







AgWOW

Ag Weather Outlook for Wisconsin

Week of September 2, 2025

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Key Points

Navigate to select slides by clicking on the <u>links</u> below.

- Cooler-than-normal temps dominated last week, with several nights dipping into the 40s.
- 2) Most of the state received <1" of rain last week, leading to some drying out of topsoil.
- 3) <u>Drought</u> remains non-existent in WI with most corn and soybean fields in good to excellent condition.
- 4) Mid-September climate probabilities are leaning slightly towards above normal temps.
- For this week's agronomic recommendations from UW Extension, click here.
- For this week's crop progress updates from USDA NASS, click <u>here</u>.

Wx Highlight → A taste of fall

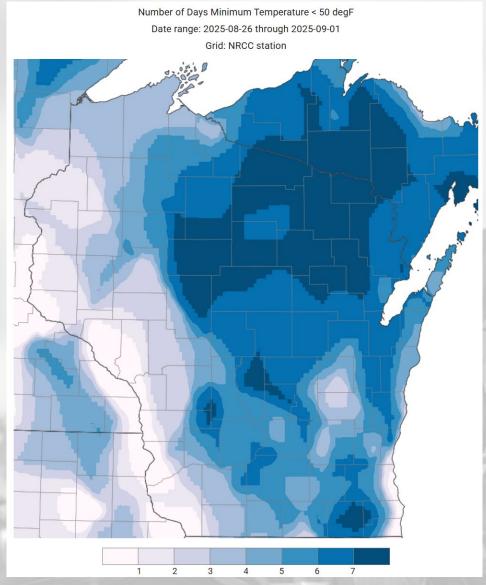


Table shows the departure from average temperature by climate division

➤ Average (1991-2020) low temp for 8/26-9/1 → low 50's (N) to upper 50s (S)

Climate Division	Aug 26	Aug 27	Aug 28	Aug 29	Aug 30	Aug 31	Sep 1
WI-1 (NW)	-9.9	-3.9	-1.7	-4.2	-2.6	0.5	0.0
WI-2 (NC)	-9.8	-6.3	-4.0	-7.2	-4.3	-0.8	-0.3
WI-3 (NE)	-8.3	-6.0	-4.4	-8.4	-5.0	-1.3	0.0
WI-4 (WC)	-9.3	-6.4	-3.5	-3.5	-2.6	-3.3	-2.7
WI-5 (C)	-10.0	-7.6	-5.0	-10.2	-4.6	-4.5	-3.7
WI-6 (EC)	-9.7	-7.4	-6.0	-10.7	-7.4	-5.4	-3.5
WI-7 (SW)	-10.2	-8.8	-4.8	-5.8	-3.0	-4.4	-4.7
WI-8 (SC)	-10.6	-9.6	-6.3	-8.4	-4.6	-6.3	-5.1
WI-9 (SE)	-10.0	-8.9	-6.5	-9.1	-5.7	-7.2	-5.1

- Multiple days across the state with lows dipping down into the 40s
- Coldest Wisconet reading → Florence County, 8/29 (33.3°F)
- Coldest day → August 26 (statewide avg. temp = **58.4°F**)

Citizen Science Opportunity: Special Promo

CoCoRaHS – <u>Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow Network</u> 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.



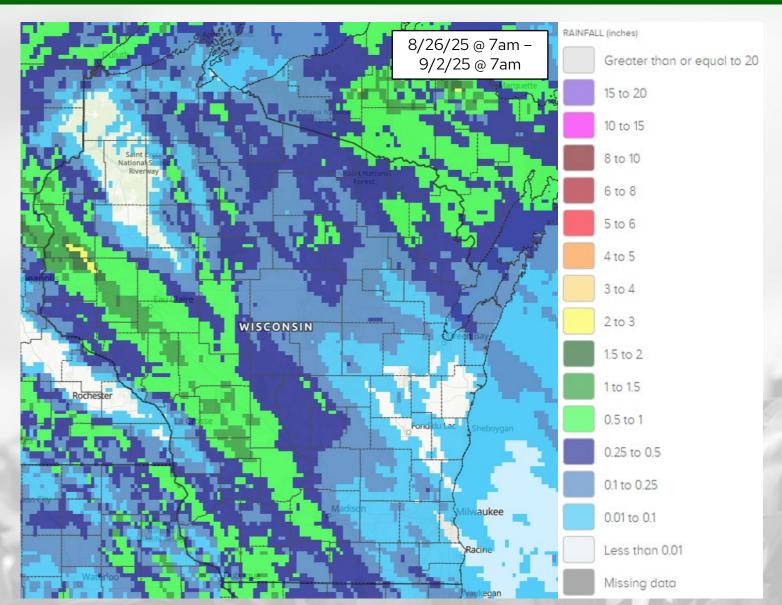
Sign Up Here:

 $\underline{https://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=application}$

SPECIAL PROMOTION

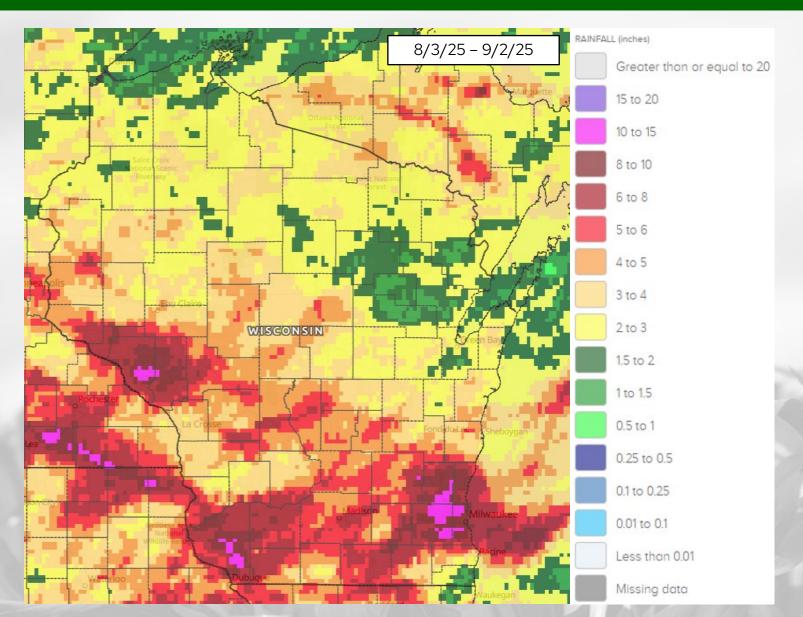
- In the wake of the historic flooding event in Milwaukee, there is a special promotion for \$8 off any CoCoRaHS gauge (no quantity limit).
 - Use code: WISCOCO8 at weatheryourway.com/collections/cocorahs-gauge-parts
 - Now through September 10th
- Free shipping is also available on any order over \$55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

