



# Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Issued Monday 3:00 PM; April 9, 2007

Week Ending April 8, 2007

## FARMERS ANXIOUSLY AWAIT FROST ASSESSMENT

Temperatures across Tennessee plummeted behind a cold front that passed through mid-week, damaging many of the State's crops. Nighttime lows were cold enough to create frost conditions for the duration of the weekend. Showers and thunderstorms also accompanied this front, some severe enough to produce large hail and damaging winds. Reports from County Agents with the University of Tennessee Extension indicate that it is too early to speculate on the extent of the damage. However, truer assessment of the affects of last week's freeze may be available in the next few days, as temperatures return to more seasonal levels. Before the chill, wheat, corn, fruit, and vegetable crops were developing well ahead of normal and benefited from ideal weather conditions early in the week. This rapid development had left them especially vulnerable to last week's hard freeze. Although generally dry, cold temperatures kept most farmers out of their fields last week while waiting for warmer weather.

There were 5 days suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 5 percent very short, 29 percent short, 61 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 10 percent very short, 43 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged below normal across the entire State last week with lows dipping into the 20's. Precipitation amounts ranged from near normal across the middle and eastern portions of the State to below normal in the West.

CROP PROGRESS: Through April 8, 2007					CONDITION: On April 6, 2007					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2006	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<b>Percent</b>					<b>Percent</b>				
Apples – Budding or Beyond	93	71	80	77	Apples	8	11	44	28	9
Apples – Blooming or Beyond	62	40	39	42	Pastures	8	17	39	31	5
Corn – Planted	47	36	15	23	Winter Wheat	0	3	15	57	25
Corn – Emerged	22	n/a	3	2						
Peaches – Budding or Beyond	95	90	93	91						
Peaches – Blooming or Beyond	85	75	79	71						
Winter Wheat – Jointed	76	59	71	61						
Winter Wheat – Top Dressed	94	89	93	94						

n/a = not available

### County Agent Comments

*“The farmers in Fayette County have been on hold this week due to a mid-week shower and a cold front moving in at week-end. Most of the corn has been planted and some is up to a stand. The concern today is how much damage the freeze will do to the wheat in boot stage and beyond.”*

**Jeffery D. Via, Fayette County**

*“Record cold temperatures hit crops hard. The jury is still out on the extent of the damage.”*

**Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County**

*“Some fruit damage from light freeze Thursday night/Friday morning. Extent will be more evident in next 2-3 days. If weather is as predicted, we anticipate severe damage to apples, peaches, plums, and strawberries over the weekend.”*

**David K. Glover, Smith County**

*“Finally some rain, though it was scattered. Thundershowers last weekend helped improve topsoil moisture in some areas of the county with reports of 1/4" to 1" of rainfall. Great concern is growing among wheat growers about possible freeze injury in light of the temperatures forecasted for this weekend. Efforts are underway by commercial small fruit and vegetable producers to make ready with available freeze protection measures.”*

**John Wilson, Marion County**

*“Dry weather continues to be the story in Monroe County agriculture. Growth of forage crops, hay, pasture, and small grain for silage has slowed to a standstill due to moisture shortage. Available water for livestock is becoming a concern and hay stocks have been exhausted.”*

**Bob Sliger, Monroe County**

**TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION**  
**For week ending: April 8, 2007 (with comparisons)**

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending April 8, 2007				Current Week 04/08/07	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
Ames_Plantation	85	24	53	-7	0.62	1	8.80	-6.48	1.16	-0.35
Tri-City_RGNL_A	79	21	49	-4	0.75	3	6.37	-4.88	0.85	-0.03
Brownsville_TN	84	25	53	-6	0.57	1	9.16	-6.02	1.37	-0.01
Chattanooga/Lov	84	27	55	-2	0.94	2	8.63	-8.37	1.38	0.11
Clarksville_Sew	86	22	48	-7	1.04	2	10.25	-4.70	1.13	-0.17
Cookeville	83	20	49	-6	0.94	1	10.85	-5.47	0.95	-0.34
Covington	83	25	52	-6	0.75	1	10.34	-4.78	1.56	0.12
Crossville_AP	81	20	48	-6	0.91	1	7.96	-8.41	0.94	-0.41
Dayton	82	23	51	-6	0.67	2	7.59	-9.75	0.96	-0.36
Dickson_AG	86	16	48	-8	0.65	1	10.32	-5.05	0.73	-0.63
Dover_1W	85	22	51	-4	0.85	1	12.33	-2.93	1.95	0.59
Dyersburg	84	25	52	-7	0.54	1	10.38	-3.68	1.30	0.06
Erwin_1W	80	19	49	-2	0.50	2	6.12	-6.47	0.50	-0.58
Huntingdon_Wate	83	23	51	-5	0.05	1	8.81	-6.23	0.40	-0.88
Jackson_Exp_Stn	84	23	52	-5	0.47	1	9.77	-4.81	1.09	-0.21
Kingston_AG	82	25	51	-2	1.14	2	9.66	-7.69	1.46	0.19
Knoxville_AP	80	23	51	-4	1.38	2	8.59	-5.80	1.55	0.48
Lewisburg	84	23	51	-3	0.66	1	8.29	-7.58	0.66	-0.63
Lexington_TN	86	22	51	-5	1.29	1	11.33	-3.11	1.74	0.49
Linden	86	23	52	-4	0.95	1	10.21	-6.09	1.05	-0.26
Martin	83	23	51	-6	0.49	1	11.90	-2.70	0.93	-0.43
Mc_Minnville_Tn	84	24	51	-6	0.78	1	7.85	-7.85	0.83	-0.45
Memphis_AG	86	26	54	-7	0.38	1	9.71	-5.22	1.74	0.30
Milan	83	19	50	-6	0.57	1	9.38	-5.54	1.14	-0.16
Murfreesboro_5N	84	19	50	-6	0.76	1	11.64	-3.37	0.76	-0.47
Nashville_Metro	84	23	52	-5	0.74	1	8.32	-5.10	0.75	-0.43
Newcomb	83	20	49	-3	1.53	3	9.54	-5.55	1.53	0.31
Oneida	82	20	49	-3	1.16	2	8.66	-6.43	1.16	-0.06
Portland_TN	83	23	50	-5	1.16	2	10.52	-4.00	1.16	-0.06
Pulaski_Water_P	85	22	52	-7	0.72	1	9.78	-6.92	0.74	-0.57
Savannah_6SW	88	24	54	-6	0.57	1	9.23	-7.67	0.57	-0.87
Sparta_TN	84	24	51	-4	1.07	1	10.26	-5.56	1.87	0.62
Springfield	83	21	50	-4	1.04	1	9.94	-4.12	1.05	-0.14
Springhill	85	22	51	-4	0.59	2	10.27	-5.72	0.77	-0.61
Union_City	82	23	49	-7	0.40	1	10.88	-3.59	0.67	-0.62
Waynesboro_TN	86	23	52	-3	0.68	1	9.01	-8.24	0.82	-0.66

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

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The USDA, NASS, Tennessee Field Office gratefully acknowledges contributions to this publication by:  
National Weather Service and the University of Tennessee's Extension.

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