well as powerlines and structures, lightning struck a hiker and a home, and a waterspout was spotted over Lake Winnebago.
- More info: www.weather.gov/grb/20250809 Severe



### Citizen Science Opportunity: Special Promo

### CoCoRaHS - Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow Network

### The Mission

(From cocorahs.org)

- Provide accurate high-quality precipitation data for end-users;
- Increasing the density of precipitation data available throughout the country;
- Encouraging citizens to have fun participating in meteorological science and heightening their awareness about weather;
- Providing weather education opportunities.



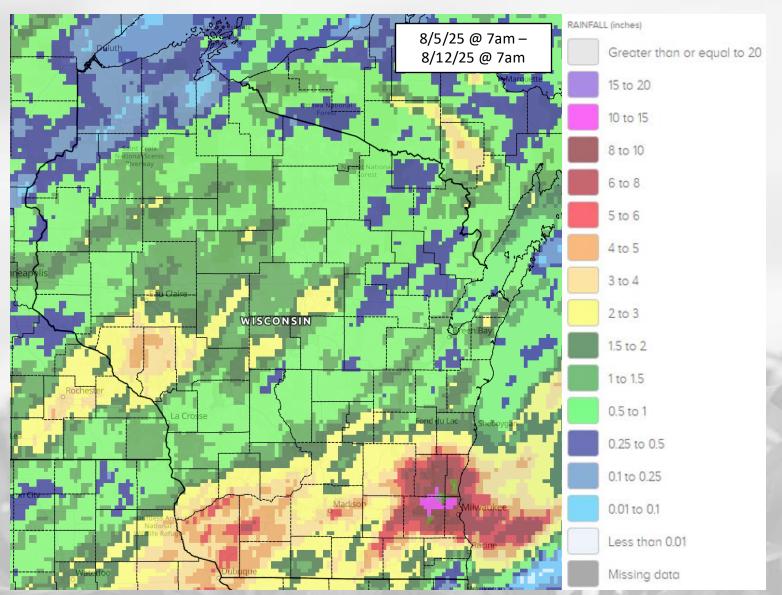
#### Sign Up Here:

https://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=application

#### SPECIAL PROMOTION

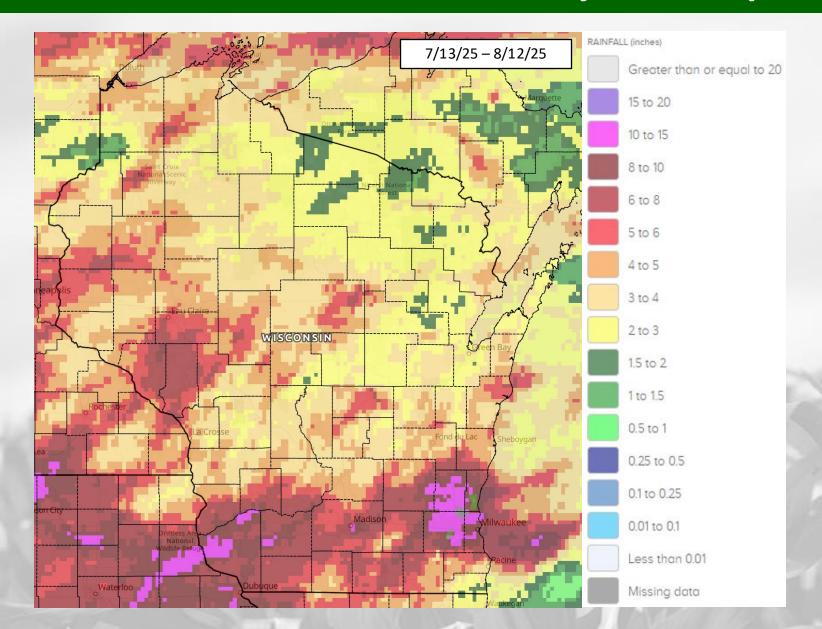
- In the wake of the historic flooding event in Milwaukee, there is a special promotion for \$8 off any CoCoRaHS gauge (no quantity limit).
  - Use code: WISCOCO8 at <u>weatheryourway.com/collections/cocorahs-gauge-parts</u>
  - Now through September 10<sup>th</sup>
- Free shipping is also available on any order over \$55 (no code necessary).

## 7 Day Precip



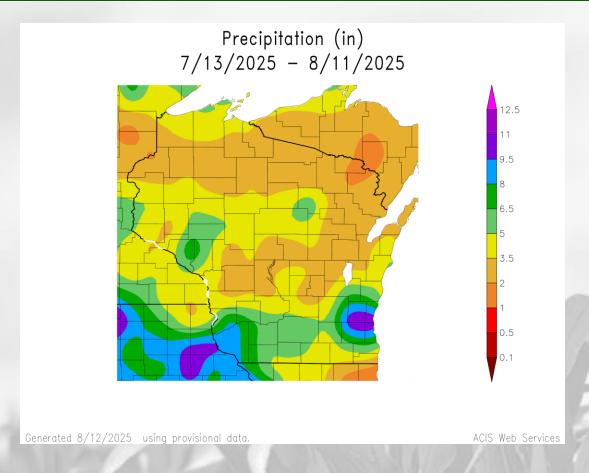
- Highest totals in the southern tiers of counties.
  - At least 2" widespread, with large pockets of 5" or more.
  - >10" on the northwest side of Milwaukee.
- **0.5-2"** for much of central & northern WI.
- <0.5" for far NW WI and pockets elsewhere.

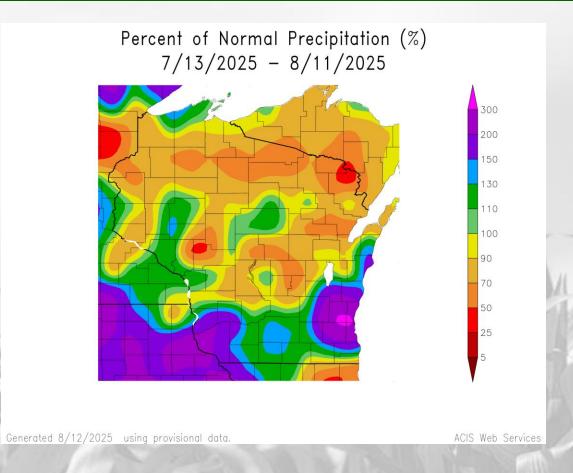
## 30 Day Precip



- **5-8"** across southern & westcentral WI.
- Localized areas of 10" or more in SE and SW WI.
- 2-4" for central to northwestern WI, and <2" from east-central to northeast WI.