7 Day Precip



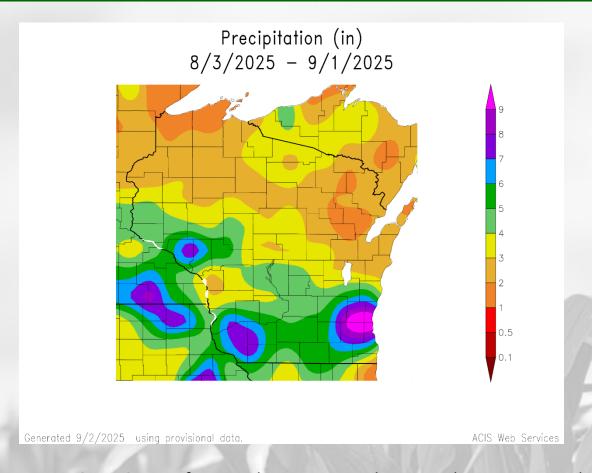
- Less than 0.5" across most of the state.
- Highest totals in the west → 0.5-1.5"
 common, with pockets of >1.5" in
 the NW.
- Lowest totals in the far NW and the east/southeast -> <0.1"

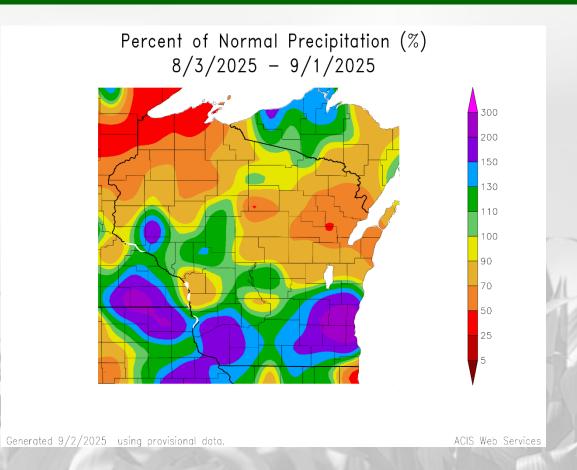
30 Day Precip



- **5+"** across southern & west-central WI from storms earlier in August.
- Localized areas of 10" or more in SE, SW and WC WI.
- **1.5-4"** across NE and NC WI, with **3-5"** common across the central belt.

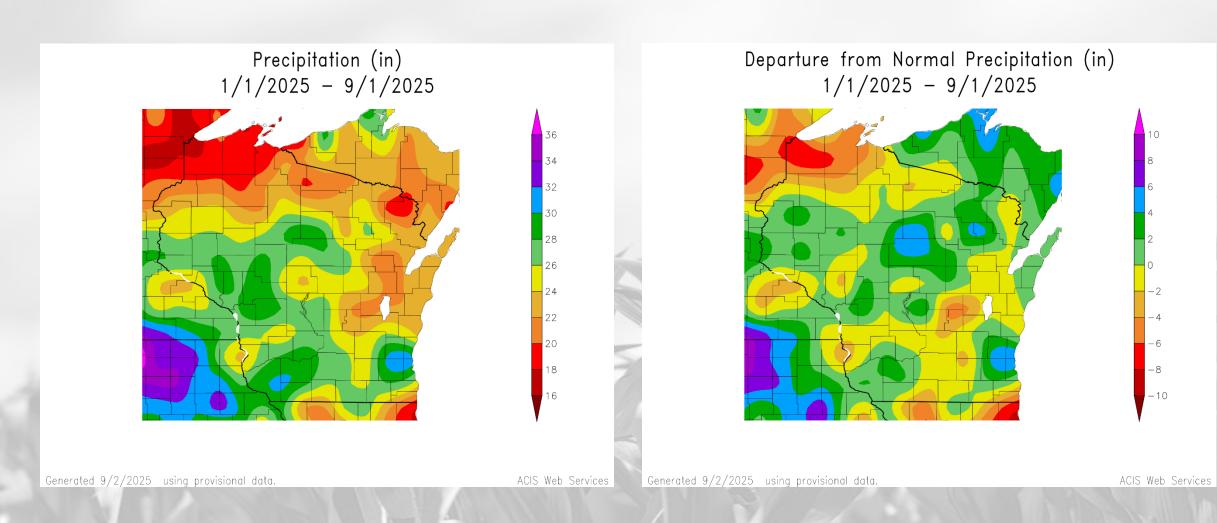
30 Day Precip Total/Percent Avg.





- 110-150+% of normal across southern and west-central WI.
 - Most of this came prior to August 19 \rightarrow last 2 weeks have been **70% or less of normal** across most of WI.
- Below normal for most of northern WI totals 4" or less.

2025 Precipitation (so far)



Soil Moisture Models

- Minimal change from last week.
- Near-normal soil moisture levels in the top 1 meter of soil across most of WI. Above normal in the south-central region.
- **Increasing dryness** in the far NW following a week with little to no rainfall.

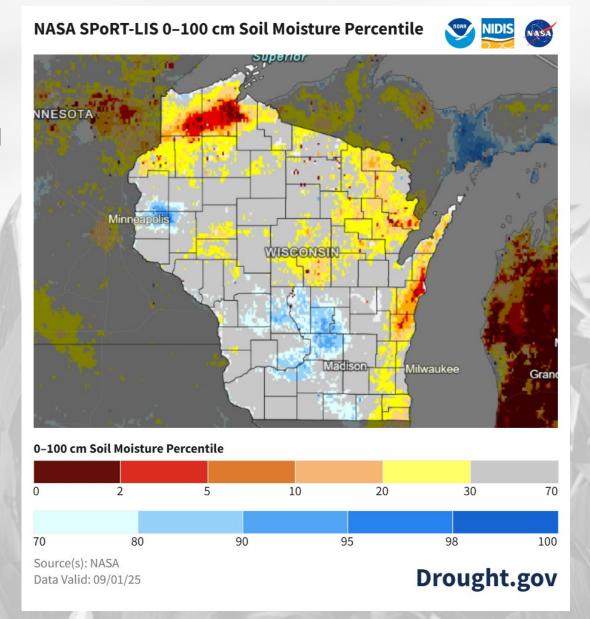
Model Notes:

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.

