



# Tennessee Crop Weather

Tennessee Field Office • PO Box 41505 • Nashville, TN 37204 • (615) 781-5300 • www.nass.usda.gov  
In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Issued Monday 3:00 PM; May 19, 2008

Week Ending May 18, 2008

## FIELDWORK CONTINUES BETWEEN SHOWERS

Most field activities were limited last week due to scattered showers and thunderstorms across Tennessee. Planting progress for most crops continues to lag behind last year and the five-year average. With almost one-fourth of their acreage planted, cotton producers were 10 days behind the five-year average, while soybean farmers lagged one week behind the normal schedule. Tobacco transplanting and hay harvest continued on a limited basis, both slightly behind the 5-year average. The winter wheat crop continues to be rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition with a few fields beginning to turn color. Other field activities taking place last week, as weather allowed, included spreading fertilizer, spraying pesticides, and picking strawberries.

There were 3 days considered suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 3 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 27 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 2 percent very short, 11 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 17 percent surplus. Temperatures across the State were below normal last week, as was precipitation.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2007	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent					Percent				
Corn – Planted	90	85	99	96	Hay	2	5	35	51	7
Corn – Emerged	68	52	96	91	Pastures	1	7	28	53	11
Cotton – Planted	24	15	83	61	Winter Wheat	1	4	19	54	22
Hay – First Cutting	26	16	44	31						
Soybeans – Planted	17	9	42	30						
Soybeans – Emerged	3	n/a	19	12						
Tobacco – Transplanted	22	10	30	25						
Winter Wheat – Headed	97	89	97	96						
Winter Wheat – Turning Color	5	n/a	27	27						

n/a = not available

### County Agent Comments

*“Rainy and cool weather continues to plague and halt cotton and soybean planting. Wheat continues to progress well. Diseases are present and poised to affect yields depending upon weather conditions the rest of May. However, many acres have been sprayed with a fungicide which is a plus to ward off disease progress. Cotton planting timing is rapidly reaching a critical stage where producers need to be getting cotton planted.”*

**Tim Campbell, Dyer County**

*“Continued wet, cloudy weather allowed few opportunities for field work this week. Producers are looking for warmer/drier conditions next week to complete corn planting and start soybean planting. Some herbicide applications went out this past week and side-dressed nitrogen fertilizer applications were able to be made.”*

**Jeff Lannom, Weakley County**

*“Hay harvest took an upturn this weekend in hopes of catching a few days of drying time in between threat of rain. Some river bottoms will have some late planted corn.”*

**Troy Dugger, Hickman County**

*“The wet weather has made some people anxious about setting tobacco and they are behind schedule. Several people have tobacco plants ready to set and it is too wet for ground preparation. Pastures and hay are coming along but with the hay that has been harvested; the yield is down due to last year’s drought.”*

**Jason Evitts, Trousdale County**

*“The wheat crop has started to change color. Some weed issues such as vetch, thistle, etc. has shown up in some fields of wheat. Wet weather has delayed some field work but corn planting is nearing completion. Hay harvest of tall fescue has been delayed. Those producers with bermuda hay fields are seeing some good growth despite cool temperatures.”*

**Matt Webb, Marion County**

**TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION**  
**For week ending: May 18, 2008 (with comparisons)**

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION						
	Week Ending May 18, 2008				Current Week 5/18/08	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	78	41	62	-8	1.43	3	30.18	7.45	14.5	5.72	
Tri-City_RGNL_A	73	39	59	-6	0.67	3	14.78	-1.26	3.86	-1.7	
Brownsville_TN	79	44	63	-7	0.81	3	28.57	5.85	12.32	3.56	
Chattanooga/Lov	77	46	64	-4	0.59	2	19.08	-3.72	4.94	-1.96	
Clarksville_Sew	77	44	63	-4	1.78	3	24.62	3.85	11.49	4.54	
Cookeville	76	41	58	-7	0.95	5	20.07	-3	7.15	-0.72	
Covington	78	45	62	-8	0.35	1	25.97	3.31	10.31	1.51	
Crossville_AP	72	38	58	-6	1.05	4	21.86	-1.2	8.69	0.83	
Dayton	76	44	60	-6	1.04	2	17.53	-6.32	5.23	-2.42	
Dickson_AG	76	42	61	-7	1.03	3	27.71	5.44	12.79	4.7	
Dover_1W	76	44	60	-6	1.42	2	29.32	7.58	11.96	4.29	
Dyersburg	81	43	64	-7	0.56	2	21.6	1.05	8.06	0.49	
Erwin_1W	72	37	58	-5	0.43	4	13.42	-4.9	3.63	-3.04	
Huntingdon_Wate	79	43	61	-7	0.65	3	27.92	6.28	11.32	3.6	
Jackson_Exp_Stn	79	44	62	-6	0.54	3	31.22	9.41	12.5	4.12	
Kingston_AG	75	46	61	-4	0.81	3	19.08	-4.86	6.22	-1.47	
Knoxville_AP	75	45	62	-5	0.32	3	18.1	-1.46	5.88	-0.22	
Lewisburg	76	40	58	-8	0.59	3	21.4	-1.4	9.6	1.54	
Lexington_TN	77	42	60	-8	1.65	3	30.61	9.58	13.25	5.57	
Linden	76	44	60	-7	0.97	4	29.6	6.3	12.51	4.37	
Martin	79	41	61	-7	0.88	3	27.41	6.12	9.57	1.69	
Mc_Minnville_Tn	75	44	62	-5	1.1	4	17.03	-5	6.94	-0.5	
Memphis_AG	78	45	64	-7	0.29	3	32.71	10.54	15.41	6.91	
Milan	79	41	62	-6	0.65	3	31.32	9.41	14.17	6.05	
Murfreesboro_5N	76	43	59	-8	1.18	4	20.27	-1.35	8.12	0.44	
Nashville_Metro	77	45	61	-7	0.96	3	23.59	3.93	10.77	3.5	
Newcomb	75	39	57	-5	0.91	4	16.08	-5.5	5.55	-2.01	
Oneida	74	41	57	-5	0.96	3	10.7	-10.88	4.97	-2.59	
Portland_TN	75	46	59	-7	1.25	3	27.04	6.21	12.73	5.36	
Pulaski_Water_P	78	43	59	-10	0.7	3	22.49	-0.53	8.42	0.97	
Savannah_6SW	77	42	61	-8	1.05	3	28.24	3.7	11.19	2.29	
Sparta_TN	76	40	60	-5	1.32	4	19.26	-3.25	7.24	-0.55	
Springfield	77	44	59	-7	1.15	4	25.88	5.69	12.42	5.26	
Springhill	79	40	60	-6	0.91	3	21.38	-1.8	9.75	1.36	
Union_City	79	40	61	-7	0.83	3	26.72	5.69	10.52	2.84	
Waynesboro_TN	76	44	61	-5	0.85	3	24.39	-0.29	10.19	1.47	

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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