



Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.4. Weather conditions were drier with some frost this week; the growth of crops has been stunted and concern is growing among farmers. Farming activities for the week included planting corn and assessing the damages to crops from the recent cold temperatures.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 04/17/16

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	2	23	71	4
Subsoil	1	16	81	2

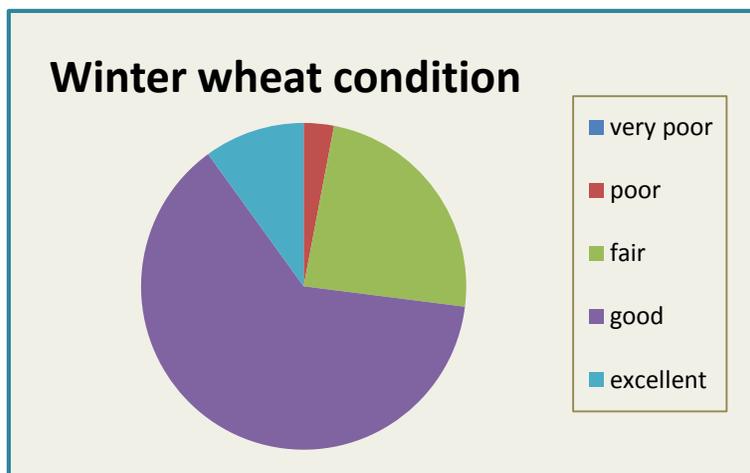
- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 04/17/16

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Barley	4	6	30	54	6
Oats	-	1	40	52	7
Potatoes, Summer	-	15	10	75	-
Tobacco, Greenhouse	-	-	10	23	67
Hay, Alfalfa	-	3	27	66	4
Hay, Other	1	5	31	60	3
Winter wheat	-	3	24	63	10
Pasture	4	20	32	38	6
Livestock	1	10	26	53	10

-Represents zero.

WINTER WHEAT for week ending 04/17/16

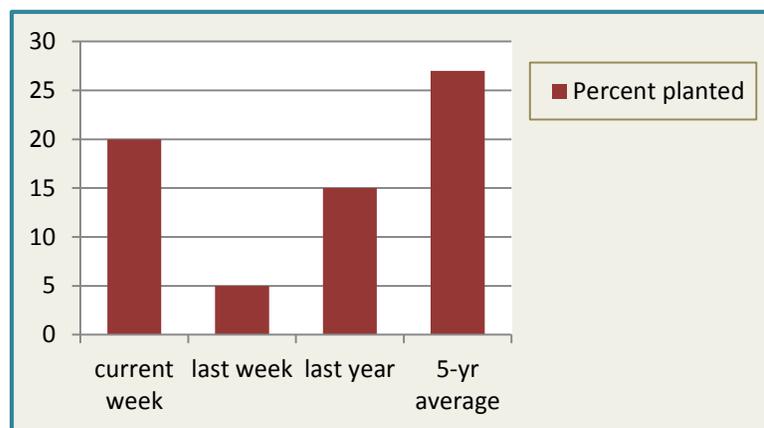


CROP PROGRESS for week ending 04/17/16

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Corn planted	20	5	15	27
Potatoes, Summer planted	43	40	86	94
Tobacco, Greenhouse seeded	65	55	95	99

- Represents data not available.

CORN PLANTED for week ending 04/17/16



Weather Summary- For the week ending April 17, 2016

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Apr. 16	Mar. 1 to Apr. 16 norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	65	36	72	22	51	-3	359	264	0.01	4.65	-0.95	11.94	-0.36
Norfolk	59	45	75	37	52	-4	394	287	0.42	4.77	-1.11	15.64	2.50
Richmond	64	38	74	27	51	-5	383	315	0.19	1.99	-3.86	09.64	-2.71
Roanoke	66	39	73	25	52	-3	386	NA	0.00	2.48	-3.15	10.71	-1.32
Wash/Dulles	65	36	74	25	50	-2	333	NA	0.03	2.64	-2.53	10.89	-0.11

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY – Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)

The weather has warmed up with frosts during 3-4 nights last week. Freeze reported on April 9th, but growers have been able to maintain crops.

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

We are very dry. Moisture stress evident in small grains and pastures. Freeze damage is being observed in small grains. Corn ground is being sprayed to prep for planting.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Heavy frost and freeze kept most grasses and crops at bay with little or no growth detected.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

Dry and warm weather conditions allowed corn planting to begin. Freezing conditions that ended the previous week and patchy frost early this week have stunted small grains and damage is still being assessed. Topsoil moisture dropped markedly over the past 10 days.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Laura Siegle)

We had a warm, sunny week, but conditions are becoming increasingly dry and we would benefit greatly from some rain. A number of producers were busy this week planting corn.

BEDFORD (Scott Baker)

Cool temperatures and drier, windy weather has slowed pasture and hay growth. Recent freeze events have caused damage to tree fruits, strawberries and grapes. Extent of damage will become clearer in the coming weeks.

BUCKINGHAM (Jennifer Ligon)

Very dry conditions with little to no rain forecasted. Spring hay will be in very short supply.

ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)

Winter kill in barley and may have damage in some wheat. Suspect damage to grapes and fruits.

CAMPBELL (Todd Scott)

The heavy freeze here last weekend has really slowed down hay, and may have harmed the wheat, vineyards and apple orchards. The colder weather has also delayed planting and fertilizer applications on wheat.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Recent windy days and lack of rainfall have reduced soil moisture tremendously.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Orchard and vineyard owners are assessing the amount of damage caused by freezing temperatures of the previous week and assessing fruit loss. For tree fruit, operations are preparing for thinning the fruit that survived the cold temperatures.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Relatively dry conditions allowed farmers to make excellent progress planting corn. Soils are drying out as rainfall has been well below normal for the past six weeks. Some barley fields sustained significant freeze injury on the morning of April 6th and a few fields appear to have 80% damage or more.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Tree fruit crops were badly damaged by last week's freeze. Weather conditions remain dry.

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

The county is experiencing unseasonably dry conditions so far with rainfall about 3 inches below average for April. Windy conditions have exacerbated low topsoil moisture levels, and forage growth is limited as a result.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Dry, cool weather has caused bronzing on ornamental crops. Some small grains are heading out.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

Multiple cold snaps have provided challenges for strawberry and tree fruit growers, with anything left unprotected seeing frost/freeze damage.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

This week's farm activities mostly focused on lime, fertilizer, and burn down herbicide applications. Corn planting got to a good start by mid-week. Dry conditions are starting to concern producers as small grains and hay need a good rain soon. Rain showers last week provided very little soil moisture improvement.