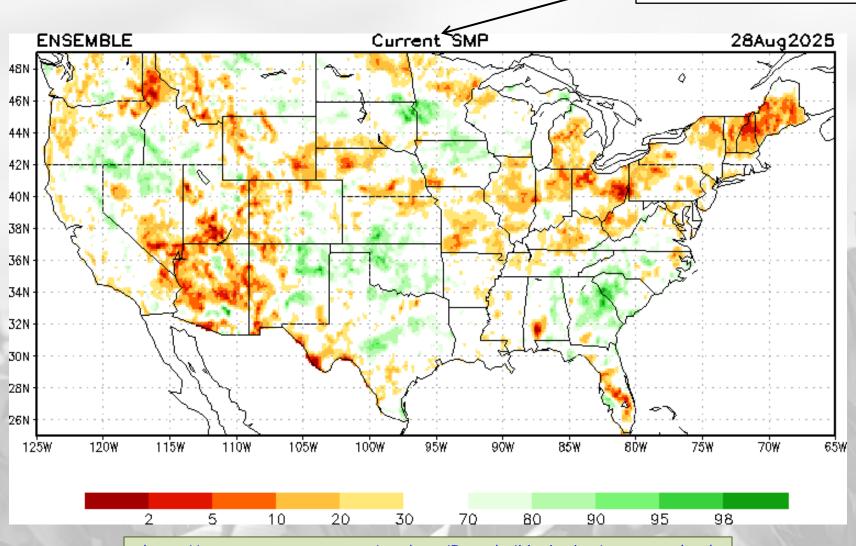
It's worth noting that each soil moisture model has their own characteristics and input variables, so there tends to be variation between models. Thus, it's worthwhile to look at multiple models opposed to just one.



https://weather.ndc.nasa.gov/sport/case_studies/lis_CONUS.html https://www.drought.gov/states/wisconsin

Soil Moisture Models

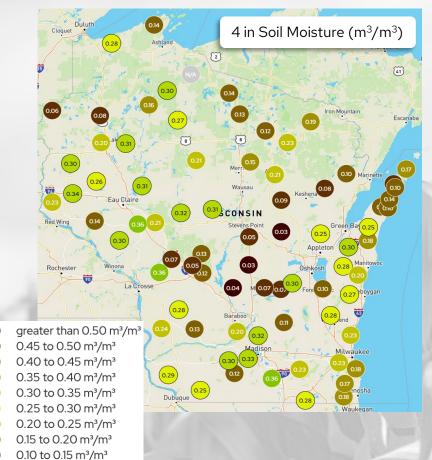
NOTE: this map displays the soil moisture percentile for Aug 28. It was the most recent update as of Sep 2.



https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Drought/Monitoring/smp_new.shtml

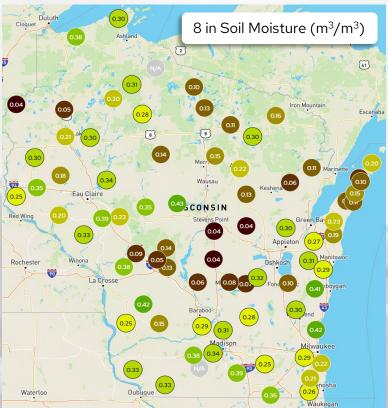
Wisconet Soil Moisture

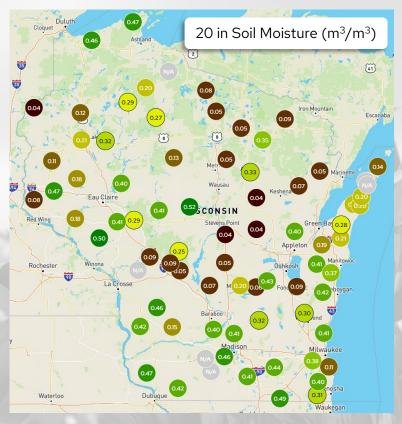
Maps showing soil temperature conditions on September 2nd @ 10 am. Units of map values are {Volume of water}/{Volume of soil}.



0.05 to 0.10 m³/m³

0.00 to 0.05 m³/m³



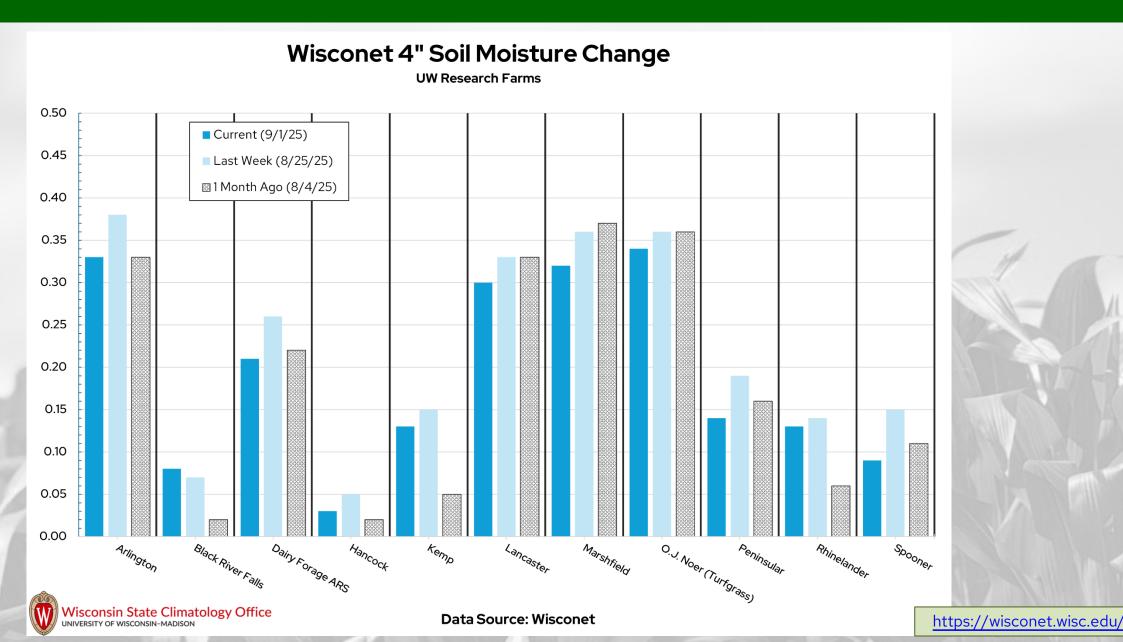


Wisconet Soil Moisture

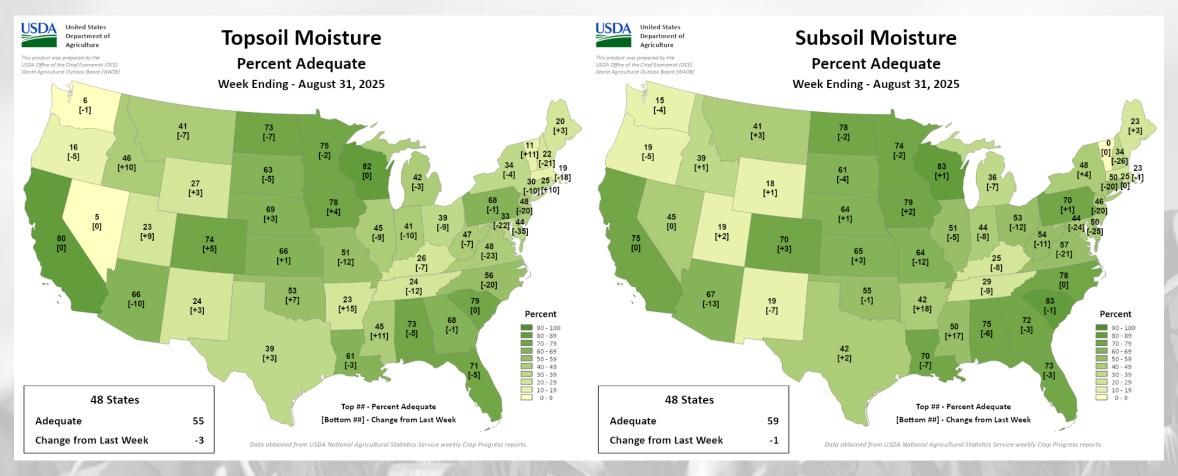
Change in soil moisture from August 26th (Start) to September 1st (End). Units of change values are {Volume of water}/{Volume of soil}.

