



NATIONAL
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

WEATHER & CROPS



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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR APRIL 20, 2014

Wheat headed is still behind the 5 year average for this time of year. Limited strawberries harvested this week, with the expectation that the bulk of the harvest would begin soon in May. Corn planting continued with reports of corn emerging beginning to surface. Other farming activities for the week included preparing vegetable beds, treating wheat with fungicides, and preparing cropland with herbicides, fertilizers, and lime.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 20, 2014	0	5	79	16
April 13, 2014	0	5	79	16
April 6, 2014	0	4	70	26
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 20, 2014	0	4	83	13
April 13, 2014	0	4	83	13
April 6, 2014	0	3	80	17

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Virginia Cooperative Extension
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Virginia Tech

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A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	1	3	24	63	9
Barley	5	4	26	61	4
Oats	0	0	49	45	6
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	3	95	2
Tobacco, Greenhouse	1	1	30	49	19
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	21	79	0
Livestock	1	3	25	64	7
Pasture and Range	3	9	42	39	7
Hay, Alfalfa	1	1	52	42	4
Hay, Other	1	7	44	44	4
Apples, All	0	0	49	51	0
Grapes, All	0	11	48	31	10

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Cotton	0	0	0	4
Corn Planted	31	8	36	36
Corn Emerged	5	n/a	9	6
Winter Wheat Headed	4	1	10	18
Summer Potatoes Planted	92	79	99	96

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING April 20, 2014

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar 1. To April 19	Mar. 1 to April 19 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	68	44	86	32	56	1	372	292	1.92	6.34	0.42	13.42	0.88
Norfolk	63	47	83	37	55	-2	332	316	2.43	7.16	0.94	13.46	0.00
Richmond	68	43	83	33	55	-2	374	347	0.57	4.78	-1.34	11.09	-1.51
Roanoke	63	41	81	28	52	-4	310	n/a	1.01	4.94	-1.08	11.21	-1.10
Wash/Dulles	64	39	83	28	52	-1	230	n/a	1.25	5.81	0.28	12.31	0.92

* 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

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Rained most of the day on 4/15/2014 in Northern Virginia. Forst in mornings on April 16, 17, & 18, 2014 cool at night for the week.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan Poore)

Monday was a dry day, warm and sunny. Tuesday am, rained in am from 3/4 inch to 1 inch, clouds middle of the day, then more rain the afternoon and evening. Up to an inch and half in some places. The ground is now very soggy, with much cooler conditions. Wednesday and Thursday am in the low 30's, spotty frost. Not a hard freeze.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan Poore)

Warm, dry, sunny Monday. Rain on Tuesday am, then a mid-day break and more rain in the afternoon/evening. The ground is very soggy after an inch plus of total rainfall. Temperatures then cooled off after the rain, with morning lows Wednesday & Thursday in the low 30's, Friday mid 30's.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

While I have not had an opportunity yet this morning to contact any commercial tomato growers. The frost and cold weather got my early planted tomatoes even though they were covered. Three nights of frost and two of those with sub freezing temperatures. We had frost again this morning. This continues to inhibit pasture and hay development as well. The fields are finally dry enough to get some work done and corn planters have been rolling everywhere. Most fields around my Western Hanover home appear to have been planted so I am sure the Eastern Hanover is nearly finished. Some corn starting to appear.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Tree fruit growers are evaluating the incidence of freeze injury from last week but most fruit were apparently undamaged as temperatures did not go below 28 degrees (F). Apple orchard pollination continues. Haylands are being fertilized. Nelson County Farmers' Market active with greens and root crops being harvested and sold.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers got back in the fields late in the week after rains on Tuesday and continued to make good progress planting the corn crop. Below freezing temperatures on Tuesday and Wednesday nights caused some concern about freeze injury to wheat and barley. The wheat crop should be okay; much of the barley crop was in the boot stage or just starting to head. Hopefully, there will be little to no injury. We will be able to get a better handle on injury this week. Other activities for the week included applying fungicides and growth regulators to wheat, and few producers finished up topdressing wheat with nitrogen and micronutrients.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Hard freezes occurred evening of April 15 and 16.

SOUTHEASTERN

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

Cool conditions have vegetable and fruit crops at a standstill. Farmers are continuing to make some progress on planting corn, with windy conditions towards the weekend made it impossible to apply herbicides.