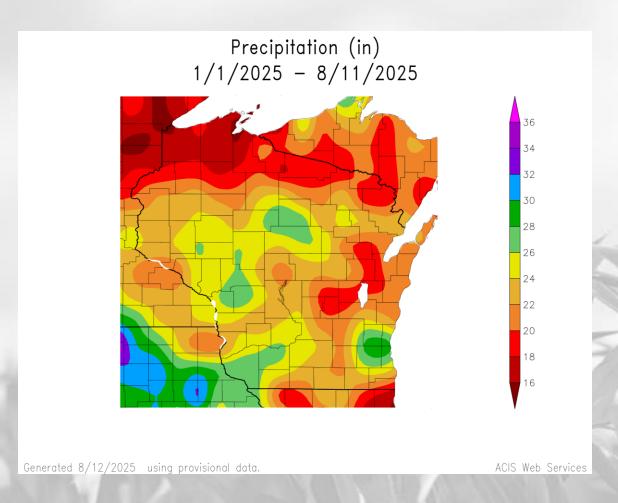
## 30 Day Precip Total/Percent Avg.

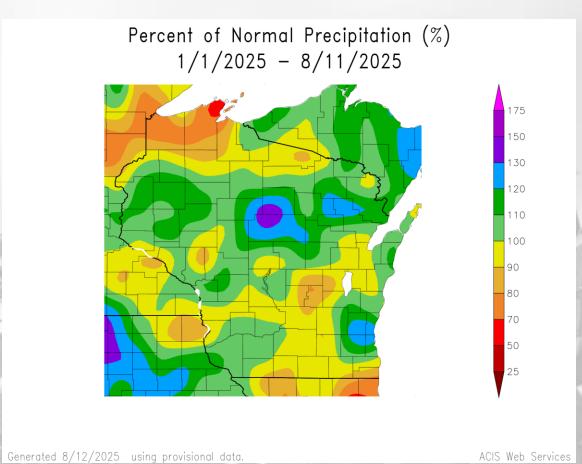




- 150% or more of normal in the southeast and southwest totals 5" or more.
- Above normal for south-central and west-central WI totals of 3.5-6.5".
- Below normal for most of central and northern WI totals 3.5" or less.

## 2025 Precipitation (so far)





### Soil Moisture Models

- Near-normal soil moisture levels in the top 1 meter of soil across most of WI.
- Above normal levels across southern WI following multiple inches of rainfall last week.
- Below normal levels remain in parts of the far NW and NE after low precip totals over the past 3 weeks. East-central and far SE remain below normal despite last week's rainfall.

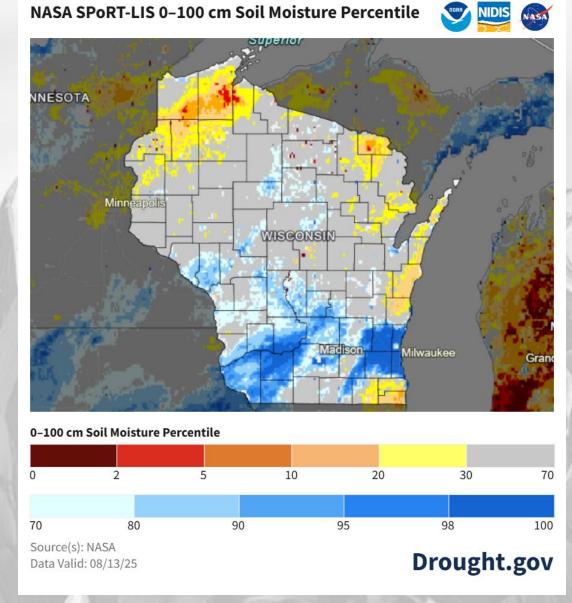
#### Model Notes:

Red areas = top 5 driest in 100 years.

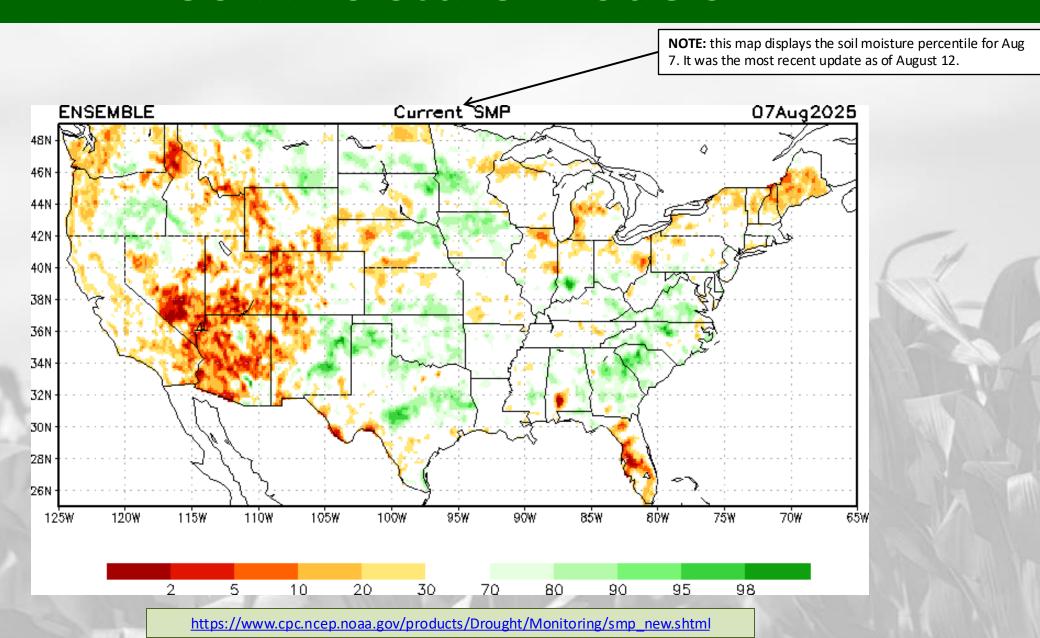
Dark red areas = top 2 driest in 100 years.

Blue areas = top 2 wettest in 100 years.

It's worth noting that each soil moisture model has their own characteristics and input variables, so there tends to be variation between models. Thus, it's worthwhile to look at multiple models opposed to just one.

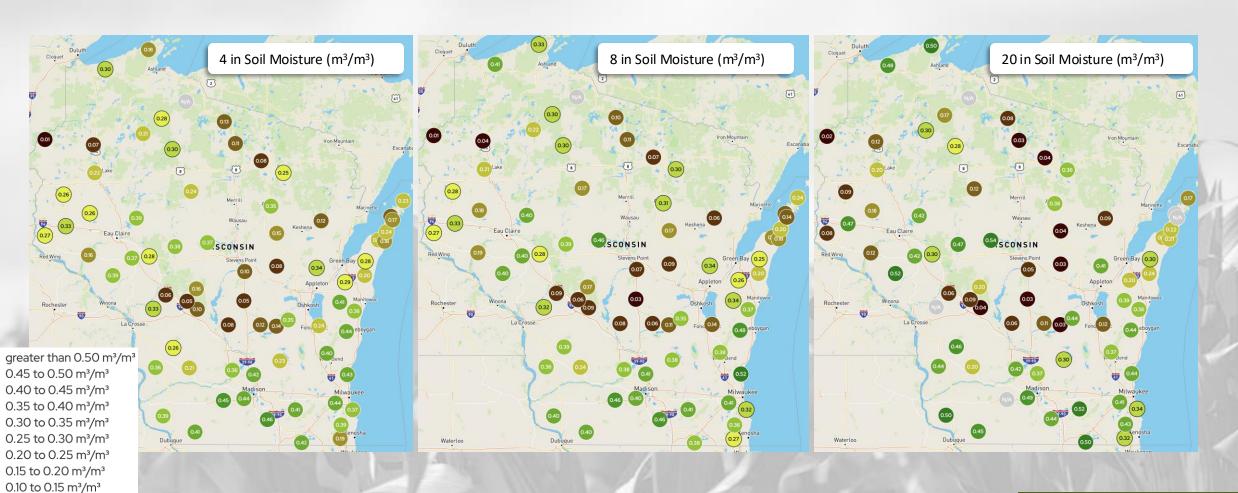


### Soil Moisture Models



### Wisconet Soil Moisture

Maps showing soil moisture conditions on August 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10am. Units of map values are {Volume of water}/{Volume of soil}.