Research Farm	County	Total Precip (in)	4" Change (Start) (End)		8" Change (Start) (End)		20" Change (Start) (End)	
Arlington	Columbia	0.06	0.37	0.33	0.35	0.32	0.43	0.41
Black River Falls	Jackson	0.73	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.09
Dairy Forage ARS	Sauk	0.38	0.25	0.21	0.32	0.30	0.41	0.40
Hancock	Waushara	0.13	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.05
Kemp	Oneida	0.45	0.15	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.05	0.05
Lancaster	Grant	0.01	0.32	0.30	0.36	0.34	0.48	0.47
Marshfield	Marathon	0.13	0.35	0.32	0.45	0.43	0.54	0.52
O.J. Noer (Turfgrass)	Dane	0.44	0.35	0.34	0.37	0.34	0.47	0.47
Peninsular	Door	0.15	0.18	0.14	0.17	0.15	0.21	0.21
Rhinelander	Oneida	0.38	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.05	0.05
Spooner	Washburn	0.00	0.14	0.09	0.08	0.06	0.12	0.12

Wisconet Soil Moisture



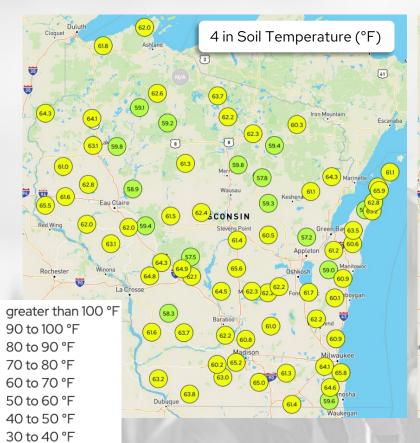
Adequate Soil Moisture



- 82-83% of agricultural soils in the state reporting adequate topsoil and subsoil moisture.
- 12% of fields in the state are reported as having short to very short top and subsoil moisture, an increase from last week.

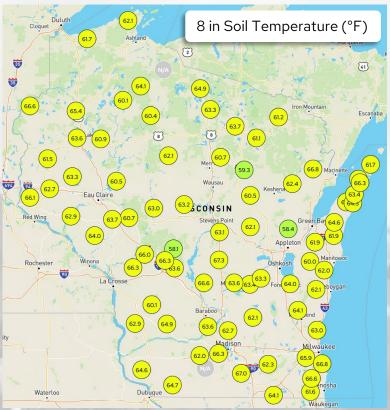
Wisconet Soil Temperature

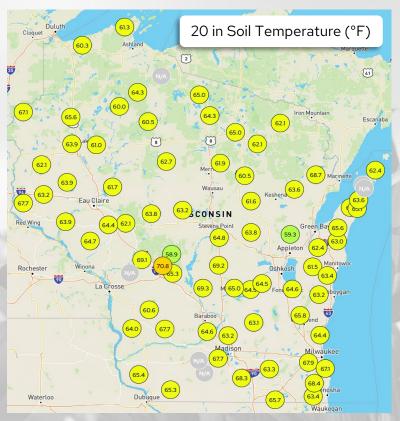
Maps showing soil temperature conditions on September 2nd @ 10 am.



20 to 30 °F 10 to 20 °F

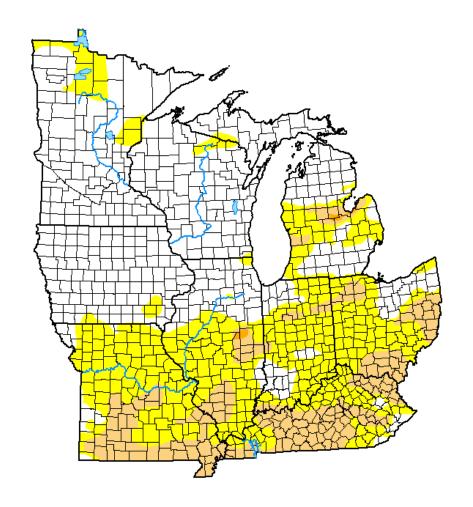
less than 10 °F





US Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Midwest



September 2, 2025

(Released Thursday, Sep. 4, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	52.70	47.30	14.18	0.18	0.00	0.00
Last Week 08-26-2025	70.30	29.70	4.51	0.09	0.00	0.00
3 Month s Ago 06-03-2025	58.67	41.33	10.72	0.23	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 09-03-2024	55.71	44.29	11.72	2.65	1.84	0.61

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:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center









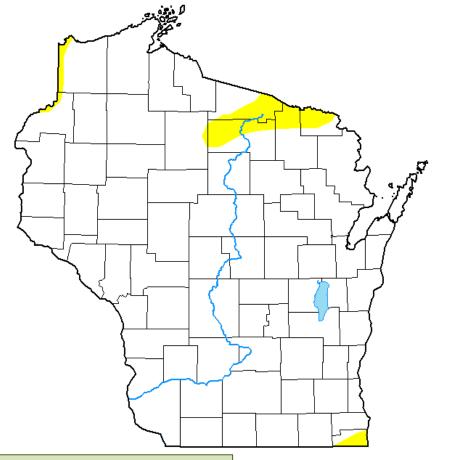
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

- Midwest: Compared to last week:
 - Increase in D0-D1 coverage.
 - Minimal increase in D2 coverage (IL).
- Midwest: 1 class degradation across the southern part of the region. 17% gain in D0 coverage and 10% gain in D1 coverage.
- Wisconsin: The state is still droughtfree! D0 coming back into parts of western Douglas County.
- **85.8%** of the Midwest is drought free (~14.2% in D1 or D2).

Note: D0 is not considered drought.

US Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Wisconsin



September 2, 2025

(Released Thursday, Sep. 4, 2025) Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

		None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
	Current	96.30	3.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Last Week 08-26-2025	96.59	3.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	3 Month's Ago 06-03-2025	52.83	47.17	4.73	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 09-03-2024	86.82	13.18	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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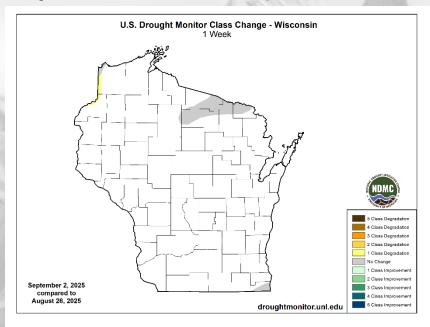
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Amount of state in:

• D1-D4 - 0.0% --

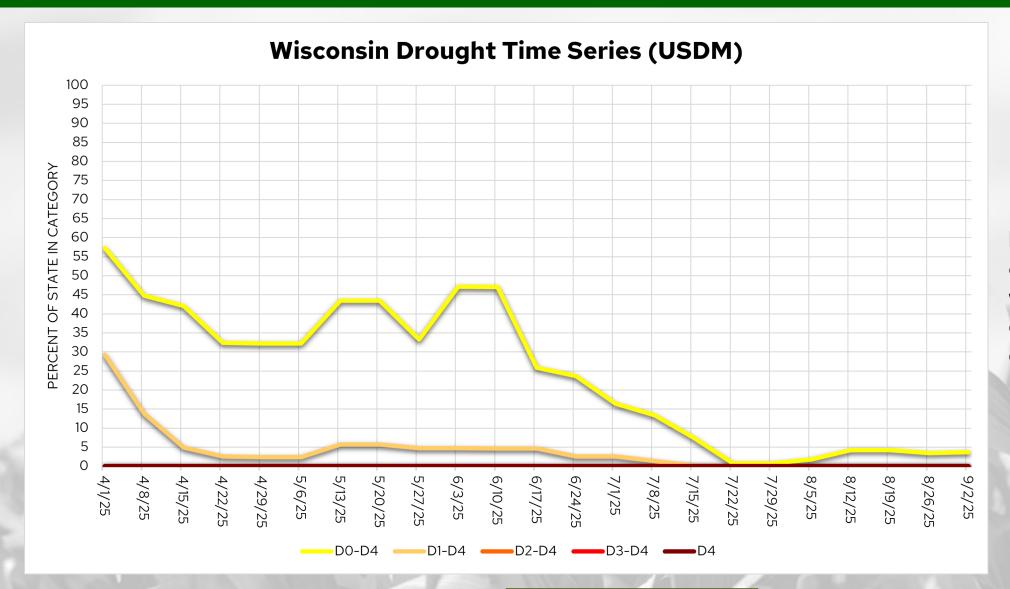
• D2-D4 - 0.0% --

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



http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

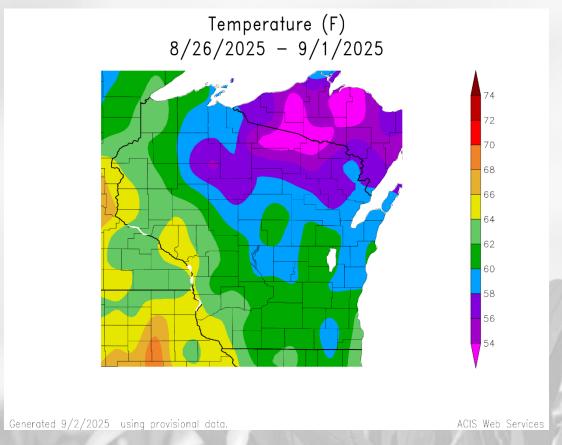
USDM Time Series

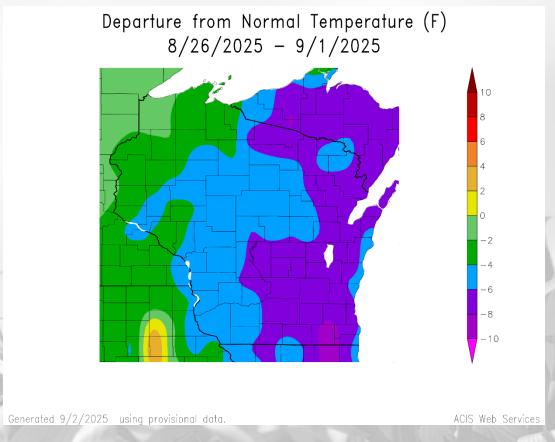


Minimal change in conditions since last week, with a slight decrease in DO coverage.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

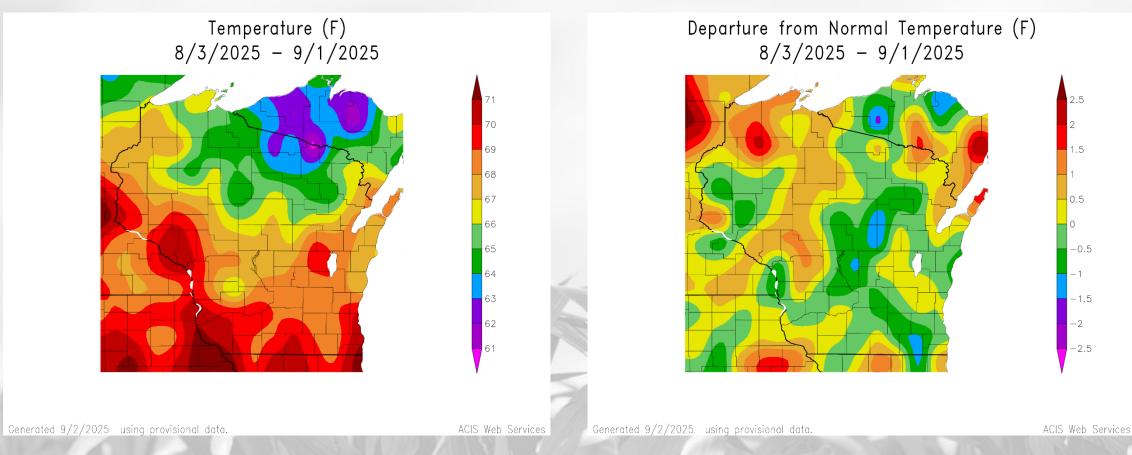
7 Day Temperatures





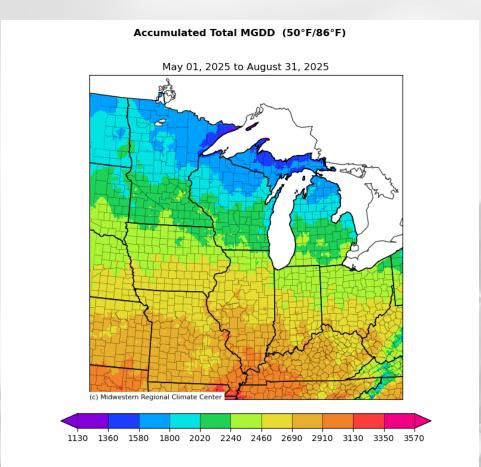
- Average temp. range of 62-66°F in the west; to 54-58°F in north-central WI.
- Below average temperatures statewide
 - 2-4°F below average in the NW; to 6+°F below normal in the east.

