



Crop Progress and Condition

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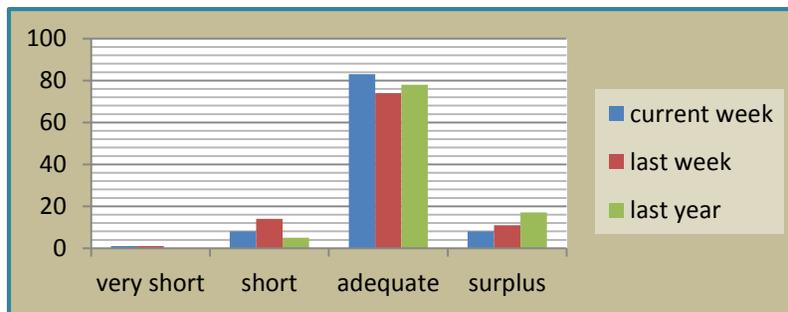
Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.7. Tobacco greenhouse plants for transplants conditions were 5 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Tobacco greenhouse plants for transplants seeded were 95 percent complete, 99 percent last year, and 100 percent 5-yr average. Tobacco outside beds of plants for transplants conditions were 9 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Tobacco outside beds of plants for transplants seeded were 95 percent complete, 95 percent last year, and 99 percent 5-yr average. Hay other than alfalfa condition was 3 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Hay alfalfa condition was 3 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Livestock conditions were 1 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 04/12/15

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	1	8	83	8
Subsoil	1	8	84	7

- Represents zero.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE for week ending 04/12/15



CROP CONDITIONS for week ending 04/12/15

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	17	17	47	15	4
Grapes	4	6	15	75	-
Peaches	25	15	41	19	-
Barley	1	4	34	58	3
Oats	2	6	47	44	1
Summer Potatoes	-	-	45	55	-
Winter Wheat	1	3	26	63	7
Pasture	4	19	42	32	3

-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 04/12/15

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Corn planted	6	-	7	18
Summer Potatoes planted	75	35	74	85

- Represents data not available.

Weather Summary- For the week ending April 12, 2015

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 April 11	Mar. 1 to April 11 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	69	46	77	28	58	5	250	212	1.26	4.62	-0.45	9.00	-2.68
Norfolk	71	48	87	36	59	5	276	232	0.27	2.96	-2.42	9.14	-3.55
Richmond	70	47	83	33	59	5	313	255	1.25	5.03	-0.26	12.30	0.48
Roanoke	71	48	80	32	60	7	267	NA	1.07	5.44	0.31	9.35	-2.05
Wash/Dulles	64	41	76	34	53	3	174	NA	0.25	4.39	-0.33	9.42	-1.16

* 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)

Flowering trees and forsythia started blooming this week.

WESTERN

BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)

Got some much needed rain but mostly came in quick heavy downpours creating plenty of runoff. Expecting more showers this week.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

Thunderstorms Wednesday night and Thursday disrupted field work while cool nights have kept soil temperatures below 50 degrees. Spring vegetable crops (brassicas and greens) are behind due to cool conditions and delayed plantings.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Laura Siegle)

Small grains are beginning to grow more rapidly and pastures are growing at a rapid pace as well. Some recent rain has interfered with available time for field work.

HENRICO (Karen Carter)

Spring green-up continuing for small grains and pastures. Fairly wet week (1.25" precip) with workable field conditions.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Peaches at petal fall. Apples at pre-bloom. Pheromone traps being hung for orchard pest monitoring.

EASTERN

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

More rain fell this week and slowed field work. Corn planting is slowly getting underway. Field preparation for corn planting and topdressing wheat are the main activities of the week. Some soil sampling still being done. Pastures and hay fields beginning to come out. Ground temperature still has not leveled out. Vegetable folks are busy laying plastic mulch and getting ready for May planting.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Recent freezes have damaged some of the peach crop.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County has received rain, but amounts vary across the county. It is dry, but things are greening up. Cattle still eating hay since grass is needing warmer temperatures and moisture. Hopefully this weeks predicted rain will help out.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Tobacco greenhouses are looking good, some producers are getting ready to start mowing plants. Land is being prepared for spring planting. Small grains are coming along and some have been dressed with fertilizer. Spring heifer sales are well underway and plans are being made for selling fall calves. Cole crops are in or going in at the present time.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Rain showers and cool temperatures limited field work this week. Corn planting is starting off slow. Fertilizer was being spread this week along with some lime. Wheat growers are finishing up spring fertilizer applications. Wet soils and cold conditions have slowed development of late planted fields. Hay fields have finally started making some noticeable growth.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Farmers are ready to get to work in the fields as soon as they dry out. Growers are getting ready to plant burn-down, apply lime and fertilizer prior to planting.