https://wisconet.wisc.edu/

0.05 to 0.10 m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup>

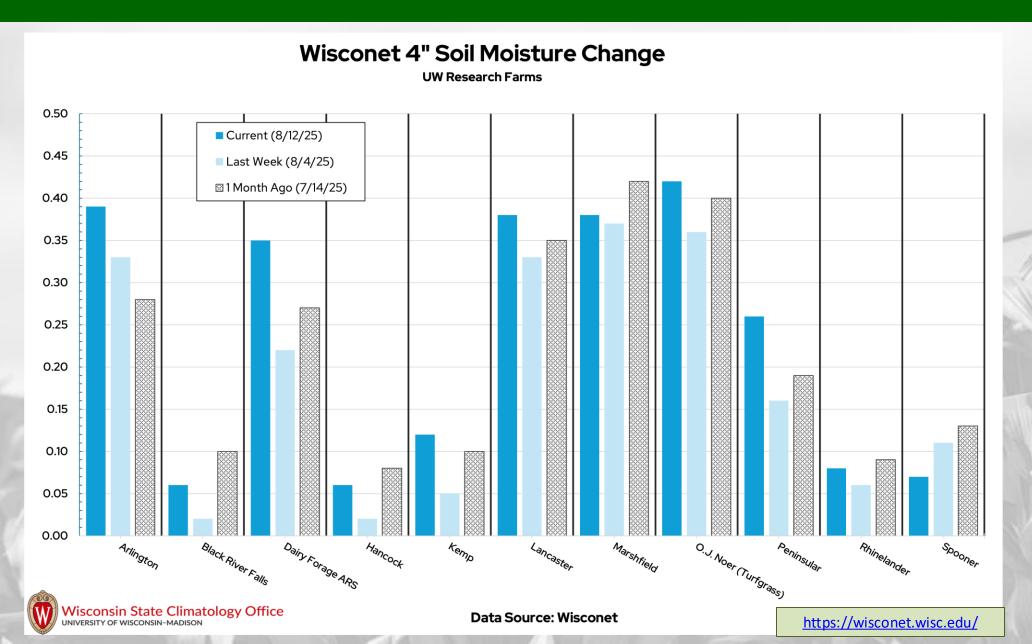
0.00 to 0.05 m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup>

### Wisconet Soil Moisture

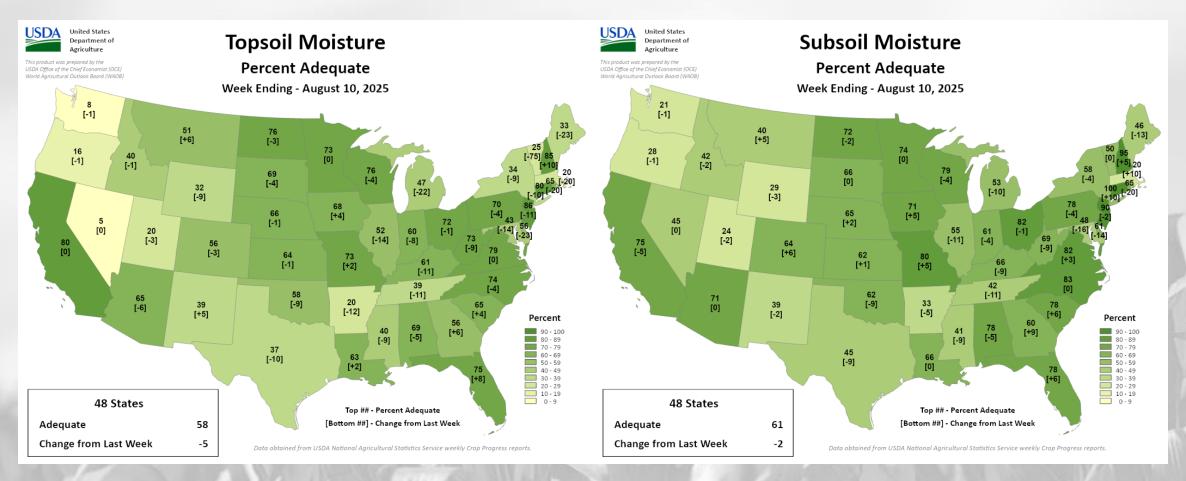
Change in soil moisture from August 4<sup>th</sup> (Start) to August 11<sup>th</sup> (End). Units of change values are {Volume of water}/{Volume of soil}.

Research Farm	County	Total Precip (in)	4" Change (Start) (End)		8" Change (Start) (End)		20" Change (Start) (End)	
Arlington	Columbia	0.91	0.33	0.39	0.30	0.37	0.37	0.37
Black River Falls	Jackson	0.97	0.02	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.07	0.06
Dairy Forage ARS	Sauk	3.04	0.22	0.35	0.29	0.37	0.34	0.41
Hancock	Waushara	0.50	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.03
Kemp	Oneida	0.88	0.05	0.12	0.06	0.12	0.04	0.03
Lancaster	Grant	3.13	0.33	0.38	0.36	0.39	0.48	0.5
Marshfield	Marathon	0.94	0.37	0.38	0.46	0.46	0.54	0.54
O.J. Noer (Turfgrass)	Dane	2.42	0.36	0.42	0.37	0.39	0.47	0.48
Peninsular	Door	1.25	0.16	0.26	0.16	0.20	0.23	0.22
Rhinelander	Oneida	0.75	0.06	0.08	0.05	0.07	0.04	0.04
Spooner	Washburn	0.50	0.11	0.07	0.08	0.04	0.13	0.12

