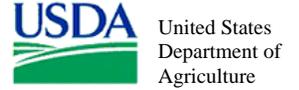




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WEATHER & CROPS



Week of: April 9-April 15, 2007

Number: 6

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 2007

Conditions this week included below normal temperatures, with heavy rains across the state by the weekend. Days suitable for field work were 4.4. Heavy rains through the weekend helped restore soil moisture. In some parts of Virginia soil moisture was over 50 percent adequate. Farmers were planting corn and making the last fertilizer applications to winter grain crops. Producers continued scouting wheat for disease, insects and cold damage. Strawberry farmers protected their crops with overhead irrigation and row covers. A couple days below 30 degrees caused some damage to wine grapes and fruit trees. Other farm activities this month included applying lime, fertilizer and crop chemicals, working on planters and attending meetings.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 15, 2007	2	19	59	20
April 8, 2007	1	29	66	4
April 1, 2007	2	22	70	6

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AWIS WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 2007

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	62	25	41	-13	1.48	0.85	2
Warrenton	63	26	44	-9	1.82	1.08	2
Winchester 7 SE	58	31	44	-7	1.33	0.63	3
Dale Enterprises	62	21	40	-12	1.59	1.03	4
WESTERN							
Glasgow	68	26	45	-10	2.34	1.71	3
Roanoke AP	67	29	47	-8	1.56	0.84	3
Waynesboro	64	23	42	-10	1.67	1.04	2
Staunton AG	63	26	41	-10	2.19	1.56	2
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	67	25	45	-12	0.99	0.28	2
Piedmont Res ST	67	25	45	-10	1.91	1.22	2
Bremo Bluff	75	23	47	-8	1.27	0.62	3
Richmond AP	74	28	50	-7	1.57	0.93	3
EASTERN							
Eastville	69	33	47	-9	0.93	0.30	3
Wallops Island	70	28	46	-9	0.84	0.30	3
Williamsburg	74	27	50	-7	3.08	2.44	3
Keysville	71	26	47	-8	1.54	0.84	3
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	61	22	41	-10	1.12	0.28	3
Wytheville	58	20	41	-8	1.46	0.76	4
Saltville	64	22	44	-9	1.15	0.31	3
Richlands	60	22	43	-4	1.59	0.75	4
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	72	20	47	-8	2.00	1.04	5
Danville AG	74	28	49	-8	2.92	2.18	3
Chatham	73	24	45	-8	1.68	0.91	3
Martinsville	71	23	45	-9	1.53	0.71	3
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	74	34	52	-5	0.55	-0.15	3
Oceana	76	30	52	-5	0.47	-0.16	3
Emporia	74	28	49	-7	1.31	0.61	2
Newport News	76	26	50	-6	1.41	0.71	3

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	1	12	45	38	4
Livestock	0	4	24	61	11
Other Hay	1	4	47	43	5
Alfalfa Hay	1	6	37	54	2
Winter Wheat	1	6	39	46	8
Barley	0	6	35	55	4
All Apples	10	12	29	49	0
Peaches	48	35	12	5	0
Grapes	0	17	62	20	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	27	24	44	24
Corn Emerged	2	0	7	2

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by Extension Agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

FAUQUIER COUNTY (Tim Mize):

Heavy rains through the weekend have helped restore soil moisture levels. However, many river bottom fields are flooded. Cold soil temperature has delayed early corn plantings.

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Heavy rain and snow showers limited outdoor activities. Most farmers are still feeding livestock and preparing for spring and summer by repairing fence, machinery, processing stocker cattle, finishing lambing.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY (Jon Repair):

Cold temperatures and frost have brought forage and small grain growth to a minimum. Soil moisture levels were helped by rain this week, but we are still in need of more rain and warmer temperatures. Asian Pears were heavily damaged from frost this week. Alfalfa weevil and spider mite activity has stopped for now with cold temperatures. As things begin to warm up so will their activity.

AMHERST COUNTY (William W. Seay):

Recent rains have been beneficial to restore needed moisture for the coming growing season. Forage growth is being slowed by cooler temperatures.

