



Crop Progress and Condition

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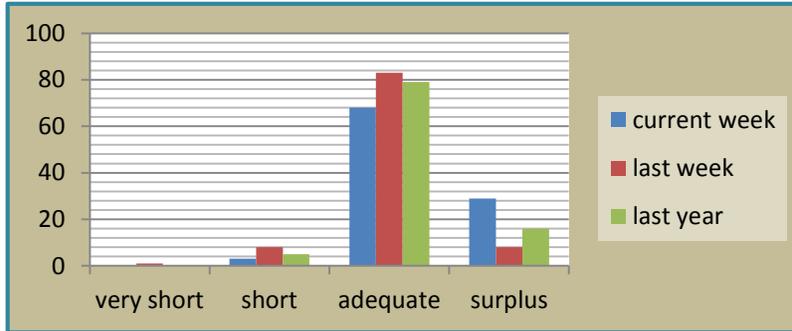
Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.9. Farming activities during the week included preparing fields for tobacco, corn, peanuts, and cotton plantings. Heavy rains have caused some flooding and delayed field work and crop progress throughout the State. Harvesting began for asparagus and a few other spring crops. Precipitation amounts were up from the previous week.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 04/19/15

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	-	3	68	29
Subsoil	-	4	82	14

- Represents zero.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE for week ending 04/19/15



CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 04/19/15

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	17	17	47	15	4
Grapes	3	2	9	86	-
Peaches	25	22	38	15	-
Barley	1	4	34	55	6
Oats	2	5	51	41	1
Potatoes, Summer	-	-	35	65	-
Tobacco, Greenhouse	-	4	14	72	10
Tobacco, Plantbeds	-	9	16	69	6
Hay, Alfalfa	-	2	32	60	6
Hay, Other	-	2	27	66	5
Winter Wheat	1	2	24	64	9
Pasture	2	10	33	49	6
Livestock	1	7	32	52	8

-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 04/19/15

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Corn planted	19	6	28	36
Summer Potatoes planted	90	75	90	95

- Represents data not available.

Weather Summary- For the week ending April 19, 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 18	Mar. 1 to April 18 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	70	49	80	41	59	4	327	279	1.21	5.83	0	10.21	-2.24
Norfolk	70	53	77	49	62	5	359	303	1.80	4.76	-1.34	10.94	-2.40
Richmond	75	51	83	43	63	7	411	333	1.37	6.40	0.42	13.67	1.13
Roanoke	69	49	80	40	59	4	337	NA	1.03	6.47	0.54	10.38	-1.83
Wash/Dulles	73	45	80	32	59	7	258	NA	0.60	4.99	-0.43	10.02	-1.23

* 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)

Heavy rain on Tuesday got the soil too wet to work the rest of the week.

WESTERN

BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)

Lots of moisture the end of this week. Ground is saturated, flooding expected in some areas. Will need a few good drying days before field work can continue.

ROANOKE (Barbara Leach)

Many fruit tree blooms hit by frost and now showing affects. I suspect we will see lots of fire blight again this year.

CENTRAL

BUCKINGHAM (Jennifer Ligon)

Very wet conditions.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Frequent spring rains have slowed growth on winter wheat in heavier soils and corn planting. Experiencing good pasture/hay growth now and cattle are active in grazing.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers continued to plant corn, finished up topdressing wheat, and prepared fields for full-season soybean planting as field conditions allowed. Rainfall on Tuesday stopped field work for a couple of days, and rainfall amounts were up to 2 inches Sunday night will stop field work again for a few days. Pastures and hay fields have responded to warmer temperatures and rainfall and are growing well. Vegetable producers started harvesting asparagus and a few other spring crops.

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

Wet and cool conditions continue to stall corn planting activity. Field prep continues along with nitrogen top dressing. Wheat looks good but growth is about 1-2 weeks behind. Prices are disheartening right now.

NORTHAMPTON (Ursula Deitch)

All potato planting on the Eastern Shore of Virginia was completed in March. With the nice weather at the end of last week, we are beginning to see the potato plants starting to emerge. Corn planting is slowly getting underway. It is late this year due to the cool temperatures and wet conditions like all other commodities. The majority of the spring plastic mulch has been laid for tomato production. Tomato transplanting began this weekend due to the nice weather.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

In an area needing rainfall, Grayson got it and more this week. On two separate occasions, the area experienced flooding conditions. With the moisture came a marked improvement in pasture forage growth.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County has seen a lot of rain last week and more in store for this week coming. Grass is growing great in pastures. Fields are now very wet and will slow work in field down. Manure is being spread in some locations. Tobacco information reported from Tobacco Farmer contact - Franklin and Henry County, everyone is using greenhouses to start tobacco planting out. May only be one or 2 producers using raised beds. Tobacco is stated at 85% good condition. We will continue to help report tobacco in Franklin and Henry Counties using producer contacts for information.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Pollen has been heavy this week. Tobacco fields are being prepared for planting. Small grains are being fertilized.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Corn planting progressing well until rain Sunday evening and night (4/19). Land also being prepared for cotton and peanut planting.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Cool damp weather has slowed down field activity. Burn-down herbicide applications to cotton and soybean land continue along with lime and fertilizer applications. Some corn has been planted and this will pick-up this week as warmer weather sets in.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

Favorable weather allowed for all field activities to continue. The first ripe strawberries were found on a couple of farms this week, farms with the Sweet Charlie variety hope to open as early as next weekend.