### Wisconet Soil Moisture



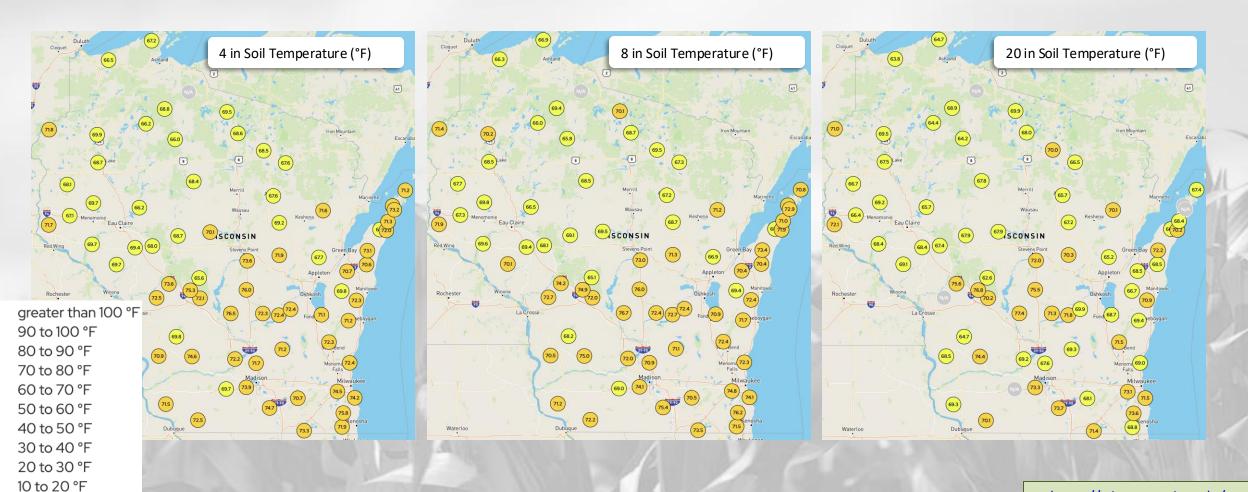
### Adequate Soil Moisture



- 76-79% of agricultural soils in the state reporting adequate topsoil and subsoil moisture.
- 13% of fields in the state are reported as having short to very short top and subsoil moisture, a small increase from last week.

## Wisconet Soil Temperature

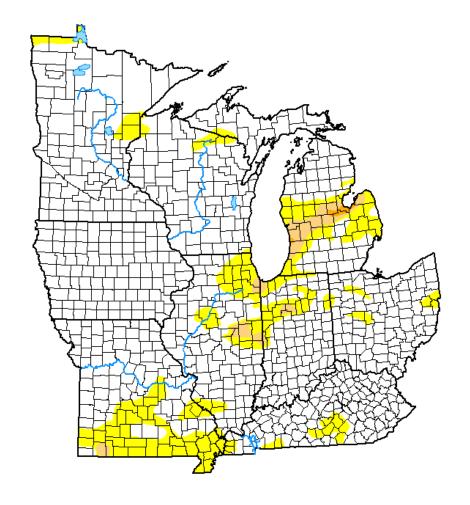
Maps showing soil temperature conditions on August 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10am.



less than 10 °F

### **US Drought Monitor**

### U.S. Drought Monitor Midwest



#### August 12, 2025

(Released Thursday, Aug. 14, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	84.44	15.56	1.97	0.16	0.00	0.00
Last Week 08-05-2025	90.30	9.70	1.83	0.16	0.00	0.00
3 Month's Ago 05-13-2025	59.19	40.81	7.93	0.11	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	44.12	55.88	29.47	3.56	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	21.78	78.22	28.15	6.40	1.46	0.66
One Year Ago 08-13-2024	80.24	19.76	4.29	1.33	0.01	0.00

#### Intensity:

None D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.

Local conditions may vary. For more information on the

Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

#### Author:

Richard Tinker CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP









droughtmonitor.unl.edu

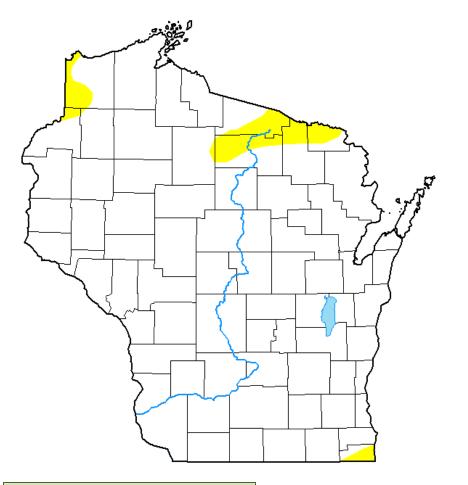
- Midwest: Compared to last week:
  - Increase in D0 coverage.
  - Minimal change in D1-D4 coverage.
- Midwest: 1 class degradation in northeast MN and along the MI/WI border. No change around the Chicago area.
- Wisconsin: The state is still drought-free!
   Isolated pockets of D0 still remain in the far
   SE and around the MI border in the north.
- 98% of the Midwest is drought free (2% in D1 or D2).

Note: D0 is not considered drought.

## **US Drought Monitor**

U.S. Drought Monitor

### Wisconsin



#### August 12, 2025

(Released Thursday, Aug. 14, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	95.74	4.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 08-05-2025	98.22	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Month s Ago 05-13-2025	56.53	43.47	5.69	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	36.12	63.88	39.54	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	18.68	81.32	29.83	8.45	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 08-13-2024	68.33	31.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

#### Intensity:

None

D2 Severe Drought

D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought

D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

#### Amount of state in:

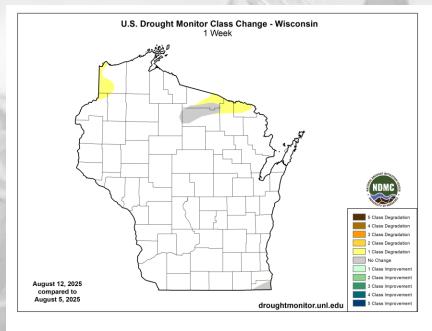
• D1-D4 - 0.0% --

• D2-D4 - 0.0% --

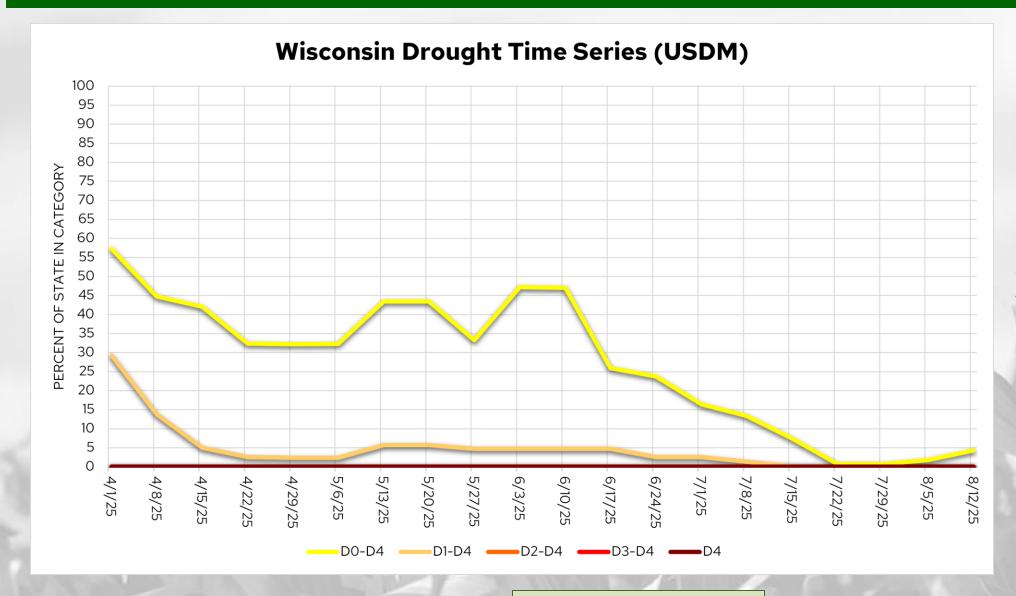
• D3-D4 - 0.0% --

• D4 - 0.0% --

<u>Note</u>: ↑↓ indicate change from last week. Red up arrows indicate increase in drought area; vice-versa for green arrows. -- indicates no change from last week.