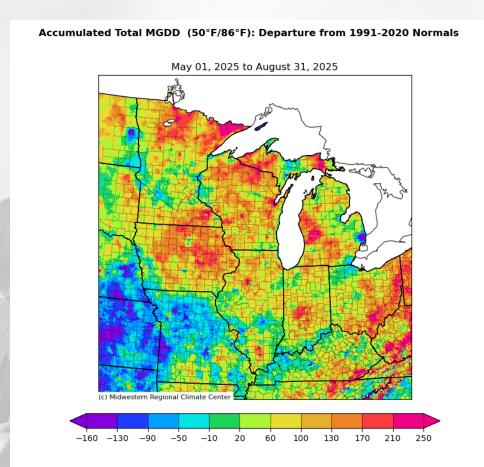
30 Day Temperatures



- Average temps. ranged from 69-71°F in the south and west to 61-64°F for the far north.
- Within -/+1°F of normal for most of the state.

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





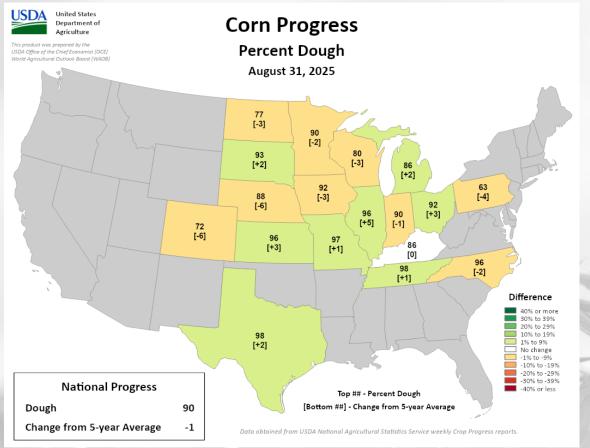
- Range from 2200-2400 GDD in the SW to 1600-1800 GDD in the N.
- GDD accumulation is running >100 GDD ahead of schedule across most of WI.
 Nearer to normal in the far NW and SE.

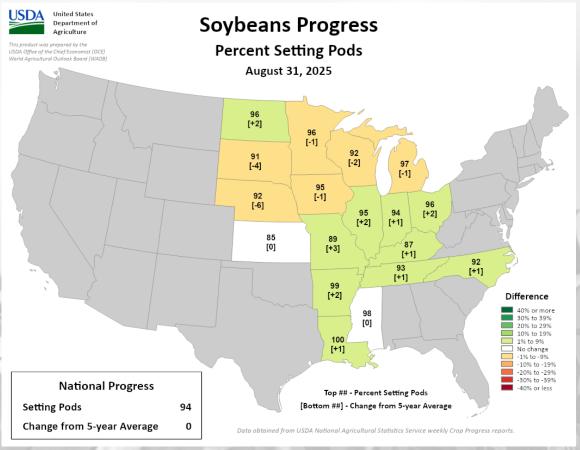
To calculate GDD for your corn variety and planting date, use this tool.

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

> https://mrcc.purdue.edu/ climate_watch

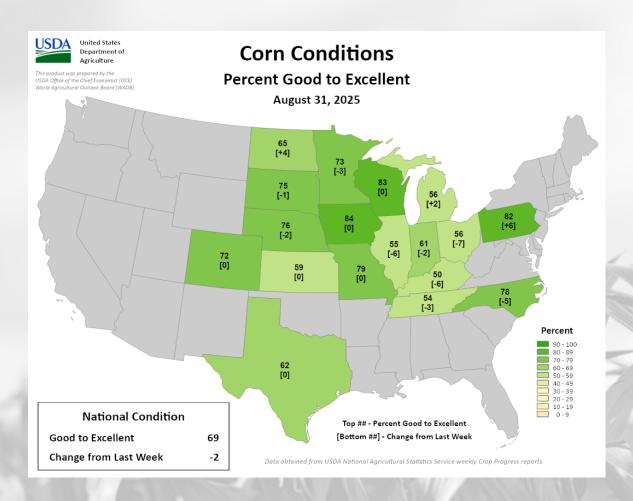
Corn & Soybean Progress

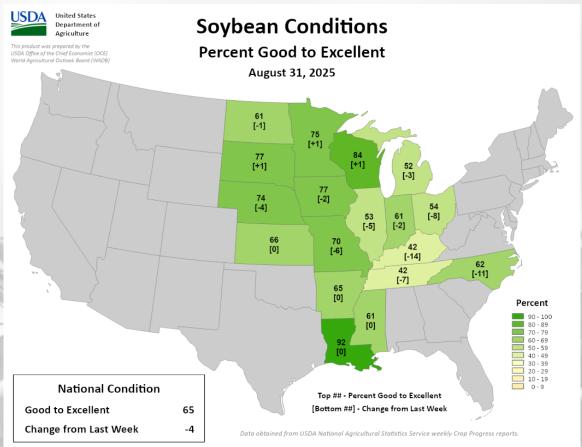




- Corn doughing is 80% complete in WI fields which is behind the normal pace for late August.
 - Denting is being reported in 38% of corn fields in WI.
- Soybean pod setting is **92% complete** in WI fields which is behind the normal pace for late August.

Corn & Soybean Condition





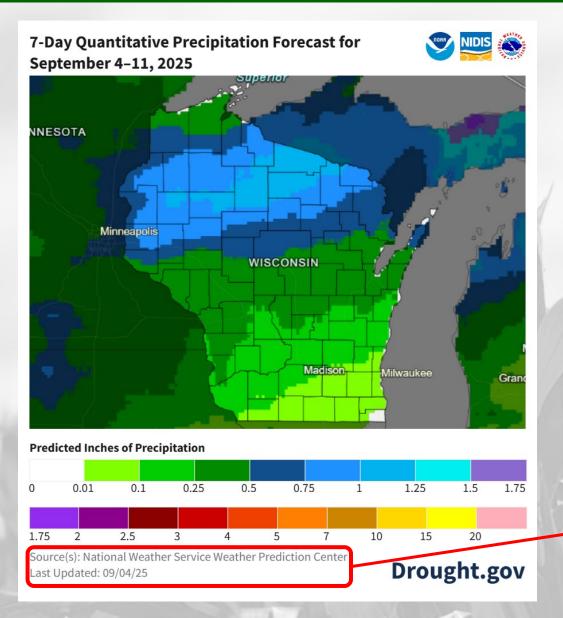
Crop Progress Report

Crop progress report for Wisconsin for the week ending on Aug 31st

- Corn doughing is 80% complete. Denting is 38% complete (1 day behind the 5-year average).
 - Condition was rated 83% good to excellent.
- Soybean pod setting is running at **92%** complete, with coloring at **11%** complete (3 days behind the 5-year average).
 - Condition was rated 84% good to excellent.
- Winter wheat seeding for next year is **underway in limited areas**.
- The third cutting of alfalfa hay was **93%** complete, with the fourth cutting at **50%** complete (6 days ahead of the 5-year average).
- Pasture and range conditions are rated 73% good to excellent (up 2% from last week).
- Oat harvest is at **96%** complete (ahead of the 5-year average).