BEDFORD COUNTY (Scott Baker):

Extent of freeze damage is still being assessed on fruit crops. Crop growth that had been slowed by cool, dry weather should pick up with the recent rain and expected warmer temperatures.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Farmers are planting corn and making the last fertilizer applications to winter grain crops. Farmers and field scouts are inspecting wheat and barley for aphids and cereal leaf beetles. So far we have not seen any major infestations. A good soaking rain of 1/2 to 3/4 inches on Thursday night and extensive rains over the weekend have improved soil moisture very much. Small grains are in the jointing stages and entering the "boot". They seem to be a little behind schedule perhaps due to the recent onset of colder weather.

ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

Three inches or more of snow was a real surprise. Fortunately, little if any corn had been planted and only a very few tomato transplants set out, most farmers had waited. The moisture was badly needed. Even with that, more moisture is needed. If we get the storm this weekend that is predicted and it brings moisture it will set the stage for a good planting season if it turns around and stays dry and warm for a while. Farmers have been applying lime, fertilizer, crop chemicals, working on planters and attending meetings. The only negative is the constant rise in price of crop inputs and especially fuel.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.**MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):**

Fingers are crossed that we survived the cold and snow, especially the small grain crop. Three to five inches of snow fell on the Middle Peninsula last weekend and brought much needed precipitation. So far damage has been minimal with the most being landscape trees that had broken limbs and some garden crops that were planted too early. We are still in need of moisture. Corn planting halted for 3-4 days and producers continued planting some fields at week's end with more rain predicted for the weekend. Ground temperatures are still in the low to mid 50's as corn still lies in the ground awaiting germination in most cases. On-farm activities include some clean up following snow. Field preparation for corn planting and wheat scouting continued for disease, insects and cold damage. Several fields have been sampled for suspected micronutrient problems. Yellow areas related to drought or compaction also exist. As stated earlier, it is suspected that small grains here managed to escape significant damage from the recent cold weather.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

We are still assessing the damage from the cold snap last weekend; but looks like significant damage to any fruit crops that were blooming: peaches, cherries, and strawberries. Most vegetable operators had been holding off on setting out transplants due to the weather, so not much damage there. Most plants are still in the greenhouse. Have not seen significant damage in small grains, but may be too early to tell. Same for corn, some had been planted but was not up so will have to wait a few days and see if it comes up. More corn was planted this week. Westmoreland County had a nice rain this week which was really needed. Things should green up with warmer temperatures.

WYTHE COUNTY (Joseph W. Massey):

The freeze over the period of the 6th through the 10th has caused damage to the fruit crop here in Wythe County. The extent of that damage is still to be determined. Cold weather over the weekend will just add to the damage, and delay pasture growth. Grass growth in pastures was vigorous before the freeze, has slowed or stopped. Many producers reported that their alfalfa was laid over after the freeze, and I am monitoring its recovery. Producers are closely watching the pastures, wondering if they will have to provide hay. Hay supplies are low. I will continue to monitor the situation.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY (Robert L. Jones):

Last weeks freeze caused significant damage to our wine grapes and the few commercial fruit trees. Small grain damage looks like it will not be very significant.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence, Jr.):

Big weather event was the light snow Saturday followed by another 2 nights of freezing temperatures. Only a few hundred acres of field corn were emerged. First plantings of sweet corn were also emerged. Un-germinated seed below ground appears unscathed while above ground leaf tissue is mostly brown tissue now. Some corn will come back while other corn will not. A few warm days may tell. Most corn farmers are now ready to plant without reservation. Strawberry growers struggled to frost protect with overhead irrigation and row covers. There was anywhere from 10% to 60% of fruit loss from farm to farm. Previous warm spell produced large numbers of buds and flowers which may compensate for damaged flowers. Winter wheat fortunately was not at boot stage and therefore not damaged.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY (C. Taylor Clarke, Jr.):

The recent moisture has improved outlook for hay and pasture. Freeze and frost over last weekend burned top of wheat but didn't seem to injure growing point. The extent of damage will take time to determine.



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