



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Weekending: April 7, 2013

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR APRIL 7, 2013

The week started off cold and wet, with counties in western Virginia experiencing snow. Overall, the State was about 4 degrees below average for the week. Pastures and small grains are behind on growth due to the cool temperatures. Little progress was made with corn plantings; farmers are about two weeks behind planting corn. The majority of farmers opt to wait until the soil temperature warms up. Days suitable for field work were 4.6. Wet ground conditions hampered field work for parts of the Commonwealth. However, as the week progressed and field conditions improved, producers were able to apply fertilizers, herbicides, and lime. Other farming activities for the week included tending to the newly born calves and lambs, working vegetable and tobacco greenhouses, and preparing home gardens.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 7, 2013	0	3	70	27
March 31, 2013	0	3	60	37
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 7, 2013	1	4	76	19
March 31, 2013	2	4	70	24

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	6	11	37	42	4
Livestock	1	7	24	58	10
Hay, Other	2	3	59	31	5
Hay, Alfalfa	0	2	41	49	8
Winter Wheat	1	2	27	60	10
Barley	0	2	33	57	8
Oats	0	0	25	75	0
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	24	60	16
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	5	90	5
Apples, All	0	0	11	89	0
Peaches	0	0	32	68	0
Grapes	0	0	11	89	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	3	95	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	2	1	20	9
Summer Potatoes Planted	88	63	82	67
Winter Wheat Headed	1	NA	0	0

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING April 7, 2013

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Av g.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar 1. To April 6	Mar. 1 to April 6 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	58	34	65	25	46	-5	116	171	1.10	4.11	-0.40	11.74	.56
Norfolk	59	43	72	40	51	-2	98	192	1.15	3.42	-1.39	10.98	-1.08
Richmond	60	37	73	30	49	-4	125	209	1.18	6.43	-1.67	14.36	3.06
Roanoke	57	36	65	32	47	-5	106	NA	.96	4.08	-.45	13.37	2.51
Wash/Dulles	56	31	66	22	44	-4	68	NA	.33	3.43	-.75	8.76	-1.30

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. 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 comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FAUQUIER (Tim Mize)

Warm weather has caused pastures and small grains to jump. Topsoil moisture is good. Soil temperatures are up. Expect corn planting to start this week.

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Weather has been cool and received a few showers this week.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

The week started cold and wet with 2 inches of fresh snow on the ground. By week's end temperatures were in the upper 60's and pastures were greening-up. Hay is still being fed to most livestock. Ground conditions have delayed manure, fertilizer, and chemical applications.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Light rainfall Sunday March 31 and again Thursday night, averaging 1/2 to 8/10 of rainfall. Unseasonably cool, still. The ground temperatures were too cold for

spring planting to begin. Small grains look good as well as hay and pastures are "greening" up.

HANOVER (JIM TATE)

I am 64 years old and I have no memory of a spring this late in the year. Last week we were still having morning frost. Highs in the fifties. There is no corn in the ground that I am aware of as the soil temperature is just too cool. Plus a lot of ground is still too wet. Small grain is way behind. Grasses and hay also way behind. Yet in spite of all the recent moisture, the subsoil is relatively dry...this is a delayed reaction to the long term drought.

ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)

Pasture and hay growth is behind schedule because of continued cold temperatures.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers spent the week topdressing wheat with nitrogen and spreading lime, fertilizer, and herbicides in preparation for corn planting. A few producers planted corn, but most producers waited due to continued cool temperatures and wet soils. Widespread corn planting will begin next week.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

(Eastern continues)

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn planting is still on hold due to cool and damp conditions. Ground temperatures are still in the 40's. Hopefully by mid week next week folks will get a start on planting. Field prep continues for planting. Fertilizer spreading and spraying with herbicides are now in full swing. Some lime still being applied. Folks are taking seed deliveries. Vegetables in the greenhouses are still slow getting started due to cool temps. Hay fields and pastures are showing signs of greening up. Fertilizer applications continue for grasses and folks are wrapping up their last nitrogen applications to small grains.

RICHMOND

Corn planting will start in earnest this week, pastures and small grains need some warm temps

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

A mid-week snow left 3 to 5 inches on the ground in many parts of the county. Normally, most livestock owners are getting ready to turn out on spring pastures, but a cold March and first week of April has many counting how many rolls of hay are left to feed until the grass starts growing.

PULASKI (Scott McElfresh)

Snow today, still cold weather, outlook is for a warmer week next week, should allow for more activity in the fields

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Still getting a lot of moisture by rain & snow. Fields too wet to spread fertilizer. Grass is beginning to sprout new growth. If we could get a few days of sunshine it would take off. Still too early to turn out cattle on pasture. March took as much feed or more than January or February.

SOUTHERN

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

Wheat is starting to take off and most of it looks good. The rye looks good too and is really getting some height on it now. The tobacco (in greenhouses) looks good and was growing despite the little sunshine we have been having. I'm sure these last few days have really made a difference. Very little land has been bedded, but it won't be long. Kids and lambs are on the ground and bouncing. Hay producers are working on equipment and gearing up for grass growth. The sunshine has really caused the grass to take off here in the last few days. The clover is coming in and the cattle are really enjoying it. Home gardens are going in and small produce growers are ready to roll.

PATRICK (Travis Bunn)

1-3" snow/sleet accumulation late in the reporting week. Gone the next day as temperatures rose into the upper 50's.

PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe & Stephen Barts)

Wet conditions have delayed field work and land prep. Cold weather has delayed tobacco greenhouse progression, but plants look otherwise healthy.

SOUTHEASTERN

SOUTHAMPTON

Cool, wet weather is still impeding field work in some areas of the county. Also hindering timely burn-down herbicide applications.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Keith Starke)

Locally, strawberry plants are undersized for this point in the season. Hopes are that growers have seen the last frost and warmer temperatures will provide opportunity for plants to put on additional size before transitioning fully into berry fruit production.