



# KENTUCKY WEEKLY CROP & WEATHER REPORT



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Prepared in Cooperation with:  
Univ. of Ky - Agr'l Weather Center  
U.S. Dept. of Commerce - NOAA  
Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
Cooperative Extension Service

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*Released weekly April through November*

November 2001 - March 2002

March 25, 2002

This first Crop & Weather Report of 2002 is a summary of winter weather. Freeze probabilities are included on the next page. The regular releases will begin on April 1. The primary purpose of the weekly report is to provide producers, agricultural media and others with up-to-date information on crops, moisture, temperatures, etc. Information is made possible through cooperation of the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center, National Weather Service, County Agricultural Agents of the Extension Service, voluntary crop reporters and weather observers.

KENTUCKY WINTER WEATHER SUMMARY 2001 - 2002				
CITY	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
<b>LEXINGTON</b>				
Avg. Temperature	52.0°	41.0°	38.0°	38.0°
30 Year Avg.	45.9°	36.3°	32.0°	36.4°
Precipitation	3.30"	2.89"	2.49"	1.37"
Precip. Normals	3.44"	4.03"	3.34"	3.27"
<b>JACKSON</b>				
Avg. Temperature	55.0°	44.0°	41.0°	39.0°
30 Year Avg.	47.7°	38.3°	33.9°	37.9°
Precipitation	1.82"	2.57"	4.41"	1.24"
Precip. Normals	4.20"	4.27"	3.56"	3.68"
<b>PADUCAH</b>				
Avg. Temperature	52.0°	42.0°	40.0°	40.0°
30 Year Avg.	46.8°	36.9°	32.9°	38.1°
Precipitation	7.49"	8.67"	4.42"	2.71"
Precip. Normals	4.53"	4.38"	3.47"	3.93"
<b>LOUISVILLE</b>				
Avg. Temperature	52.0°	41.0°	39.0°	39.0°
30 Year Avg.	47.6°	37.6°	33.0°	37.6°
Precipitation	5.41"	4.53"	5.23"	1.56"
Precip. Normals	3.80"	3.69"	3.28"	3.25"

**NOVEMBER 2001** - November will go into the record books as the 5<sup>th</sup> warmest and the 31<sup>st</sup> wettest November in the past 107 years. Most of the month was dry, however, the final week was very wet for the West, Central and Bluegrass areas. The Eastern section of the State ended the month with below normal rainfall as it did during October. Rainfall for the month totaled 4.19 inches statewide which was 0.21 inches above normal.

**DECEMBER 2001** - December will go into the record books as the 9<sup>th</sup> warmest December in the past 107 years. The first 3 weeks of December were also very mild. A weather pattern shift during the final week allowed bitter cold Arctic air to invade the Ohio Valley. Precipitation was plentiful during the first three weeks especially in the West, Central and Bluegrass areas but diminished during the final week. Most of the State was wet according to the Palmer Drought and Crop Moisture Indices of Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>. Snowfall occurred on December 25<sup>th</sup> in the form of flurries but accumulated to near an inch across the Central and Eastern sections of the state on the 28/29th. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for month totaled 4.77 inches statewide which was 0.50 inches above normal.

**JANUARY 2002** - Was a very mild month with many locations reporting 4 to 5 days with high temperatures greater than 60 degrees and several locations reporting at least one day with temperatures in the 70's, a rare event in January. Only the first week of January recorded below normal temperatures for the week the rest of the month was mostly mild. The first day of the month was the coldest with low temperatures dropping to the single digits. The warmest day was near Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> where Jackson reported a record breaking 78 degrees. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 4.06 statewide which was 0.38 inches above normal.

**FEBRUARY 2002** - Mostly seasonal to mild temperatures and dry conditions prevailed during February until the last few days of the month when arctic air returned to the Bluegrass state. Despite the colder temperatures at month's end, February was the 4<sup>th</sup> month straight (since November 2001) with above normal temperatures. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the month totaled 1.85 inches statewide which was 1.90 inches below normal.

