



# Tennessee Crop Weather

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For the Week Ending April 19, 2020

## RAINS, COLDS TEMPERATURES SWEEP ACROSS THE STATE, RESULTING IN SLOWED FIELD WORK AND POTENTIAL FRUIT CROP STRESS

In West Tennessee, heavy rains, frost, and unusually cold temperatures which, at times, dipped into the 20's, brought field work to a halt until late in the week. In some areas, the Tennessee River was over its bank, resulting in delayed field crop planting. Still other producers, concerned that soil temperatures had become lower than optimal for planting, opted to wait until soil temperatures increase before continuing. Still others were able to plant some of their planned corn and soybean acreage. The cold weather was feared to have damaged apple and peach booms. Strawberries were covered in an attempt to prevent damage. Burndown herbicides were applied to fields in some areas.

Cooler temperatures and heavy rains in Middle Tennessee brought frost, below freezing nighttime temperatures, and brought field work to a near standstill. Rain in some areas reached 3.75 inches in less than 24 hours. Some wheat and fruit crop damage caused by the cold weather was assessed. Apples are expected to have fared better than ornamentals. Except in low-lying areas, wheat was developing well. Cattle and pastures were in good condition.

Several frosts occurred in the Eastern Region of the state, which threatened potential damage to fruiting crops. Some freeze damage to strawberries, grapes, and peaches was reported, the extent to which is not fully known. Two to six inches of rain in some areas flooded early planted corn. Some corn and soybeans did get planted, but progress was slowed due to the cooler weather that lowered soil temperatures. Other field activities included weed spraying and fertilizer applications.

There were 4.1 days suitable for field work. Subsoil moisture was rated 62 percent adequate and 38 percent surplus. Topsoil moisture was rated 64 percent adequate and 36 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2019	5 Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent					Percent				
Apples – Full Bloom	69	57	72	74	Pasture	0	7	28	51	14
Corn – Planted	23	12	22	25	Strawberries	0	4	27	55	14
Corn – Emerged	3	N/A	7	4	Winter Wheat	1	2	33	51	13
Soybeans – Planted	2	N/A	1	1						
Winter Wheat – Jointing	87	73	84	80						
Winter Wheat – Headed	26	6	16	16						