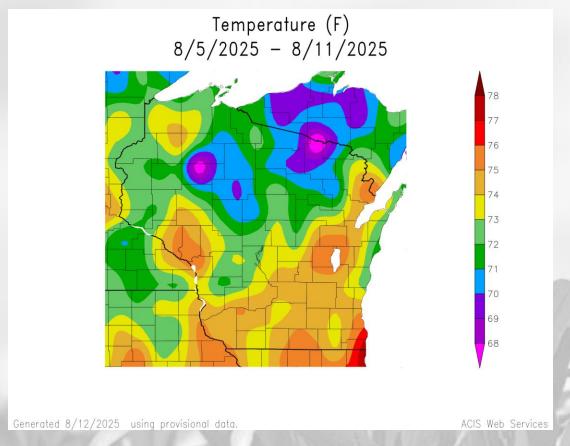
### **USDM Time Series**

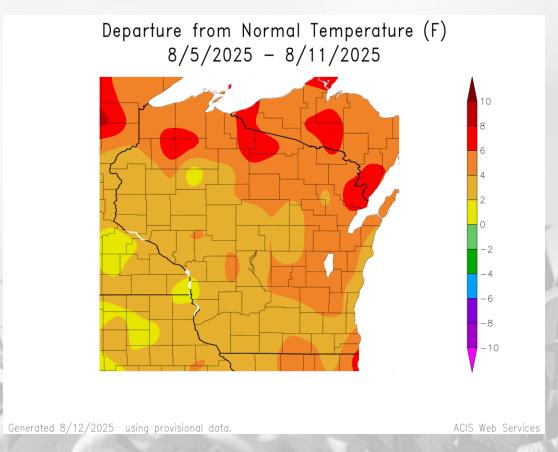


Minimal change in conditions since last week, with a slight increase in D0 coverage.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

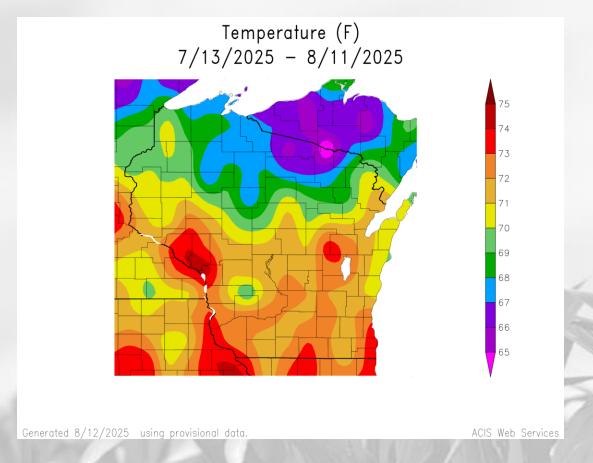
### 7 Day Temperatures

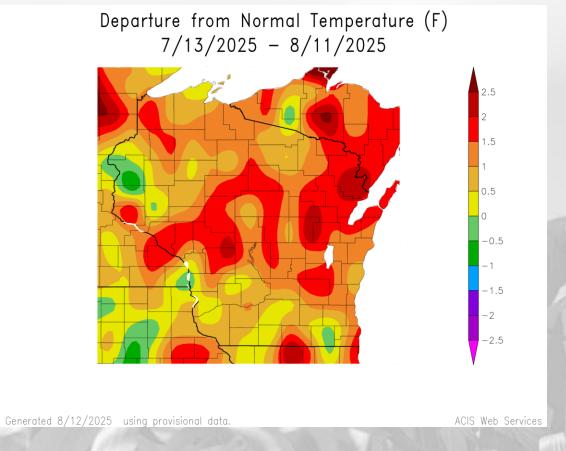




- Average temp. range of 73-76°F from south to west-central, NE, and far NW WI; to 68-73°F from central to N WI.
- Warmer-than-normal conditions were prominent statewide (2-6°F above normal), especially in the north (4-8°F above normal).

### 30 Day Temperatures

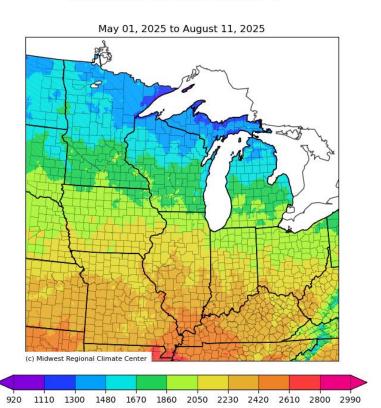




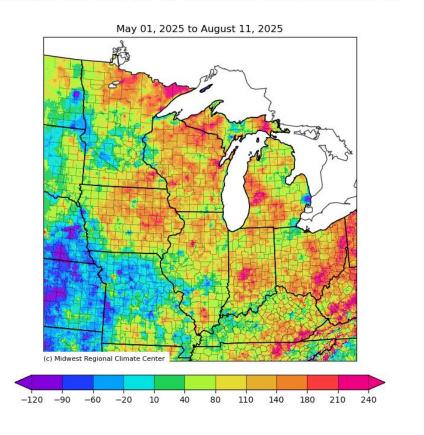
- Average temps. ranged from 70-74°F for the southern two-thirds to 66-70°F for the northern third.
- 0.5-2°F above normal for most of the state.
- Within 0.5°F above/below normal in scattered pockets from the northwest to southeast.

