



Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending April 13, 2008

WET WEATHER CONTINUES TO SLOW FIELD WORK

Last week's wet weather, combined with the previous week's rainfall, have most Tennessee farmers anxiously awaiting a dry spell in order to get started on their field activities. Corn producers, in particular, have witnessed an early setback, as planting was progressing at a pace of two weeks behind normal. Almost ninety percent of the winter wheat acreage has been top dressed, and three-fifths of the crop has jointed. The wheat crop was rated in mostly good condition; however, powdery mildew has been reported in a few fields across the State. Also, several counties along the Mississippi River reported flooding, which predominately affected wheat fields. Apple and peach trees were developing behind the normal pace. The abundant rainfall has provided a boost for pasture and hayfield growth. The State's nursery farmers were busy spraying, planting, and shipping plants. Other field activities last week included applying pesticides and fertilizer.

There were 3 days suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 2 percent short, 57 percent adequate, and 41 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 4 percent very short, 9 percent short, 61 percent adequate, and 26 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged above normal across the State towards the beginning of the week but were below normal by week's end. Precipitation averaged above normal for much of the State, except for eastern portions, which were below normal.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2007	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent					Percent				
Apples – Budding or Beyond	75	62	97	86	Apples	0	1	24	69	6
Apples – Blooming or Beyond	34	17	79	61	Pastures	2	12	37	43	6
Corn – Planted	5	2	52	42	Peaches	0	1	23	62	14
Peaches – Budding or Beyond	90	78	99	95	Winter Wheat	1	4	17	61	17
Peaches – Blooming or Beyond	65	52	92	83						
Winter Wheat – Jointed	60	37	87	79						
Winter Wheat – Top Dressed	89	78	95	97						

County Agent Comments

“With all the rain we've had in the county, winter wheat on upland soils is in good condition and most of our river bottom wheat may be lost to the flood. Pastures are in good condition.”

JC Dupree, Jr, Lauderdale County

“Apples and peaches are beginning to bloom, farmers are spraying weeds on pastures until Friday, we received over 1 inch of rain. Tenn. River is out of banks. Some pasture and hay ground got fertilized this week.”

Steve Glass, Decatur County

“Rainfall has improved our overall soil moisture condition. However, we are still dry down deep. This part of the state has not received nearly as much rain as Nashville and westward. Pastures grasses that are living are just now starting to recover. A lot of our pastures are thin and will probably require total re-establishment or renovation this fall. The corn crop is later than normal in getting started due to recent rains and cool temperatures.”

Dean Northcutt, Coffee County

“Grass looks good but thin in most areas of the county. Weeds look to be abundant in pastures and hay fields. Clover seems to be coming on slowly. Wheat looks good.”

John Goddard, Loudon County

“Forage crops, fruits and other early growing plants took full advantage of adequate soil moisture and warm temperatures to make excellent growth during the week. Some powdery mildew has been observed on wheat; however, wheat is generally in great condition. Several producers have been applying herbicides to wheat and are making plans to apply a fungicide. The price of wheat grain has spurred interest in taking better care of the crop.”

Bob Slinger, Monroe County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: April 13, 2008 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION						
	Week Ending April 13, 2008				Current Week 04/13/08	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	82	34	62	2	1.77	3	21.45	5.03	5.77	3.3	
Tri-City_RGNL_A	80	42	62	8	0.08	1	12.31	0.4	1.39	-0.04	
Brownsville_TN	80	36	62	3	1.39	2	21.93	5.68	5.68	3.39	
Chattanooga/Lov	82	42	65	8	0.26	1	15.43	-2.43	1.29	-0.67	
Clarksville_Sew	80	38	60	4	1.56	5	18.96	3.11	5.83	3.8	
Cookeville	78	39	60	5	0.42	1	16.03	-1.19	3.11	1.09	
Covington	79	37	60	2	1.81	3	21.65	5.45	5.99	3.65	
Crossville_AP	75	39	61	7	1.71	1	17.77	0.44	4.6	2.47	
Dayton	79	43	62	5	0.05	1	13.76	-4.48	1.46	-0.58	
Dickson_AG	81	38	58	0	2.47	3	21.72	5.33	6.8	4.59	
Dover_1W	80	38	60	4	1.46	2	24.34	8.08	6.98	4.79	
Dyersburg	79	39	62	2	1.39	2	18.85	3.89	5.31	3.33	
Erwin_1W	82	44	62	11	0.03	1	10.82	-2.55	1.03	-0.69	
Huntingdon_Wate	81	38	61	4	2.05	4	23.33	7.39	6.73	4.71	
Jackson_Exp_Stn	81	37	62	5	2.21	3	25.11	9.52	6.39	4.23	
Kingston_AG	81	45	63	9	0.52	1	15.17	-3.05	2.31	0.34	
Knoxville_AP	82	45	65	9	0.18	1	14.04	-1.08	1.82	0.16	
Lewisburg	79	34	60	6	0.51	1	15.47	-1.29	3.67	1.65	
Lexington_TN	80	35	61	4	1.94	3	23.3	7.96	5.94	3.95	
Linden	80	36	60	4	1.97	4	23.43	6.17	6.34	4.24	
Martin	81	38	61	4	1.6	3	23.74	8.12	5.9	3.69	
Mc_Minnville_Tn	79	39	62	5	1.2	2	13.57	-3.01	3.48	1.49	
Memphis_AG	83	37	63	2	2.63	4	25.74	9.69	8.44	6.06	
Milan	82	35	60	4	2.21	3	25.03	9.15	7.88	5.79	
Murfreesboro_5N	81	37	61	5	0.82	3	15.59	-0.28	3.44	1.51	
Nashville_Metro	81	39	62	5	2.7	3	19.04	4.78	6.22	4.35	
Newcomb	82	41	60	8	0.32	1	12.8	-3.16	2.27	0.33	
Oneida	79	39	60	8	0.28	2	7.64	-8.32	1.91	-0.03	
Portland_TN	79	36	60	5	1.95	3	21.15	5.79	6.84	4.94	
Pulaski_Water_P	79	34	61	1	0.55	1	17.67	0.09	3.6	1.59	
Savannah_6SW	81	34	63	3	0.96	2	21.53	3.55	4.48	2.14	
Sparta_TN	79	39	62	6	0.34	2	14.77	-1.94	2.75	0.76	
Springfield	79	38	61	6	2.08	3	20.36	5.45	6.9	5.02	
Springhill	80	35	61	6	1.05	3	15.83	-1.17	4.2	1.99	
Union_City	78	37	58	2	1.25	2	21.83	6.4	5.63	3.55	
Waynesboro_TN	80	36	61	6	1.12	3	18.55	0.23	4.35	1.99	

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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