<u>Full report</u>: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2025/WI-Crop-Progress-09-02-25.pdf

7 Day Precip Forecast

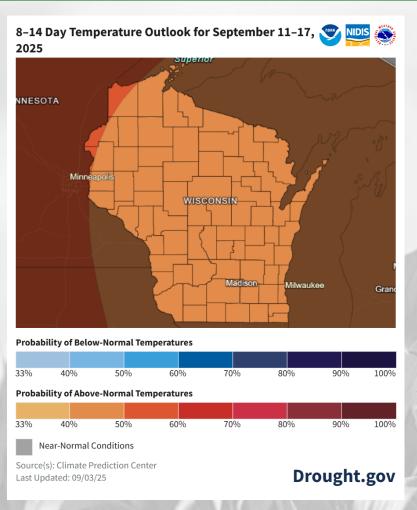


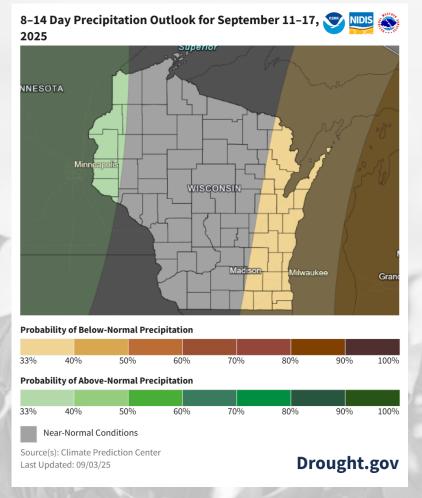
- When? → system moving through the north on Thursday into Friday morning (9/4-5), with scattered rain chances statewide into next week.
- Where? → highest chances in the north.
- Check your local forecast for details on totals and timing.
- Average precip (1991-2020) for this week: **0.76**"

Forecast for 9/4/25 thru 9/11/25 (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





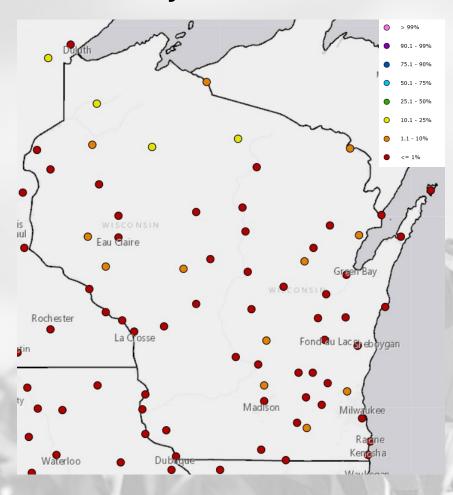
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/ https://www.drought.gov/states/ wisconsin

Mid September: A lean towards <u>warmer-than-normal</u> temperatures statewide (**40-50% chance**). Precip is leaning near normal for most, with a lean towards above (below) normal in the NW (E).

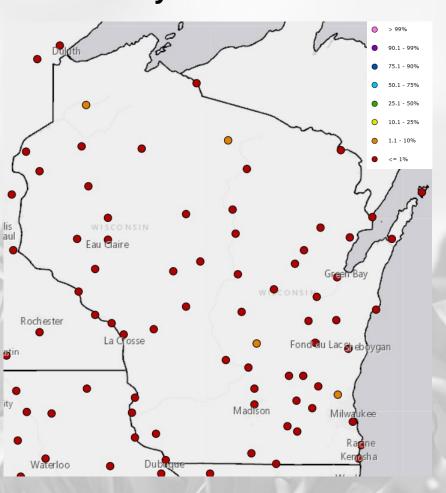
> Statewide normals (1991-2020) for Sep 11-17 are **58.9°F** and **1.08"**.

Freeze Risk

Daily Low ≤ 32°F

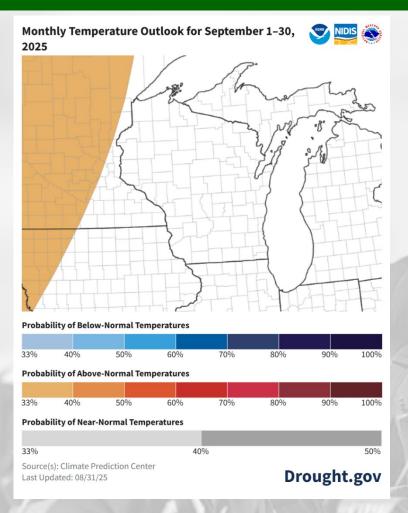


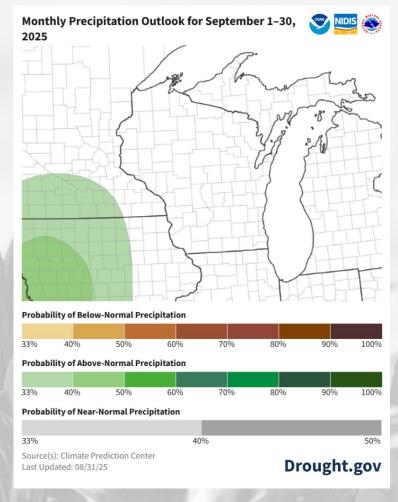
Daily Low ≤ 28°F



- Maps show the probability of a freeze occurring before September 11th, based on 1991-2020 averages.
- **10-25% chance** of a 32°F freeze occurring in the far north before 9/11.
- For northern WI, the <u>average</u> <u>first fall freeze</u> (at 32°F) occurs in **late September**.
 - Use this <u>NWS tool</u> to view day-by-day freeze risk (temperature and wind).

30 Day Temp & Precip Outlook



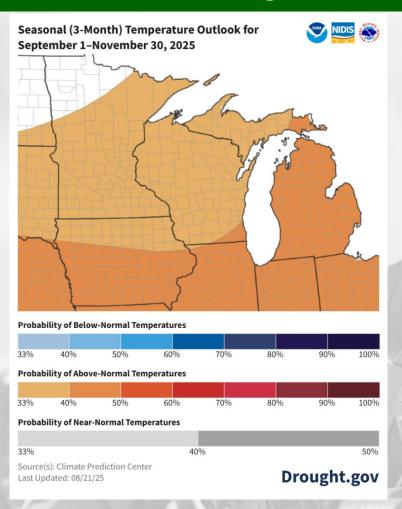


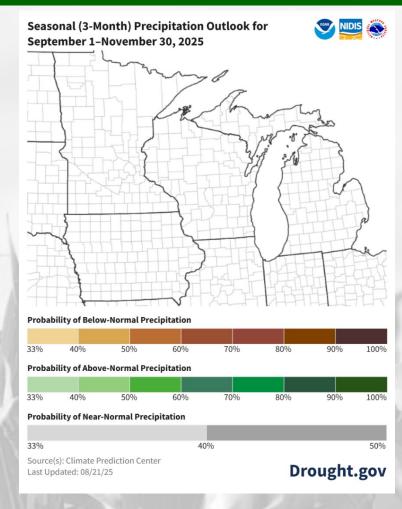
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/ https://www.drought.gov/states/ wisconsin

Month of September: <u>Uncertainty</u> for temperatures and precipitation with equal chances for above, near, and below normal statewide.