**MARCH 2002** - March began very cold with below normal precipitation. Warmer temperatures returned at mid-month with periods of widespread rain. Heavy rain late in the month replenished soil moisture but caused extensive flooding in low lying areas.

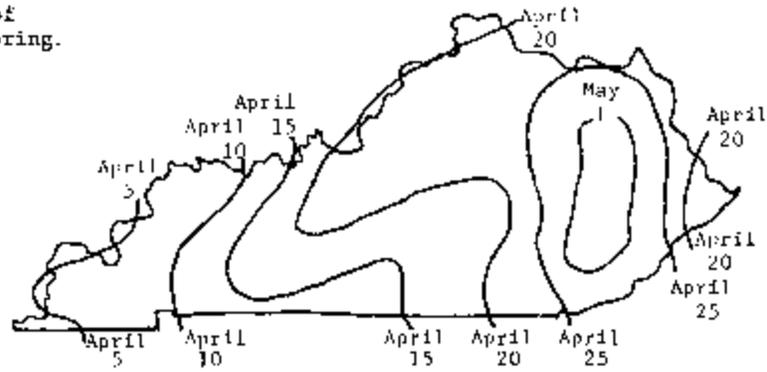
**KENTUCKY FREEZE RISK:** The winter of 2001-2002 began very mild with light periods of rain through November into mid December. Dry conditions returned in late December and into early January and then returning in early February with very mild temperatures prevailing. Record temperatures in mid March accelerated winter wheat growth and budding of trees. Most areas of Kentucky still have a 90 percent chance or greater of experiencing freezing temperatures this spring. Data below are norms from the 1961 - 1990 period with the average date of the last temperatures of 32 degrees or lower being shown in the 50 percent column. All freeze data are based on temperatures at approximately 5 feet above ground and in a representative exposure.

### FREEZE DATE PROBABILITIES 1961 - 1990

#### Last Spring Occurrence

	Earliest	90%	50%	10%	Latest
<b><u>District 1</u></b>					
Golden Pond	March 17	March 22	April 6	April 21	May 27
Loveland	March 7	March 30	April 12	April 25	May 9
Mayfield	March 22	March 29	April 12	April 26	May 4
Paducah	March 7	March 21	April 4	April 18	April 23
<b><u>District 2</u></b>					
Beaver Dam	March 22	March 31	April 17	May 4	May 10
Henderson	March 22	March 26	April 8	April 21	May 1
Hopkinsville	March 22	March 26	April 9	April 23	May 1
Madisonville	March 11	March 25	April 9	April 24	May 4
Owensboro	March 22	March 28	April 11	April 25	May 4
Princeton	March 22	March 26	April 12	April 29	May 27
<b><u>District 3</u></b>					
Bowling Green	March 22	March 26	April 10	April 25	May 4
Campbellsville	March 22	March 30	April 13	April 27	May 10
Glasgow	March 22	April 1	April 16	May 1	May 10
Greensburg	March 23	April 3	April 18	May 3	May 13
Leitchfield	March 22	March 31	April 18	May 6	May 10
Louisville	March 22	March 24	April 10	April 27	May 10
Mammoth Cave	March 29	April 7	April 25	May 13	May 27
Scottsville	March 22	March 23	April 10	April 28	May 27
<b><u>District 4</u></b>					
Carrollton	April 3	April 7	April 21	May 5	May 9
Covington	March 25	April 6	April 20	May 4	May 10
Falmouth	April 9	April 13	May 1	May 19	June 1
Williamstown	March 25	April 1	April 18	May 5	May 27
<b><u>District 5</u></b>					
Berea College	March 25	April 1	April 15	April 29	May 10
Danville	March 23	March 31	April 14	April 28	May 11
Farmers	April 3	April 13	April 30	May 17	May 27
Frankfort	April 2	April 6	April 20	May 4	May 10
Lexington	March 25	April 3	April 17	May 1	May 10
Maysville	March 26	April 3	April 22	May 11	May 27
Shelbyville	March 26	April 5	April 23	May 11	May 17
<b><u>District 6</u></b>					
Ashland	April 11	April 16	May 3	May 20	June 11
Barbourville	March 26	April 9	April 26	May 13	May 27
London	March 22	April 4	April 22	May 10	May 27
Manchester	April 11	April 15	May 3	May 21	June 5
Middlesboro	April 8	April 14	April 29	May 14	May 27
Mount Vernon	April 7	April 13	April 28	May 13	May 27
Somerset	March 23	April 4	April 22	May 10	May 27
Williamsburg	April 3	April 6	April 23	May 10	May 27

