

AGRICULTURAL NEWS: Weather was the main story of the week with below normal temperatures and rain in the second half of the week. The week began with normal to above normal temperatures, but dropped significantly in the second half of the week. The change in weather conditions affected fieldwork as soil temperatures remained cool and slowed germination of corn and tobacco beds. **Topsoil moisture**, as of Friday, April 16 was rated 3 percent very short, 19 percent short, 60 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture**, was rated 4 percent very short, 18 percent short, 63 percent adequate, and 15 percent surplus. **Days suitable for fieldwork** averaged 4.0 out of a possible 6 days. Primary farming activities included finishing up seeding of greenhouse and traditional tobacco beds, fertilizing and preparing fields especially hay and pasture acreage. Preparing machinery for planting and other fieldwork, working cattle and fencing projects. The rains stopped fieldwork throughout most of the State from Thursday on through the weekend.

TOBACCO: Seeding of float and conventional tobacco beds advanced to 92 percent complete by Sunday, April 18. This compares with 94 percent in 1998, and 91 percent for the five year average. The number of beds having plants up was 69 percent. This compares with 63 percent last year, and 61 percent for the five year average. The condition of tobacco plants in beds was rated as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 15

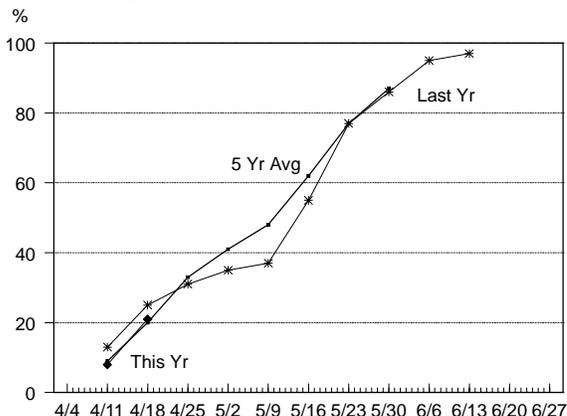
percent excellent. Some areas report ground breaking is beginning for setting tobacco.

CORN: Planting made progress this past week due to the warm dry weather early in the week, and was 21 percent complete as of Sunday, April 18, compared to 25 percent last year and 20 percent for the five year average. There was concern for ungerminated corn in the ground because of the cold wet weather ending the week.

SMALL GRAINS & LEGUMES: Minimal damage to the wheat crop this spring because of weather conditions. As of Friday, April 16 wheat condition was rated as 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Barley condition was rated as 1 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 35 percent excellent.

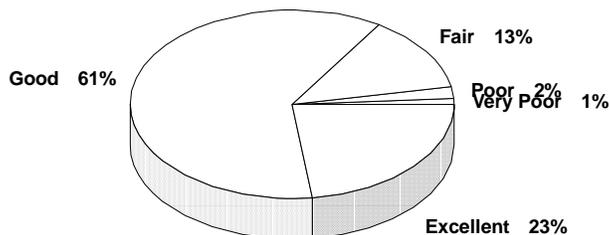
OTHER CROPS: Pasture condition was rated as 1 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. The recent cloudy cold temperatures have slowed pasture development. The average height of alfalfa as of Friday, April 16 was 9 inches. Only a few reports of alfalfa weevil have been indicated. Peach and pear trees are mostly past bloom with minimal damage due to the light frost the State received. Reports indicate that 75 percent of the apple trees are in bloom. All bloom development was slowed with the cool weather.

CORN PLANTING PROGRESS



WHEAT CONDITION

(Apr. 19)



KENTUCKY CROP PROGRESS
WEEK ENDING APRIL 18, 1999
WITH COMPARISONS

Crop Stage	This Week	Previous Year	5-Yr. Avg.	Previous Week	
				KY	U.S.
Percentage					
Tobacco Transplants					
Seeded	92	94	91	86	NA
Emerged	69	63	61	48	NA
Corn					
Planted	21	25	20	8	4

