



National Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# WEATHER & CROPS



Week of: March 22 - 28, 2004

Number: 4

Released: March 29, 2004

## CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 28, 2004

Farmers took advantage of decent weather in the Commonwealth this week. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.7. Dry and warm weather created ideal conditions for lime application and fertilization. Almost all of Virginia is behind in average rainfall totals for this time of the year. Most of the Commonwealth's small grains have suffered from late planting. In some areas, the winter wheat has been injured by geese. Very little corn has been planted; several farmers are experimenting with a new seed treatment that germinates when the temperature is correct. It is expected that more cropland will be no-till this year. Virginia peaches have begun to bloom, with some areas report up to 25% in bloom. The State's cattlemen are anxious for pastures to green up. Poor hay quality still hampers Virginia's cattle. Encouraging grain prices have row crop farmers looking optimistically towards this year's growing season. Most commercial vegetable producers have transplanted cabbage into the fields. Virginia's cabbage conditions look good.

On Tuesday morning, most of Virginia experienced an unusual cold snap. Strawberry producers were busy protecting their early blooms with overhead irrigation. Other activities for the week included orchard and vineyard pruning, pasture over seeded, calving, fencing, tomato plastic being laid, repairing equipment, and weed control.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
March 28, 2004	0	2	76	22

### CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	2	18	42	33	5
Livestock	1	7	37	48	7
Other Hay	1	5	49	39	6
Alfalfa Hay	0	6	49	41	4
Winter Wheat	2	6	39	43	10
Barley	1	6	36	45	12
Tobacco Greenhouse	0	0	1	68	31
Tobacco Plantbeds	0	0	0	46	54
Summer Potatoes	0	0	52	48	0
All Apples	0	0	83	17	0
Peaches	0	0	64	36	0

### CROP PROGRESS PERCENT - WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Average
Corn Planted	1	NA	NA	NA
Tobacco:				
Greenhouse Seeded	72	NA	NA	NA
Plantbed Seeded	64	NA	NA	NA
Summer Potatoes	45	NA	NA	NA

**WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 28, 2004**

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure From Normal	TOTAL	Departure From Normal	Days
Blacksburg	74	12	42	-4	0.07	-0.77	3
Bremo Bluff	79	14	49	1	0.08	-0.73	1
Burkes Garden	72	11	40	-3	0.21	-0.63	1
Camp Pickett	77	17	49	-1	0.01	-0.79	1
Chatham	76	15	47	-2	0.02	-0.87	1
Dale Enterprise	76	17	46	-2	0.13	-0.43	3
Danville AG	78	22	51	0	0.00	-0.84	0
Floyd	76	16	45	-1	0.05	-0.79	1
Free Union	79	18	49	-2	0.08	-0.72	1
Glasgow	78	18	47	-3	0.10	-0.61	1
Hillsville	75	16	45	-3	0.00	-0.80	0
Lake Of The Woods	77	19	48	0	0.17	-0.60	3
Lynchburg	75	16	49	-2	0.13	-0.64	1
Mount Weather	73	18	44	3	0.14	-0.56	2
Norfolk	78	34	54	3	0.01	-0.78	1
Piedmont Rsrch. Stat.	78	17	49	2	0.13	-0.64	3
Pulaski	74	13	43	-3	0.01	-0.66	1
Richlands	75	13	43	2	0.03	-0.81	1
Richmond	79	21	53	2	0.00	-0.77	0
Roanoke	78	21	50	0	0.02	-0.75	1
Saltville	78	13	43	-5	0.00	-0.77	0
Somerset	77	16	48	0	0.15	-0.62	3
Staunton	78	16	46	0	0.20	-0.43	3
Stuart	76	18	49	1	0.00	-0.98	0
The Plains	78	15	47	0	0.23	-0.48	2
Washington Dulles	78	19	49	3	0.23	-0.47	3
Waynesboro	75	16	45	-2	0.13	-0.50	1
Winchester	79	14	45	-2	0.08	-0.62	2
Woodstock	80	17	46	-3	0.10	-0.53	2
Wytheville	74	13	43	-3	0.00	-0.63	0

Departure from Normal based on 1961-90 Normals.  
Precipitation Days=Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.