Average Date of  
Last 32° in Spring.



### Definitions of Terms used in subsequent releases.

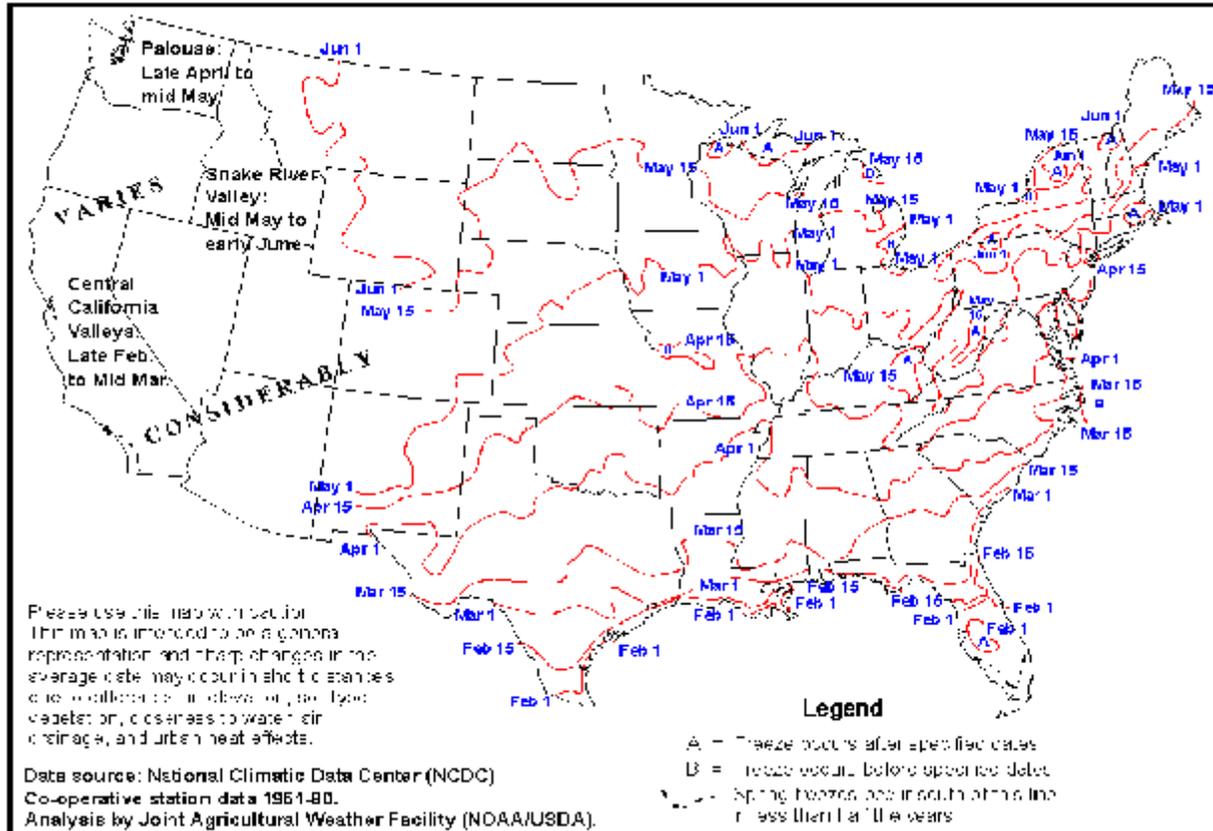
1. **Topsoil Moisture:** (Topsoil is defined as the top 4 - 6 inches of soil.)  
*Very Short* - Soil extremely dry. Pastures and crops stressed with possible deterioration.  
*Short* - Soil dry. Seed germination and/or normal crop growth and development would be curtailed.  
*Adequate* - Soil moist. Seed germination and/or crop growth and development would be normal or unhindered.  
*Surplus* - Soil wet. Fields may be muddy and will generally be unable to absorb additional moisture. Young developing crops may be yellowing from excess moisture.
2. **Days Suitable for Fieldwork:** A "suitable" day is one where weather and field conditions allow producers to work in fields a major portion of that day.
3. **Crop Condition:**  
*Very Poor* - Extreme degree of loss to yield potential, complete or near crop failure. Pastures provide very little or no feed considering the time of year. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.  
*Poor* - Heavy degree of loss of yield potential which can be caused by excess soil moisture, drought, disease, etc. Pastures are providing only marginal feed for the current time of year. Some supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.  
*Fair* - Less than normal crop condition. Yield loss is a possibility but the extent is unknown. Pastures are providing generally adequate feed but is still less than normal for the time of year.  
*Good* - Yield prospects are normal or above. Moisture levels are adequate with only light disease and insect damage. Pastures are providing adequate feed supplies for the current time of year.  
*Excellent* - Yield prospects are above normal and crops are experiencing little or no stress. Pastures are supplying feed in excess of what is normally expected at the current time of year.
4. **Crop Progress Percents:** Percents should indicate the progress of field activities or crop development. If, for example, half of the total current year soybean acreage expected is planted, a value of 50 percent should be used. If weather conditions alter plans such that intentions are prevented, a 100 percent should be used when planting stops. Progress percents should relate to acres. An acre should be considered to be in or beyond a phenological stage when 50 percent or more of the plants in that acre are in or beyond that stage. Generally, you should consider a given field to be in a particular stage when 50 percent or more of the plants have reached or gone beyond that stage.