(NA) Data Not Available

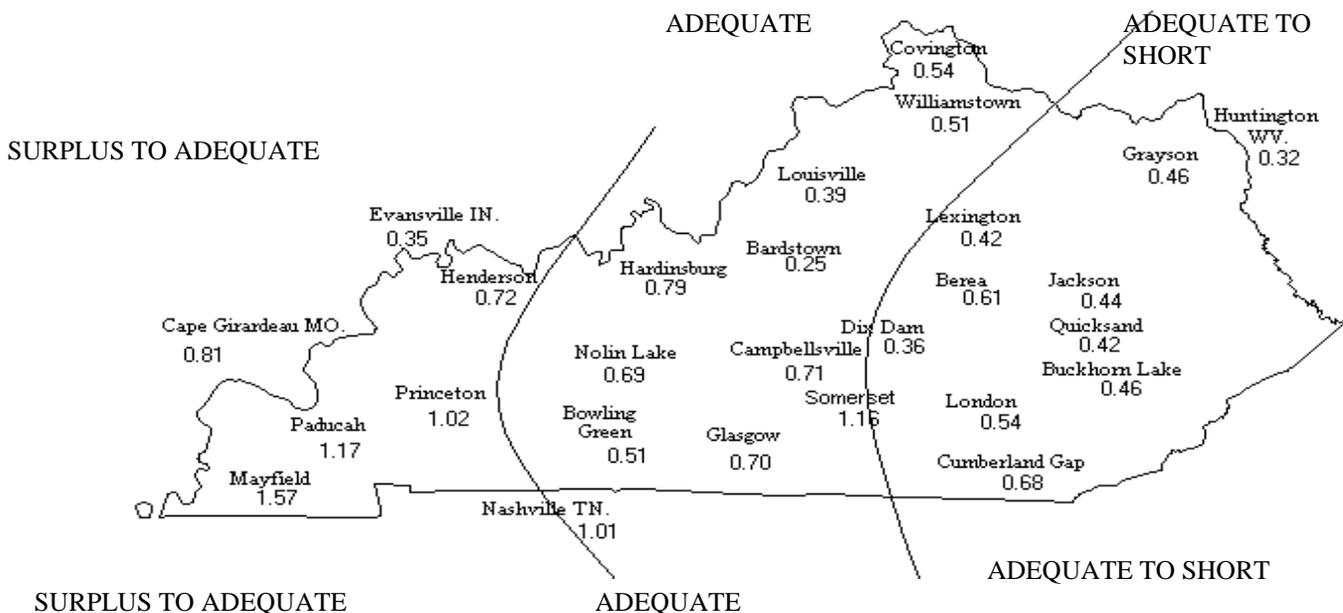
SOIL MOISTURE
WEEK ENDING APRIL 16, 1999
WITH COMPARISONS

	This Week	Previous Week
TOPSOIL		
Very Short	3	0
Short	19	10
Adequate	60	73
Surplus	18	17
SUBSOIL		
Very Short	4	2
Short	18	9
Adequate	63	73
Surplus	15	16

KENTUCKY CROP CONDITIONS (Percent)

CROP	WEEK ENDING APRIL 16, 1999					WEEK ENDING APRIL 9, 1999				
	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Wheat	1	2	13	61	23	0	2	14	61	23
Barley	0	1	9	55	35	1	3	4	78	14
Pasture	1	8	33	43	15	1	8	31	44	16
Tobacco Transplants	1	3	24	57	15	-	-	-	-	-

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 7:00 P.M.
TOPSOIL MOISTURE DELINEATION FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1999



KENTUCKY WEATHER SUMMARY, APRIL 12 - 18, 1999:**BELOW NORMAL TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL:**

Temperatures for this past week averaged 50 degrees across the state which was 6 degrees BELOW NORMAL and 14 degrees cooler than the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 58 in the West to 61 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 13 degrees BELOW NORMAL in the West to 5 degrees BELOW NORMAL in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 42 degrees in the West to 41 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 4 degrees BELOW NORMAL in the West to 3 degrees BELOW NORMAL in the East. Extreme high temperatures were in the mid 70's and extreme low temperatures were in the low to mid 30's. Corn Growing Degree Day (CGDD's) accumulations ranged from 147 at Covington to 238 at Princeton. Alfalfa Weevil Degree Day (AWDD's) accumulations ranged from 260 at Covington to 570 at Princeton. Soil temperatures at 4 inches under a grass cover averaged in the mid to upper 50s...with highs averaging in the low 60's and low soil temperatures averaging near 50 degrees.

Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the week totaled 0.63 inches statewide which was 0.35 inches BELOW NORMAL. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.94 inches, Central 0.56 inches, Bluegrass 0.46 inches and East 0.56 inches, which was 0.13, 0.45, 0.48 and 0.36 inches respectively BELOW NORMAL. By station, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.25 inches at Bardstown to a high of 1.57 inches at Mayfield.