### Growing Degree Days (Base = 50°F; Since May 1)

#### Accumulated Total MGDD (50°F/86°F)



#### Accumulated Total MGDD (50°F/86°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals

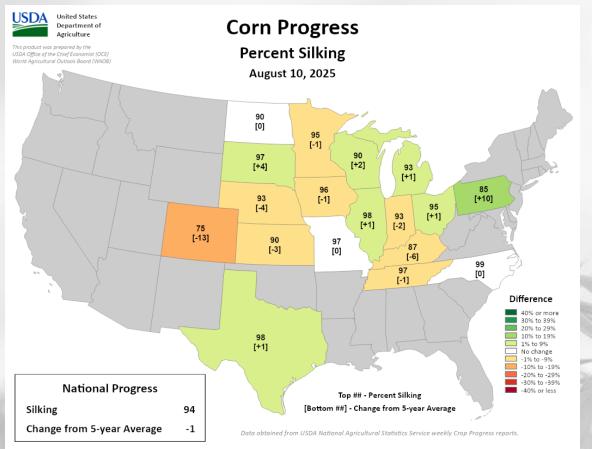


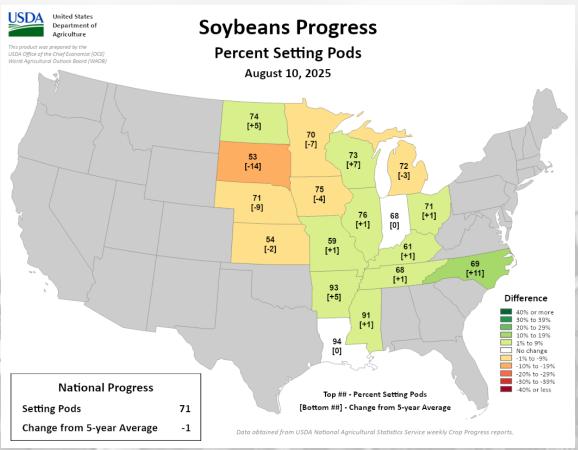
- Range from 1860-2050
   GDD in the SW to 1300-1480 GDD in the N.
- GDD accumulation is running 80+ GDD ahead of schedule across most of WI. Nearer to normal in the east and far NW.

To calculate GDD for your corn variety and planting date, use this <u>tool</u>.

To see specific degree models for pests in your location, use the <u>Vegetable</u> <u>Disease & Insect Forecasting Network</u>.

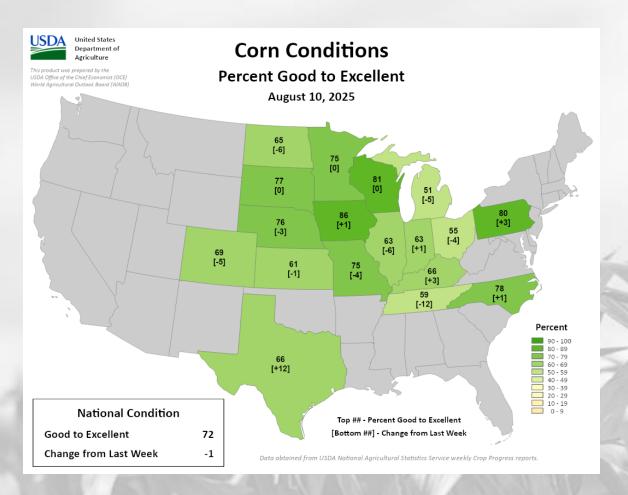
## Corn & Soybean Progress

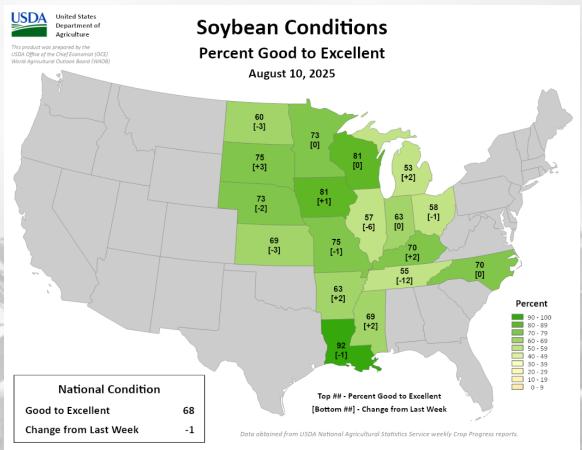




- Corn silking 90% complete in WI fields which is ahead of normal pace for early August.
  - Doughing is being reported in 36% of corn fields in WI (near normal pace).
- Soybean pod setting is 73% complete in WI fields which is ahead of normal pace for early-to-mid August.

## Corn & Soybean Condition





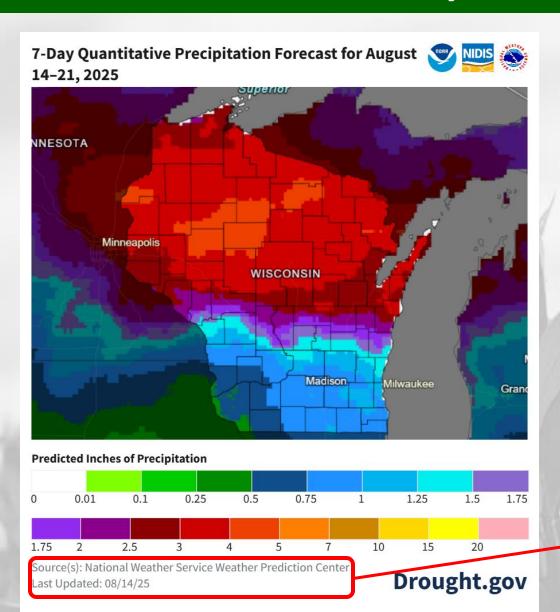
## Crop Progress Report

### Crop progress report for Wisconsin for the week ending on Aug 10<sup>th</sup>

- Corn silking is 90% complete. Doughing is 36% complete (1 day behind 5-year average).
  - Condition was rated 81% good to excellent.
- Soybean blooming reported at **90% complete**, with **73%** of soybeans setting pods (3 days ahead of 5-year average).
  - Condition was rated 81% good to excellent.
- Winter wheat harvest is 89% complete.
- The third cutting of alfalfa hay was **72**% complete (3 days ahead of 5-year average), with the fourth cutting at **12**% complete.
- Pasture and range conditions are rated 75% good to excellent (down 4% from last week).
- Oats are 97% coloring with harvest at 56% complete (3 days ahead of 5-year average).

<u>Full report</u>: <a href="https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\_by\_State/Wisconsin/Publications/Crop\_Progress\_&\_Condition/2025/WI-Crop-Progress-08-11-25.pdf">https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\_by\_State/Wisconsin/Publications/Crop\_Progress\_&\_Condition/2025/WI-Crop-Progress-08-11-25.pdf</a>

### 7 Day Precip Forecast

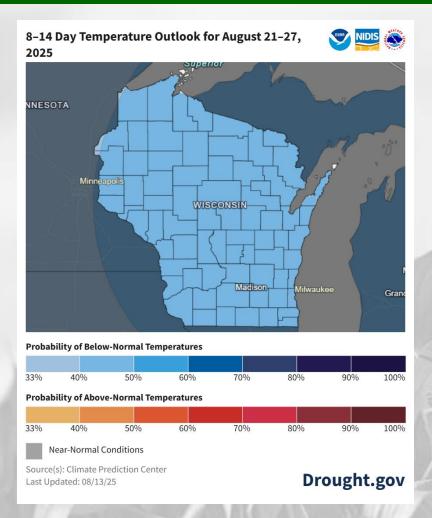


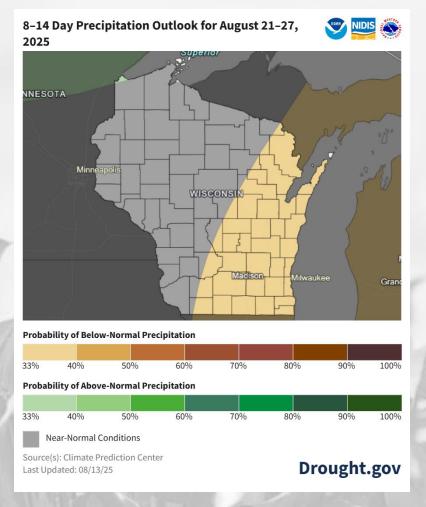
- When? → chances for rain from Thursday (8/14) thru Tuesday (8/19) of next week
- Where? → highest chances in the northern half of the state
- <u>Check your local forecast</u> for details on totals and timing.

