

Does it feel like we have had enough rain to end the Wisconsin drought?

Nope.

From August 8th through August 14th, between a half and 2 inches of rain fell across parts of southeast Minnesota and in west-central and central Wisconsin. Meanwhile less than a half inch fell from La Crosse and eastern Monroe counties. Normally one inch of rain falls during this time period. The recent rains and cooler-than-normal temperatures over the past two weeks have helped the soybean crop, but it was too late for much of the corn crop across northeast Iowa and southwest Wisconsin. There have been reports that young and recently planted Christmas trees have died in Winona County and Monroe County. Larry Johnson, a Christmas tree grower in Sparta said that the lack of rain was devastating to their trees. As with the usual year, they planted about 2,000 trees; they expect to be able to harvest about half of them when they are fully grown. However, about a month ago things started to take a turn for the worse. Eighty percent of these trees have died.