Tom Priddy

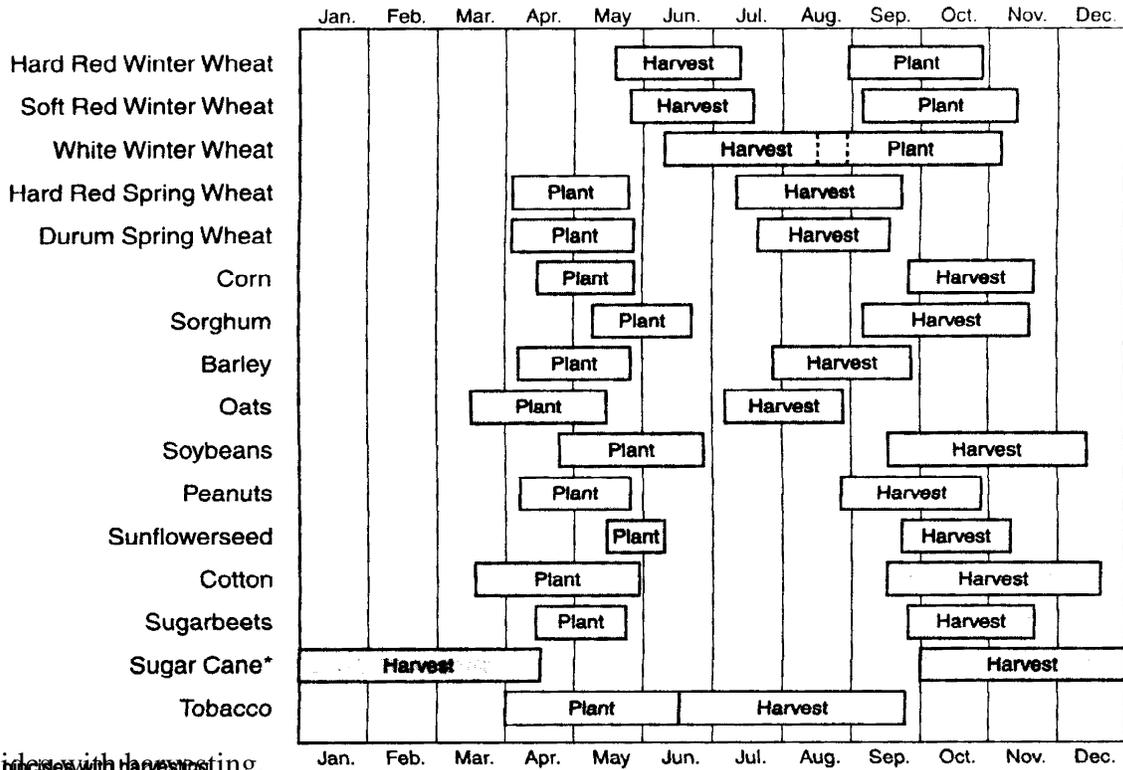
KENTUCKY TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL

FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 7:00 P.M.

Weather Station	Precipitation		Deviation From Normal Since Jan. 1	Temperatures					Air Temp.
	Last Week	Since Jan 1		Soil 4 In. Grass High	Soil 4 In. Grass Low	Air High	Air Low	Wkly. Avg	Deviation From Normal
	(Inches)			(Degrees Fahrenheit)					
Bardstown	0.25	13.71	+0.91	62	50	64	35	48.8	-8
Berea	0.61	8.80	-3.81	65	50	72	33	50.9	-4
Bowling Green	0.51	15.80	+0.16	--	--	65	35	49.9	-7
Bristol	0.61	11.53	-0.82	--	--	67	30	49.8	-5
Buckhorn Lake	0.46	11.56	-2.16	--	--	71	32	52.1	-3
Cape Girardeau	0.81	18.95	+5.04	--	--	66	33	49.6	-9
Campbellsville	0.71	15.09	-0.28	58	50	72	34	51.3	-5
Covington	0.54	12.05	+0.28	--	--	64	34	46.8	-8
Cumberland Gap	0.68	13.42	-2.41	62	51	67	33	50.6	-4
Dix Dam	0.36	11.18	-2.07	--	--	65	34	49.2	-6
Evansville	0.35	14.70	+1.80	--	--	72	35	50.3	-8
Glasgow	0.70	18.47	+2.63	59	50	74	35	52.4	-4
Grayson	0.46	13.65	+2.31	62	51	68	34	50.4	-5
Hardinsburg	0.79	17.68	+3.12	63	50	62	36	48.6	-8
Henderson	0.72	11.72	-1.72	64	53	60	35	48.9	-10
Huntington	0.32	13.01	+1.74	--	--	68	32	49.7	-5
Jackson	0.44	14.01	+0.32	--	--	70	35	50.1	-5
Lexington	0.42	12.96	+0.16	--	--	64	34	47.5	-7
London	0.54	14.33	+0.48	--	--	67	33	49.8	-5
Louisville	0.39	14.44	+1.08	--	--	65	37	48.8	-8
Mayfield	1.57	16.69	-0.12	69	38	77	34	51.1	-8
Nashville	1.01	17.57	+2.69	--	--	66	41	53.3	-3
Nolin Lake	0.69	16.66	+1.92	--	--	64	35	49.3	-7
Paducah	1.17	16.46	+1.36	61	52	65	34	49.4	-9
Princeton	1.02	19.21	+3.16	68	54	70	35	51.2	-7
Quicksand	0.42	11.34	-2.35	64	54	77	32	53.0	-2
Somerset	1.16	16.73	+2.03	59	49	77	31	51.2	-4
Spindletop	0.33	12.09	-0.71	61	47	64	35	47.6	-7
Williamstown	0.51	12.61	+0.11	65	46	65	35	49.2	-6

The above information is provided by Tom Priddy, Kentucky Extension Agricultural Meteorologist, University of Kentucky Agr'l Weather Center (606)257-3000 ext 245. E-mail: tpriddy@ca.uky.edu Additional Ky weather data available on Internet at: <http://www.wagwx.ca.uky.edu/>

PLANTING AND HARVESTING CALENDAR FOR MOST MAJOR U.S. CROP AREAS ^{1/}



* Planting coincides with harvesting.

^{1/} Represents areas where production is concentrated, but not full spectrum of planting and harvesting periods for each crop.