



Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Issued Monday 3:00 PM; April 20, 2009

Week Ending April 19, 2009

WET WEATHER CONTINUES

For the third consecutive week, widespread rainfall limited Tennessee farmers to only three days suitable for fieldwork. Cool temperatures also slowed the drying process for fields and pastures. Corn growers were planting about three weeks behind the normal pace. Nearly all of the State's winter wheat had been top-dressed by week's end, and the crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition. Over half of the State's apple trees were blooming and developing, at a pace similar to 2008, but slightly behind the five-year average. Over eighty percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition. Strawberries were rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

There were 3 days suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent short, 68 percent adequate, and 31 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 9 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 16 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged 2 to 3 degrees below normal across the State last week. Precipitation was well above normal across the Plateau, above normal over middle and western sections, and below normal in the eastern section.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2008	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent					Percent				
Apples – Budding or Beyond	95	93	90	93	Apples	0	1	17	72	10
Apples – Blooming or Beyond	64	53	62	73	Pastures	1	6	26	56	11
Corn – Planted	11	4	15	51	Winter Wheat	0	1	14	60	25
Winter Wheat – Jointed	74	52	79	88	Strawberries	2	5	21	59	13
Winter Wheat – Top Dressed	95	92	92	97						

County Agent Comments

“Some corn planting was done this week, but soils are still cold and wet. Farmers are waiting for warm weather to really get started on planting corn, most have decided to plant soybeans instead of corn due to input costs. Many are purchasing poultry manure instead of fertilizer for pastures this spring. Fruit still looks good with no frost damage yet.”

Steve Glass, Decatur County

“Sunshine and steady north winds helped soils dry some and get corn planters rolling on a limited basis. Many fields are still too wet for tillage or no-till planting and producers were busy looking for areas dry enough for farm equipment. Fertilizer trucks were running hard as were sprayers.”

Jeff Lannom, Weakley County

“Warmer and drier weather conditions in the later part of the week allowed producers to get into the fields with their corn planters. Small grains and cool season grasses are progressing well. Cattle are coming out the winter in good condition and many producers have hay left over.”

Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County

“Rain continues to delay corn planting. The wheat crop at this point looks good. Cool season forages are growing well if they have been fertilized. Strawberries are growing and the ones grown under plasticulture will be ready to begin harvest in a couple of weeks.”

Richard Groce, Maury County

“Lots of rain, with very few dry days in between. Some wheat showing signs of water damage. Producers need a few dry days to enable them to beginning planting.”

Scott Chadwell, Putnum County

“Hay and pasture fields are making good growth with slightly warmer temperatures and an abundance of soil moisture. That abundance of soil moisture is slowing down field work such as corn planting. It appears that fruit crops have escaped major damage from some light frosts. Producers took advantage of dry weather late in the week to begin applying burn down herbicides on no-till corn and soybean land.”