Forecast for 8/14/25 thru 8/21/25 (Begins at 7am CDT)

https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/p168i.gif https://www.drought.gov/states/wisconsin

## 8-14 Day Temp & Precip Outlook

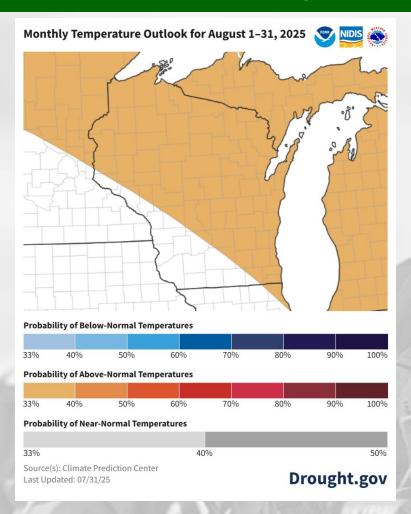


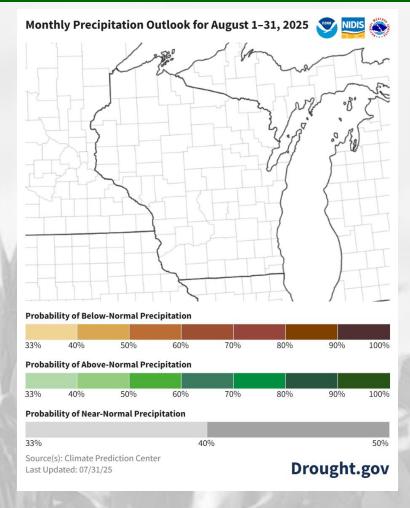


http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/ https://www.drought.gov/states/wisc onsin

**End of August:** Higher probability of <u>cooler-than-normal</u> temperatures for all of WI. Precipitation is leaning slightly towards <u>below normal</u> in the eastern half of the state, with a <u>near normal</u> lean elsewhere.

## 30 Day Temp & Precip Outlook



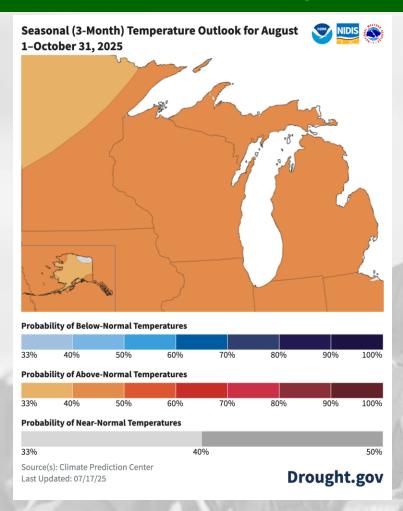


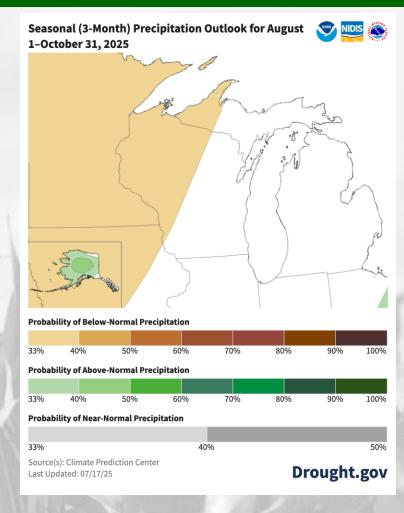
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/ https://www.drought.gov/states/wisc onsin

**Month of August:** Temperatures are leaning slightly towards <u>above normal</u> for most, with <u>uncertainty</u> for the southwest/far west (equal chances). Precipitation is <u>uncertain</u>.

> Statewide normals (1991-2020) for August are 67.2°F and 4.24".

## 90 Day Temp & Precip Outlook





http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/ https://www.drought.gov/states/wisc onsin

**Late Summer into Fall:** Temperatures are leaning towards <u>above normal</u>. Precip is <u>uncertain</u> in the east & south, with a slight lean towards <u>below normal</u> to the north and west.

> Statewide normals (1991-2020) for Aug-Oct are 57.6°F and 10.55".

### Take-Home Points

### **Current Conditions**

- Precip was statewide last week, but especially **concentrated in the south and southeast**, topping 5-10". Overall, the last 30 days in WI have been **above average** for those in the south and west-central, with **below normal totals** for most of central and northern WI.
- August has gotten off to a warmer-than-normal start by 2-6°F, and GDD accumulation (since 5/1) is still running well ahead of normal.

### **Impact**

- After a relatively active week of precip, soil moisture is estimated to be **above normal** for most of SE, SW, and west-central WI. Wisconet research farm stations show **increases in 4" soil moisture** from last week.
- Wisconsin remains **drought-free**, with some minor increase in D0 coverage up north after a dry last 30 days.
- Crop progress for the major field crops in WI continue to run at a near-normal pace, with a third of the corn crop at dough stage. Crop condition reports indicate no major changes from last week (NASS).

### Outlook

- Multiple rain chances are forecasted thru early next week, with the best chances for rain in the northern half of WI.
- Climate probabilities for Late August show a lean towards below-normal temperatures for all of WI (40-50% likelihood).
- The outlook for all of August (updated 7/31) does not indicate strong probabilities of above- or below-normal conditions, but hints at the chance of warmer than average temperatures.

### **Agronomic Considerations**

#### **Field Work and Conditions**

- Avoid trafficking fields in moist conditions to prevent compaction, especially those in the Eastern part of the state that experienced historic floods.
- Assess flood damage to <u>soybean</u> and <u>corn</u>.

#### **Manure Applications**

• Reminder of Wisconsin's NR 151 Runoff Rules with the timing of manure spreading and current runoff levels. Check DATCP Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast.

#### **Pest Management**

- Scout fields to note which weed species escaped herbicide application.
- Check moth trap catches in your region with the <u>DATCP Pest Survey</u>. Sign up for insect pest alerts specific to your region.
- Routine scouting in corn to watch for <u>corn earworm</u>. Pay close attention to late-planted sweet corn and grain corn with remaining green silks.
- Note <u>Japanese beetle populations in soybean fields</u>.
- Use the <u>VDIFN model</u> to see risk in your region for several economically important pests.
- Scout for soybean aphid and soybean gall midge (SGM not presently in Wisconsin; however, the pest has been located in nearby states).
- <u>Be vigilant for white mold</u> in soybean as plants flower in northern regions. See <u>risk forecast here</u>. Check out the new <u>White Mold ROI calculator</u>.
- Southern Rust has been reported in southern and central regions.

