

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Farmers are starting to realize the true impact of several days of well below freezing temperatures in early April. The dry weather has also effected all plant growth in the past 30 days. Some rain has been experienced this week, however not enough to offset existing dry conditions for very long. Alfalfa has been stunted and yields will be 60-70% of normal for first cutting. Alfalfa weevil has begun to infest stands heavily as temperatures warm slightly. Most producers will cut early to overcome weevil and to get new growth started. Small grains have also been stunted and forage yields will be well below normal. Pasture growth has been excessively slow causing producers to have to supplement feed with stored feeds longer than normal. Feed supplies are also becoming short and hard to find for most. The first cutting of hay yields will have a reduction in yield by at least 20%. Asian pears were hurt substantially from the freeze in early April. A crop reduction of 80-100% is the expected outlook at this time; entire trees were lost as well. Grapes have also suffered, however it is still too early to estimate the extent of damage to this year's crop and to the canes themselves.

SOUTHWESTERN

WYTHE (Joseph W. Massey)

Pastures are beginning to recover from the recent freeze, but recovery is slow. Alfalfa and many other legumes and grasses show damage, but appear to be recovering. About 4-10 inches of growth appears to be lost for the first cutting. Small grains appear to be shorter than usual, and will have reduced yields when harvested. About 95% of the apple trees in the county and almost 100% of the peach trees will not produce fruit this year due to the freeze. Some grapes, dependent on the variety, location, and aspect, have sustained severe damage, and many vines will have to be replaced. Damage assessment is still going, and we will continue to monitor.

NORTHERN

CULEPER (Carl Stafford)

Spring drought continues despite the light rain on Thursday night and Friday. Pasture and hay are well behind normal production volumes for this time of year. Crop planting benefits from the dryer than normal field conditions.

SOUTHEASTERN

DINWIDDIE (Mike Parrish)

Strawberries had a 50% yield loss, blue berries had a 60% loss due to frost/freeze.



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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week of: April 23-April 29, 2007

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 29, 2007

This week the Commonwealth experienced warmer temperatures, with scattered showers that provided some areas with rain. Days suitable for field work were 5.80. Topsoil moisture was adequate. Grain producers were scouting for cereal leaf beetles, aphids and diseases. Insecticides and fungicides were being applied to wheat fields. Producers were finishing up planting corn and started planting cotton and soybeans. Vegetable planting was progressing well. Flue cured tobacco transplanting is on schedule. Other farm activities included seeding and fertilizing pastures, shearing sheep and processing calves.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 29, 2007	1	19	79	1
April 22, 2007	3	11	60	26
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 29, 2007

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	83	40	61	4	0.72	0.06	3
Warrenton	85	45	63	7	0.49	-0.32	2
Winchester 7 SE	85	38	62	8	0.85	0.08	1
Dale Enterprises	81	39	61	6	0.52	-0.12	2
WESTERN							
Glasgow	88	41	65	8	0.36	-0.35	1
Roanoke AP	88	52	68	11	0.15	-0.66	1
Waynesboro	83	39	62	8	0.71	0.00	2
Staunton AG	80	46	62	8	0.80	0.09	3
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	84	50	65	6	0.17	-0.71	1
Piedmont Res ST	84	51	65	9	0.20	-0.60	1
Bremo Bluff	89	40	67	9	0.26	-0.48	1
Richmond AP	90	52	68	9	0.38	-0.34	2
EASTERN							
Eastville	81	50	65	7	1.38	0.75	2
Wallops Island	81	50	63	4	0.40	-0.16	1
Williamsburg	87	53	67	8	1.34	0.59	2
Keysville	86	45	66	9	0.47	-0.30	3
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	83	37	62	9	0.82	-0.03	3
Wytheville	80	33	60	7	0.22	-0.58	3
Saltville	81	37	61	7	1.06	0.14	4
Richlands	79	37	60	11	0.99	0.09	3
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	86	45	66	8	0.39	-0.59	1
Danville AG	88	45	68	8	0.22	-0.55	2
Chatham	85	37	63	7	0.14	-0.71	1
Martinsville	85	44	64	8	0.35	-0.50	2
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	87	51	68	9	0.48	-0.25	3
Oceana	88	52	69	10	0.51	-0.17	2
Emporia	87	44	68	10	0.55	-0.15	2
Newport News	88	50	68	9	1.36	0.63	2

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

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

WEATHER & CROPS

Week Of April 23 – April 29, 2007

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	1	8	34	50	7
Livestock	0	3	19	67	11
Other Hay	1	7	51	37	4
Alfalfa Hay	0	15	45	36	4
Corn	0	1	47	49	3
Winter Wheat	4	8	39	46	3
Barley	1	9	42	47	1
Summer Potatoes	0	0	50	40	10
All Apples	4	2	34	60	0
Peaches	60	18	19	3	0
Grapes	3	3	40	54	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	60	30	55	51
Corn Emerged	20	2	29	25
Soybeans Planted	3	0	3	2
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	25	0	13	9
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Transplanted	2	0	1	1
Peanuts Planted	7	0	9	7
Cotton Planted	22	0	36	27
Summer Potatoes Planted	90	NA	NA	NA

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

CENTRAL
NELSON (Michael Lachance)
 Fruit growers are looking at management challenges imposed by the freezing temperatures of April 7 - 10. Peach orchards are most affected with very few developing fruit seen. Apples are mixed by variety, with some completely fruitless while others relatively unscathed. Thinning operations will be much more difficult this year due to patchiness of bloom and clustering of set fruit. Primary buds of wine grapes were destroyed and growers are anticipating secondary bud break to assess potential crop for this year. Fertilizing of hay land is now nearly complete.

EASTERN
ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)
 Excellent planting conditions for corn. Fields drying out and planting was going full throttle. The wheat crop looks good. There are minor insect problems to date. Tomato planting was progressing well. Farmers were mostly planting and applying pesticides and fertilizer. Potato planting finished on time if not early and the crop is good so far.

EASTERN (continued)
NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)
 Corn planting is almost wrapped up, though cool soil temperatures continue to delay emergence. Most barley has headed, and wheat was mostly in the boot stage with some heading by late week. Powdery mildew, cereal leaf beetle, and septoria are beginning to show up on wheat, and many farmers are making needed sprays for those pests.