



# Crop Progress and Condition

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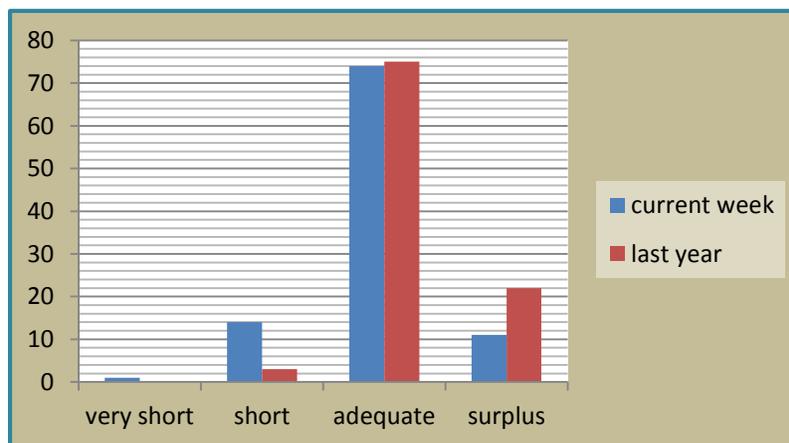
**Agricultural News:** Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.8. Winter Wheat freeze damage was 4 percent severe, 5 moderate, 19 percent light, and 72 percent none. Tobacco greenhouse plants for transplants conditions were 6 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Tobacco greenhouse plants for transplants seeded were 80 percent, 82 percent last year, and 70 percent 5-yr average. Hay other than alfalfa condition was 4 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Hay alfalfa condition was 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 57 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Livestock conditions were 2 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

### SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 04/05/15

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	1	14	74	11
Subsoil	1	6	79	14

- Represents zero.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE for week ending 04/05/15



### CROP CONDITIONS for week ending 04/05/15

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	19	19	48	9	5
Grapes	4	6	10	80	-
Peaches	33	19	38	10	-
Barley	1	5	38	53	3
Oats	2	5	44	46	3
Winter Wheat	1	4	28	61	6
Pasture	5	27	41	25	2

-Represents zero.

### CROP PROGRESS for week ending 04/05/15

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Summer Potatoes Planted	35	-	40	63

- Represents data not available.

**Weather Summary-** For the week ending April 5, 2015

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 4	Mar. 1 to April 4 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	65	36	74	17	51	1	177	158	0.09	3.36	-0.94	7.74	-3.16
Norfolk	65	39	83	29	52	-1	196	177	0.11	2.60	-1.96	8.78	-3.08
Richmond	70	40	81	26	55	3	235	194	0.05	3.78	-0.77	11.05	0
Roanoke	65	41	74	23	53	2	184	NA	0.06	4.38	0.09	8.29	-2.33
Wash/Dulles	63	36	72	21	50	2	120	NA	0.23	4.28	0.32	9.31	-0.49

\* 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**

**ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)**

The soil surface finally dried down to allow manure spreading this week.

**WESTERN**

**BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)**

Started growing season with lots of moisture, almost too much to do field work but has dried up too much at this point. Need some rain to continue to see good growth from cool season crops.

**ROANOKE (Barbara Leach)**

Rain adequate though winds making some locations dry. No flooding. Frost took some crops like asparagus to the ground. Some Brassicas were nipped by cold but should recover.

**CENTRAL**

**CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)**

Due to a very late winter, spring appears to be two weeks late this year. Cooler nighttime temperatures are keeping the soil too cool for early corn planting.

**EASTERN**

**ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Topdressing wheat with nitrogen and spraying no-till corn ground were primary activities as weather conditions allowed. Some producers started planting corn, and planting will pick up next week. Pastures and hay fields are starting to grow, but growth has been delayed.

**GLOUCESTER (Extension Agent)**

Finally in field. Producers are topdressing wheat and small grains, making lime applications, burning down for corn planting, making fertilizer applications for corn. Some corn planting has begun in a few locations. Folks are working cattle and fertilizing hay and pasture land. Greenhouse plants are coming along. Some field plowing and plastic mulching for vegetables has begun.

**WESTMORELAND (Stephanie Romelczyk)**

Very windy week - growers are still struggling to get N applications on wheat. Also delayed in prepping corn land. Soil temperature too low for corn planting.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**BUCHANAN (William Bradley "Brad" Mullins)**

Week had mild temperatures with windy conditions. Grass starting to green up. Slight rain on Friday. Farmers have been applying fertilizer.

**SOUTHERN**

**PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe & Stephen Barts)**

Moist and extremely windy conditions are making it difficult for producers to get fertilizer spread and fields worked. Tobacco greenhouse season is in full swing and is progressing very well.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)**

Good spring-like weather have some growers in the field as conditions get right. Corn planting will begin very soon along with burn-down applications to cover-crop. Lime and fertilizer applications have begun also.