### FREEZE INJURY IN WHEAT

Growth Stage	Injurious temp. (2 hours)	Primary Symptoms	Yield Effect
Tillering (1 - 5) <sup>a</sup>	12° F	Leaf chlorosis; burning of leaf tips; silage odor, blue cast to fields	Slight to moderate
Jointing (6 - 7)	24° F	Death of growing point; leaf yellowing or burning; lesions, splitting, or bending of lower stem, odor	Moderate to severe
Boot (10)	28° F	Floret sterility; spike trapped in boot; damage to lower stem; leaf discoloration; odor	Moderate to severe
Heading (10.1 - .5)	30° F	Floret sterility; white awns or white spikes; damage to lower stem; leaf discoloration	Severe
Flowering (10.51 - .54)	30° F	Floret sterility; white awns or white spikes, damage to lower stem; leaf discoloration	Severe
Milk (11.1)	28° F	White awns or white spikes; damage to lower stems; leaf discoloration, shrunken, roughened, or discolored kernels	Moderate to severe
Dough (11.2)	28° F	Shriveled, discolored kernels; poor germination	Slight to moderate

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses refer to the Feekes scale

## United States: Average dates of last spring freeze (32 F)



This release and others can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky/> For a free E-Mail subscription of the Kentucky Weekly Crop & Weather report, send an E-Mail message to [nass-state-releases@news.usda.gov](mailto:nass-state-releases@news.usda.gov) with the following command in the body of the message: **subscribe ky-crop-weather <e-mail address>**. The E-Mail address is optional; leave the address blank unless subscribing for someone else. The default address is where you sent the message from. You would unsubscribe in a similar way but use the word **unsubscribe**.

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