#### **Forage Management**

- Alfalfa stands are varying between third and fourth cuts depending on location in the state. Scout for potato leafhopper. Also scout for pea aphid.
- Use the <u>alfalfa cutting tool</u> to plan remaining alfalfa harvests for persistence. Those affected by flooding can review <u>flooded forage options</u>.
- Recording when silage tassels can help predict harvest date. Consider <u>in-field management strategies</u> to reduce mycotoxins in silage. <u>Begin sampling and estimating moisture as</u> silage matures. Read corn silage harvest management considerations.

#### **Small Grains**

- Winter wheat harvest is mostly complete. As you harvest, remember the <u>importance of combine cleaning</u> to prevent weed seed spread from field to field.
- Consider planting a <u>cover crop after small grain</u> harvest. Review <u>Cover Crops 10</u>1 for a list of viable species and seeding recommendations. Cover crops can also be an <u>opportunity for</u> grazing.

### Fruit Considerations

#### General

- •Sun scald and southwest injury to trunks and branches has been observed across many orchards and vineyards this summer, likely due to wide variations in winter temperatures that can cause trunk and branch damage.
- Fruit sunburn has been observed across many fruit crops in southern WI. Consider removing this fruit while out picking to prevent other pests attracted to the volatiles released from impacting fruit.
- •Sanitation: remove and destroy (chop/compost) fallen fruit ~weekly to prevent any internally developing larvae from reaching maturity, and to limit the spread of disease.
- •Japanese beetle pressure has lessened in Southern WI, though emergence may continue through September. Review best monitoring and management practices here.

#### **Apples**

- •Apple and grape growers can reference the NEWA weather station network to monitor for disease infection periods in their area. Check out your nearest weather station: <u>NEWA Weather</u> Station Network (Cornell).
- •Warm and rainy weather conditions are ideal for bitter rot in apple orchards; see the article on bitter rot management from the July 4 WI Fruit newsletter.
- •Sooty blotch and flyspeck has been observed in Southern WI, pushed along by warm, humid conditions. Continue monitoring NEWA models.
- •Apple growers should continue monitoring pheromone traps and degree-day (base 50°F) accumulation for Codling moth.
- •Apple maggot pressure is variable across the state. Growers should continue to use red sphere traps to monitor populations.
- •Check out the WI DATCP Orchard Insect Pest Bulletin for more information on current insect trap captures across the state.

#### Grapes

- •Several grape varieties (Frontenac, Marquette) have hit veraison in the last week or so. This may translate to increased bird and disease pressure (sour/bunch rot).
- •Grape berry moth has been observed in southern WI. Continue monitoring traps and using NEWA models.
- •Black rot fruit symptoms have been reported in vineyards around WI. Review this 2022 article by Dr. Leslie Holland on Fruit and Cluster Rots for more information on black rot and fruit rot management.
- •Overview of grape insect/mite monitoring and management: Grape Insects and Mite Pests, 2024 Field Season (Cornell, 2024).

#### **Berries**

•Grape and berry growers monitoring spotted wing drosophila should continue checking and refreshing traps weekly.

### Vegetable Considerations

#### **Pests**

- The second generation of adult <u>crucifer flea beetles</u> are active in central WI. Yellow sticky cards can be used to help determine their population. Treatment is recommended when 10-20% of a stand shows damage. Populations can be spotty across a field so spot treatment can be very effective.
- <u>Imported cabbageworm</u> moths are expected to complete a third generation through the month of August. Be on the lookout for small yellow to orang colored eggs on the underside of leaves. Management strategies are most effective when based on crop growth stage and caterpillar count to determine the level of infestation.
- Continue to be vigilant for squash bug adults. The predicted damage risk is high across the state. While younger plants are more susceptible to damage, large populations can cause wilting and feeding on fruit which can prevent development and lead to rot.

#### Diseases

- The first symptoms of <u>brassica alternaria</u> are pin sized black specks on the leaves or stem. As the lesions expand, they will form concentric rings and black, sooty spores form during periods of high humidity. Sources of inoculum include infected plant debris and brassica weeds. It is spread by wind, rain, and insects like flea beetles.
- <u>Basil downy mildew</u> has been detected in **Dane and Columbia** counties. Sweet green-leafed varieties are more susceptible than purple-leafed or Thai basil. Initially, symptoms may resemble nitrogen deficiency because of general leaf yellowing of lower leaves. As it progresses, leaves will turn brown, may curl and wilt, and grey velvety fuzz may develop on the underside of leaves. Check out <u>this resource</u> for other problems that can be confused with downy mildew.
- Anthracnose of cucurbits can infect all above ground plant tissue. Symptoms vary based on which cucurbit is infected. On melons and cucumber lesions are brown, irregularly shaped, and often have a yellow halo. On watermelons, the lesions are darker and smaller. Stem infections on melon will often secrete a red colored gum. Fruit lesions are black and sunken and salmon colored spores will form during high humidity. Winter squash and pumpkins are not often infected.
- The last confirmed cases of cucurbit <u>downy mildew</u> in Michigan were <u>detected over a week ago</u>. Luckily, there are still no confirmed cases in WI. Downy mildew can be confused with many other stresses including angular leaf spot, heat stress and herbicide damage. Check out <u>this resource</u> from Michigan State to help with diagnosis.
- <u>Septoria leaf spot</u> was confirmed on tomato plants in **Walworth** county. Disease can survive on infected debris and then is spread by water splashing as well as equipment, people and insects moving through wet leaves. Lesions are tan to grey with dark margins and often a yellow halo.
- <u>Early blight</u> risk is high across the state. Lesions can occur on both fruit and stems. One way to distinguish this from other diseases is the larger lesions will have concentric rings. If early blight is problem on your farm, consider planting a <u>resistant variety</u>. While not immune, these varieties will not be as severely impacted.
- <u>Nicotianae blight</u>, a late blight look alike, was identified this past week on potato plants in central WI. The causal pathogen often infects roots and tubers causing pink rot, but occasionally lesions form on leaves. While foliar lesions look very similar to late blight, one way to distinguish between the two is that these lesions do not have the spores that are a symptom of late blight. Photos comparing the lesions can be found <a href="here">here</a>.
- Bacterial spot in peppers was recently diagnosed in lowa county. Fruit lesions are often slightly raised, brown, and often occur on the stem ends of peppers.
- <u>Purple blotch in onions</u> is caused by a fungus that leads to water-soaked lesions with concentric rings and red or purple borders. Leaves injured by thrips are more susceptible to infection. It can overwinter in crop residue so make sure to remove or till in infected residue to prevent carry over to the next year.

## **User Survey**

Are you a regular user of the Ag Weather Outlook for Wisconsin (AgWOW)? Or maybe you are viewing these slides for the first time this week? Either way, we want to hear **your** feedback on this resource! Please take a few minutes and fill out this survey:

### **LINK TO SURVEY**

Your feedback will help us better serve your ag-weather data needs through AgWOW.

If you have any trouble accessing or filling out the survey, please email Josh Bendorf at <a href="mailto:jbendorf@wisc.edu">jbendorf@wisc.edu</a>.

Thank you!!

-The AgWOW Team

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