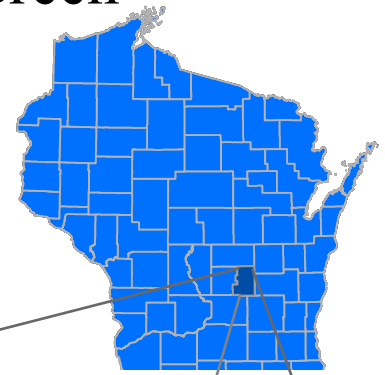


Agriculture and Development of Green Lake County, Wisconsin

Human Effects on the Environment



Nearly half of all land within the United States is farmland, and on these lands are applied pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers in order to aid in plant growth and yield. Of these synthetic inputs, the EPA estimates that each year, “about a half million tons of pesticides, 12 million tons of nitrogen, and 4 million tons of phosphorus fertilizer are applied.”

When large quantities of synthetic inputs are added to fields, then the soil might not be capable of holding onto all of the added substances, allowing the inputs to leach and run-off into waterways. Leaching and run-off into waterways are also increased in developed areas due to road salts utilized in winter months to prevent ice.

Nitrogen and phosphorus, both from synthetic fertilizers, run-off in waterways can cause increased algal blooms, which can lead to hypoxic (low oxygen) conditions, negatively affecting aquatic life.

Leaching of synthetic agricultural inputs can also end up in groundwater, which can impact human health in a large number ways.

Development, Crops, and Waterways:

Development:

- Developed/Open Space
- Developed/Low Intensity
- Developed/Med Intensity
- Developed/High Intensity

Waterways

- Open Water

Largest U.S. Crop:

- Corn

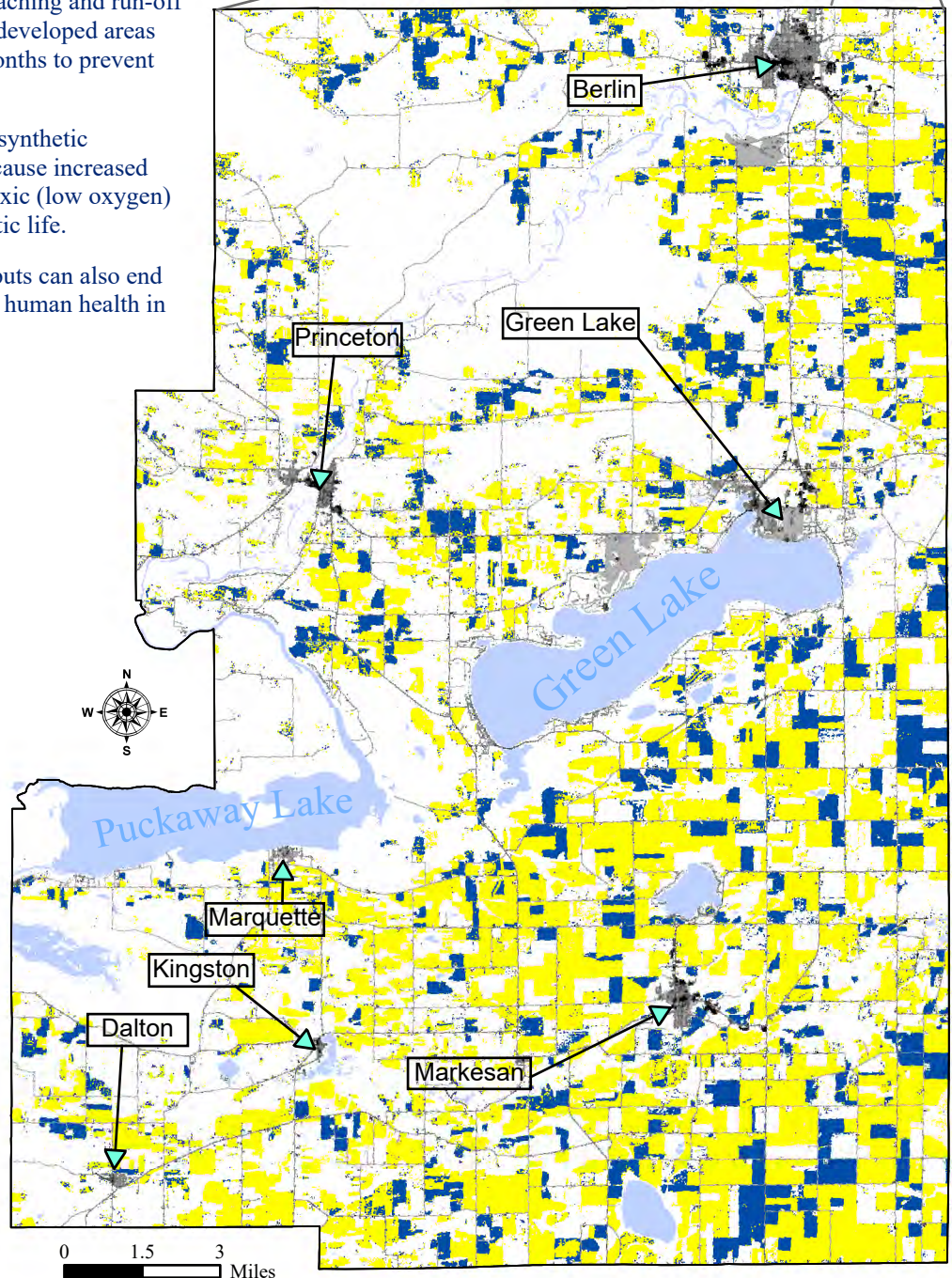
Second Largest U.S. Crop:

- Soybeans

Other Land Types:



Data: Natural Earth (states and provinces, counties), Lab Materials (Counties, states), USDA Cropland Data Layer, Government of Alberta, EPA, Google Maps (place names, locations)



Notes: Lambert Conformal Projection, State Projection Information (Central Meridian is 90°W, Standard Parallels are 20°N and 60°N), County Projection Information (Central Meridian is 89°W, Standard Parallels are 43.5°N and 44.5°N)