



WET, BUT WELCOME WEATHER

A cold front passed through the state last week bringing welcome rain, cooler temperatures, and even snow in some areas to Tennessee. Wet conditions only slightly delayed planting of the State's corn crop last week, as producers are still ahead of schedule. Corn planting resumed towards week's end, as clear skies and warmer temperatures returned. Producers were also making herbicide applications last week. Currently, over four-fifths of the winter wheat acreage has jointed, while four percent has headed. The wheat crop was rated in mostly good condition with minor insect or disease problems reported. Fruit, strawberries, and greenhouse tobacco plants showed only slight signs of cold damage from last week's cold weather. Other field activities during the past week included fertilizing hay fields, spraying pastures for weeds, and cotton land preparation. Temperatures averaged below normal statewide last week, while rainfall averaged above normal for the week across the entire state. There were only 3 days considered suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 2 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 5 percent short, 86 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through April 18, 2004					CONDITION: On April 16, 2004					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2003	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
	Percent					Percent				
Winter Wheat - Jointed	83	78	82	87	Winter Wheat	0	0	18	57	25
Winter Wheat - Headed	4	N/A	7	11	Pastures	0	3	21	60	16
Corn - Planted	68	58	60	47						
Corn - Emerged	20	N/A	24	15						
Apples - Budding or Beyond	86	84	89	92						
Apples - Blooming or Beyond	69	60	76	72						
Peaches - Blooming or Beyond	89	80	79	90						

CORN: Corn planting, at 68 percent completed, continues to out pace last year and was a full week ahead of the 5-year average. Wet weather at beginning of the week, with warmer temperature towards the weekend, allowed producers to make some progress. One-fifth of the corn acreage has emerged.

WHEAT: The majority of wheat continued to be rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition. Wheat jointed, at 83 percent, was on schedule at normal pace, with 4 percent beginning to head. The wheat crop in some areas was beginning to show signs of yellow and purple leaf tips, which is the result of Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus infection.

FRUIT: The apple and peach crop continued to make good development progress. As of Sunday, 89 percent of the peach and 69 percent of the apple trees were in the blooming or beyond stage. Strawberries suffered small amounts of frost damage from the cold front that came through last week.

PASTURES: Heavy rains last week helped pastures and hay ground. Producers were spraying pasture and hay fields for weeds. Pastures improved from last week with 76 percent rated in good-to-excellent condition.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: April 18, 2004 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending 4/18/04				Current Week 4/18/04	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN					Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	81	32	54	-9	2.46	3	14.78	-2.59	16	-40
Tri-City_RGNL_A	77	32	53	-3	2.97	3	13.88	+1.42	2	-4
Brownsville_TN	81	34	57	-6	2.79	3	13.06	-4.09	30	+5
Chattanooga/Lov	81	37	56	-4	1.20	3	14.10	-4.46	18	-10
Clarksville_Sew	86	32	57	-2	1.42	2	8.67	-7.90	21	-10
Cookeville	79	32	51	-6	3.37	3	20.52	+2.55	2	+2
Covington	80	36	56	-5	1.63	3	12.43	-4.67	15	-25
Crossville_AP	77	32	51	-5	2.11	3	17.71	-0.39	7	-2
Dickson_AG	83	32	53	-6	2.20	2	14.85	-2.36	12	-21
Dover_1W	82	32	54	-5	1.75	3	8.99	-8.07	23	+3
Dyersburg	81	37	57	-5	1.05	2	10.41	-5.34	25	-24
Erwin_1W	77	30	52	-2	2.01	4	10.49	-3.53	0	-19
Huntingdon_Wate	83	32	55	-5	2.72	3	12.28	-4.41	18	-8
Jackson_AG	81	32	55	-6	0.91	1	9.84	-6.60	21	-17
Kingston_AG	80	34	53	-5	2.39	3	18.13	-0.79	3	-7
Knoxville_AP	79	35	55	-4	1.51	3	12.52	-3.20	15	-3
Lewisburg	81	32	52	-7	2.90	3	17.07	-0.44	7	-14
Lexington_TN	81	32	54	-6	2.38	3	13.85	-2.24	17	+14
Linden	82	30	51	-8	2.02	3	15.89	-2.17	4	-22
Martin	80	32	55	-4	1.58	3	12.10	-4.37	17	-11
Mc_Minnville_Tn	82	33	54	-6	3.45	3	18.78	+1.50	12	-30
Memphis_AG	80	36	55	-8	1.67	3	13.86	-3.11	16	-50
Milan	83	32	54	-5	2.19	3	10.82	-5.91	18	-11
Murfreesboro_5N	80	33	53	-7	2.87	3	17.92	+1.35	8	-52
Nashville_Metro	81	35	54	-6	2.44	3	16.73	+1.77	21	-13
Newcomb	81	31	51	-4	2.03	3	14.60	-2.07	3	+1
Oneida	80	32	52	-3	2.33	4	15.31	-1.36	4	-30
Pikeville	84	33	55	-4	1.06	3	15.78	-2.20	9	-13
Portland_TN	81	30	52	-6	2.54	3	15.23	-0.83	16	+0
Pulaski_Water_P	81	33	51	-11	2.16	3	20.69	+2.41	6	-35
Savannah_6SW	82	33	54	-9	1.40	3	17.25	-1.63	22	-5
Sparta_TN	82	32	54	-5	2.27	3	19.39	+1.93	10	-4
Springfield	82	30	52	-6	2.34	3	14.11	-1.50	14	-3
Springhill	81	32	52	-6	1.98	3	18.87	+1.05	12	-8
Union_City	78	33	54	-5	1.47	3	12.28	-3.95	12	-13

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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