



Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Released: May 4, 2015

Issue: 08-15

Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.7. Farming activities during the week included planting corn, soybeans, and tobacco, preparing fields for cotton, and harvesting spring crops. The cooler temperatures and wet conditions continue to slow some crop progress and field activities. Temperatures were one to six degrees below normal. Precipitation amounts were down from the previous week.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 05/03/15

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	-	3	75	22
Subsoil	-	4	83	13

- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 05/03/15

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	8	12	32	46	2
Grapes	3	2	10	85	-
Peaches	15	18	21	46	-
Barley	1	3	31	55	10
Oats	2	5	49	42	2
Potatoes, Summer	-	-	30	70	-
Tobacco, Greenhouse	-	4	15	72	9
Tobacco, Plantbeds	-	8	17	69	6
Hay, Alfalfa	-	2	30	58	10
Hay, Other	-	3	28	61	8
Winter Wheat	1	2	21	64	12
Pasture	1	6	31	52	10
Livestock	1	6	33	49	11

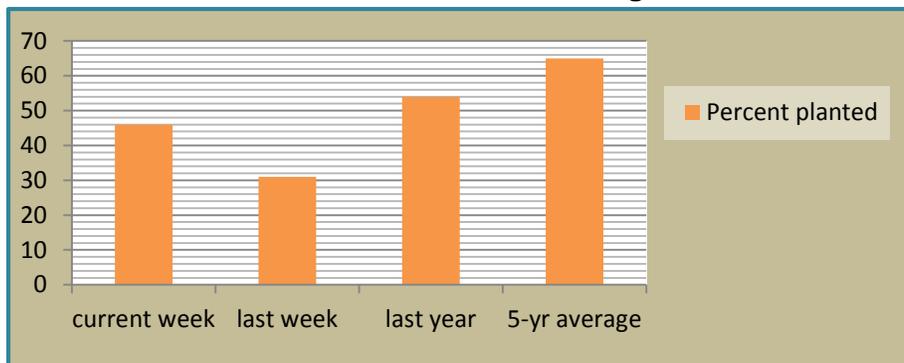
-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 05/03/15

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Corn planted	46	31	54	65
Corn emerged	17	6	27	35
Soybeans planted	3	-	2	6
Tobacco, Burley transplanted	2	-	-	4
Tobacco, Flue-cured transplanted	8	-	9	19
Tobacco, Fire-cured transplanted	1	-	3	7
Winter Wheat headed	15	5	27	51

- Represents data not available.

CORN PLANTED for week ending 05/03/15



Weather Summary- For the week ending May 3, 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 May 2	Mar. 1 to May 2 norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	65	39	71	35	52	-6	448	439	0.82	7.90	0.38	12.28	-1.83
Norfolk	63	48	73	41	56	-5	483	467	0.78	7.81	0.16	13.99	-0.89
Richmond	68	46	76	42	57	-3	557	512	0.46	9.31	1.81	16.57	2.53
Roanoke	65	44	71	39	55	-4	451	NA	0.69	9.50	1.78	13.41	-0.55
Wash/Dulles	68	44	75	36	56	-1	374	NA	0.07	6.39	-0.63	11.42	-1.41

* 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)

12 days of measurable rainfall in April. Only 7 days considered clear skies. A lot of cover crop sprayed last week but not much corn planted yet.

WESTERN

BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)

A few late freezes have hurt orchards and vineyards. Damaging frost for peaches and grapes experienced this week.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A. Stanley)

Cool temperatures and some rain midweek hindered planting and other field work. Soil levels are good going into the growing season.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

A fair amount of rain this spring has made small grains, hayfields and pastures grow very well, but has delayed corn and soybean planting.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Cool weather has protracted early spring crop development in apple and peach orchards. Apple orchards: petal fall to first cover. Fruit are near size for thinning. Last of new trees are planted. Grape shoot elongation and flower development.

ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)

Corn planting is behind schedule due to wet weather.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Corn planting is almost complete. Emergence and early growth have been delayed a bit due to cool weather, but warmer temperatures forecasted for the upcoming week should help. A few farmers started planting soybeans. Dry and warm weather over the weekend allowed some farmers to start cutting hay. Vegetable producers continued harvesting asparagus and other spring crops. They also continued planting summer crops.

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

Wet and cool weather continues. Corn planting continues its "start and stop" mode. Some corn up but looks pale which is due to decreased sunlight and cooler temps. Corn planting is in full swing, but having to deal with weather. Most corn field prep is done with exception of wetter ground. Lower Middle Peninsula corn planting has not begun in some instances. Soybean planting time draws nearer. Hay looks good. Some random cutting has taken place. Some vegetables have been planted. Wheat looks good and is beginning to head out. Many producers considering a fungicide treatment for possible late disease pressure. Increased questioning of use of Glyphosate by non-farm public. Many folks believe glyphosate is cause of some health and environmental issues. These issues carry over to what is being taught and discussed in schools. Producers find themselves having to defend the products they use and the means that they use to produce crops.

NORTHAMPTON (Ursula Deitch)

The weather finally has started to reflect normal highs. This week kicked off the beginning of spring snap bean planting. Corn continues to be planted daily but we are beginning to worry about the late planting date. Tomatoes continue to be transplanted. Potatoes have emerged and are enjoying the warmer temperatures.

SOUTHWESTERN**GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

The week was dry and unseasonably cool with frost in many low-lying areas two to three days. Pastures and hay fields remain weak for this time of year. Some of the first corn was planted this week.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Strawberries beginning to ripen, tomatoes that were covered survived killing frost. Ground is drying quickly, with little to no rain this week.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Unseasonably cold and wet weather has suppressed both planting and spring flush growth. Pastures and small grains are holding their own unless under extreme grazing pressure.

SOUTHERN**LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)**

Tobacco transplants have done well this year overall. Tobacco really just started going in this week, but we'll probably see some major progress this coming week. The cool and overcast weather has kept things from really shooting up, so pastures and hayland are ok, but will really jump when we get some warm sunny days. Wheat is heading out nicely. I've had some complaints about how few peach blossoms were on the trees this year, so we'll have to see how that turns out. I've seen the cedar apple rust on the cedars already, curious how the apples will fare. Overall, the growing season is a bit behind normal but not off schedule. It is nice to actually have a spring this year.

SOUTHEASTERN**BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)**

First hay was cut on May 2. Land preparation is still going on. Some planting has begun.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

Weather continues this week with some showers and cool temperatures. Farmers are still planting corn, which is emerging slowly from a cooler soil than average year. Wheat is starting to head this week. Farmers have and continue to apply wheat fungicides on majority of acres. No reports of significant wheat disease or pest.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Warmer and drier conditions have finally allowed field work to start in earnest. Corn planting made good progress late in the week on the heavier soils that were still wet in previous weeks. Corn planting should wrap up in the coming week. Burndown herbicide applications for soybeans also made progress this week. Soybean planting will get started in the coming week. Some hay was cut over the weekend with some dry weather in the forecast.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Corn about 80 percent planted with cotton and peanuts ready to go in next. The forecasters are calling for a good week, with little chance of rain, and higher temperatures.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Wet and cool conditions have slowed down planting of cotton, tobacco, soybean and peanut. A good run of weather next week will be ideal for planting and seed germination. There are a few pockets of cereal leaf beetles in wheat and growers are scouting.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

Pretty weather this past weekend and this coming week should bring a lot of progress to the fields. As well as much needed ripening of our strawberry crop. Safe to say, by the weekend most farms will be open for picking.