> Statewide normals (1991-2020) for September are **58.5°F** and **3.75"**.

90 Day Temp & Precip Outlook





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

Fall 2025: Temperatures leaning slightly towards <u>above normal</u> statewide (more so in the SE), with <u>uncertainty</u> for precipitation.

> Statewide normals (1991-2020) for Sep-Nov are 46.0°F and 8.51".

Take-Home Points

Current Conditions

- The majority of WI received **less than an inch of precip** last week, with higher totals in the west. The last 2 weeks in the state have been relatively dry, with most of the state receiving **less than 70% of normal precip** for mid-to-late August.
- Fall-like weather has been in place over the last several days, with **lows dipping into the 40s on several nights** and average temps running **below normal statewide**. Conditions have been **near normal** across most of WI over the past 30 days.

Impact

- After a relatively dry week, soil moisture is estimated to be **near normal** for most of the state, with dryness increasing in the far NW. Wisconet research farm stations show **decreases in 4" soil moisture** from last week at most sites.
- Drought remains non-existent in the state, with a **minimal increase in D0 coverage** (western Douglas County).
- Corn and soybean progress are running **slightly behind normal pace**, with alfalfa cutting running **several days ahead** of normal. Crop condition reports indicate **83-84%** of corn and soybeans are rated good to excellent (<u>NASS</u>).

Outlook

- Precip for the next 7 days is most likely in the north, with some chances for overnight lows to get into the 30's (NWS tool).
- Climate probabilities for mid-September show a lean towards above-normal temperatures for all of WI (40-50% chance).
- The outlooks for the month of September (updated 8/31) are uncertain for temps and precip with equal chances.

Agronomic Considerations

Field Work and Conditions

- Avoid trafficking fields in moist conditions to prevent compaction.
- As fall air sets in, check your local Frost Freeze Decision Support Page.

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

- Check moth trap catches in your region with the <u>DATCP Pest Survey</u>. <u>Sign up for insect pest alerts</u> specific to your region.
- Scout for soybean aphid and soybean gall midge (SGM not presently in Wisconsin; however, the pest has been located in nearby states).
- Monitor for corn earworm through mid-September.
- Southern Rust has been reported across the state. Heavy disease pressure can cause premature dry down, reduced kernel weight, and lower yield potential.
- Fall armyworm egg-laying may be occurring in late-planted corn fields. Also be vigilant of activity in alfalfa fields. Pay attention to trap catches through mid-September.

Forage Management

- Use the alfalfa cutting tool to plan remaining alfalfa harvests for stand persistence.
- Consider <u>in-field management strategies</u> to reduce mycotoxins in silage. <u>Begin sampling and estimating moisture as silage matures</u>. Read <u>corn silage harvest management considerations</u>.
- Silage chopping has begun in the southern region of the state. Foliar disease presence can make silage harvest timing critical. Read these considerations for managing disease at chopping.
- Explore the new Corn Silage Dry Down Monitoring Tool to see what samples are measuring at in your region.

Small Grains

- The window to plant winter wheat is approaching (September 20-October 10). Review planting and management guidelines as well as Top 9 suggestions for 2025 establishment.
- 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 opportunity for grazing.

Fruit Considerations

General

- •Reminder: Always read and follow directions on the label and keep in mind pre-harvest intervals (PHI) as we move through harvest!
- •Growers who experienced heavy rainfall and flooding in the past month should review best practices for identifying and preventing root rots: Rainfall and root rots in commercial fruit operations (University of Connecticut)
- •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 to prevent other pests attracted to the volatiles (scent).
- •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.
- •Wisconsin fruit growers can reference the Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide (MFPMG) for a list of registered products and recommended best practices. View the MFPMG Online or order a hard copy here: MFPMG Hard Copy.

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: NEWA Weather Station Network (Cornell).
- •Sooty blotch and flyspeck continues to be 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

- •Table grape harvest has begun, with wine grapes soon to follow at West Madison Ag. Research Station. Check out last weeks WI Fruit Crop Scouting Report for updates on grape maturity testing.
- •Black rot and fruit rot 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 through harvest.

Vegetable Considerations

Pests

- The recent dry weather means that the risk of damage from <u>western flower thrips</u> is high across much of the state. Thrips can be difficult to control as of result of their small size and their tendency to hide. Control options can be found <u>here</u>.
- While the peak of the second generation of adult <u>Colorado potato beetles</u> is occurring in central and northern WI, larva populations are decreasing. Remember that the impact of insecticides on adults is minimal. Detailed management info can be found <u>here</u>.
- The second generation of <u>European corn borer</u> adults are very active across central and northern WI. Scout for egg masses in beans, eggplant, peppers, potato, and sweet corn. Economic thresholds and management options for these crops can be found here.
- The cooler weather has slowed the flight of **corn earworm** moths. However, the large number of trap catches through late August means that sweet corn growers should continue to monitor late planted corn with green silks. Sweet corn is vulnerable from row-tassel to 100% silk. <u>Insecticides must be present on vulnerable silks when eggs hatch</u>. Organic control options can be found here, and conventional insecticide options can be found in the <u>commercial vegetable production guide</u>.
- The second generation of adult <u>crucifer flea beetles</u> are active in northern 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.

Diseases

- <u>Southern corn rust</u> has been positively identified in over <u>20 counties in WI</u>. Symptoms include raised bumps called pustules that will stain your hand if rubbed off. These pustules are often on the upper leaf surface. Southern rust can be confused with several other conditions. <u>This resource</u> from the Crop Protection Network can help with id.
- Angular leaf spot has been commonly diagnosed on cucurbits in recent weeks. Symptoms may be confused with downy mildew as lesions are angular and bound by leaf veins. A few ways to help distinguish them is that angular leaf spot often starts as small water soaked lesions on the underside of leaves, the lesions will turn white and papery as they age, and under humid conditions milky colored ooze may form on the spots. While the recent dry weather will help reduce the spread of this disease, the bacteria can survive on plant debris for up to two years. Either remove and destroy or till in infected plant tissue at the end of the season.
- Phytophthora crown and fruit rot can infect a large range of fruiting crops including cucurbits and solanaceous crops (tomato, pepper, eggplant). Crown rot will cause the entire plant to collapse and die in a short period of time. Vines will turn brown and appear water soaked before collapsing. Symptoms on fruit often appear on the underside of fruit where it is in contact with the ground, but they can also start around the stem if the infection is systemic. Lesions appear water soaked & under humid conditions, sporangia may form that are similar in appearance to yeast. Water management is one of the best cultural controls for this disease. Other management options can be found here.
- <u>Anthracnose of cucurbits</u> 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 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.

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 <u>your</u> 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 jbendorf@wisc.edu.

Thank you!!

-The AgWOW Team

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