Bob Sliger, Monroe County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: April 19, 2009 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION						
	Week Ending April 19, 2009				Current Week 4/19/09	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN							
West											
Ames_Plantation	79	41	56	-6	1.13	2	15.34	-2.03	2.89	-0.71	
Brownsville_TN	78	40	56	-5	1.17	3	12.33	-4.83	2.05	-1.31	
Covington	75	38	54	-7	0.95	2	14.52	-2.58	2.96	-0.46	
Dyersburg	79	39	56	-6	0.87	3	11.55	-4.20	2.79	-0.14	
Huntingdon_Wate	79	39	55	-5	0.83	3	15.73	-0.96	2.89	-0.04	
Jackson_Exp_Stn	77	43	57	-4	1.04	3	14.08	-2.37	2.96	-0.21	
Lexington_TN	77	37	55	-5	1.01	2	13.12	-2.97	3.05	0.15	
Martin	77	40	55	-5	1.01	3	15.69	-0.78	3.05	-0.18	
Memphis_AG	80	36	55	-8	1.72	4	16.30	-0.67	2.71	-0.77	
Milan	79	39	56	-4	0.85	4	13.26	-3.47	2.29	-0.82	
Paris	78	38	55	-4	0.58	3	15.00	-1.62	2.10	-1.01	
Savannah_6SW	76	40	57	-6	0.62	2	14.26	-4.62	2.44	-0.98	
Selmer	77	40	56	-4	0.76	2	12.46	-6.20	1.91	-1.51	
Union_City	77	39	54	-5	0.93	3	14.72	-1.51	2.81	-0.24	
Middle											
Clarksville_Sew	76	41	57	-2	0.22	3	14.27	-2.30	0.77	-2.15	
Cookeville	76	34	53	-4	1.57	2	19.46	1.49	5.32	2.38	
Crossville_AP	72	42	54	-2	2.55	4	19.35	1.25	5.25	2.17	
Dickson_AG	76	36	56	-3	1.47	2	16.12	-1.09	3.35	0.15	
Dover_1W	77	39	56	-2	0.56	3	18.58	1.52	4.21	1.05	
Fayetteville_TN	77	44	59	2	1.63	3	16.09	-2.20	4.09	1.08	
Jamestown	76	38	52	-5	1.86	3	19.56	2.91	5.46	2.65	
Kingston_Spring	79	38	55	-3	0.64	3	14.46	-2.40	2.19	-0.70	
Lawrenceburg_FI	75	36	55	-4	0.43	4	11.95	-6.85	2.76	-0.22	
Lewisburg	75	35	53	-5	0.71	4	13.09	-4.43	4.10	1.16	
Linden	76	35	55	-4	0.56	3	12.12	-5.94	2.31	-0.76	
Livingston_WLIV	76	38	54	-4	1.26	2	18.34	2.09	4.20	1.47	
Murfreesboro_5N	76	40	55	-4	1.13	3	14.86	-1.71	3.68	0.89	
Nashville_Metro	76	42	57	-3	0.66	3	13.62	-1.34	3.28	0.56	
Oneida	76	37	54	-1	0.79	4	14.70	-1.98	3.12	0.31	
Portland_TN	74	44	55	-3	0.71	4	19.39	3.33	5.29	2.53	
Pulaski_Water_P	75	36	56	-7	0.57	3	14.24	-4.04	4.03	1.14	
Shelbyville	77	40	57	-4	0.92	3	14.23	-3.56	3.33	0.42	
Sparta_TN	76	39	55	-4	1.70	3	19.72	2.25	4.60	1.70	
Springfield	76	41	54	-3	0.62	3	13.71	-1.89	4.06	1.33	
Springhill	74	40	55	-3	0.69	3	13.89	-3.93	3.30	0.09	
Tullahoma	74	41	56	-5	1.98	3	17.25	-1.86	5.64	2.50	
East											
Chattanooga/Lov	76	43	59	0	0.29	3	15.69	-2.87	2.54	-0.29	
Cleveland_6NNE	75	44	58	-1	0.76	3	13.32	-5.06	3.01	0.19	
Dayton	76	43	56	-3	0.51	3	13.96	-4.98	3.41	0.49	
Erwin_1W	75	35	54	1	0.40	2	10.54	-3.48	1.98	-0.53	
Gatlinburg_2SW	75	32	53	-2	0.32	2	15.26	-1.41	2.53	-0.20	
Greeneville	76	36	54	-2	0.15	1	10.75	-1.41	2.25	0.23	
Kingston_AG	78	40	56	-1	0.42	3	16.26	-2.66	3.11	0.27	
Knoxville_AP	75	42	57	0	0.28	3	15.17	-0.55	2.28	-0.12	
Newcomb	77	36	53	-1	0.71	4	16.33	-0.35	2.71	-0.10	
Norris_4NE	79	32	54	-3	0.70	3	16.89	0.26	2.85	0.11	
Tri-City_RGNL_A	75	36	54	-2	0.12	2	12.25	-0.21	2.11	0.02	

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.