



Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia State University
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.3. Weather conditions continue to get drier. Farming activities for the week included planting corn, spraying wheat, and continuing the assessments of the damages to crops from the recent hard freezes, some will be realized closer to harvest; lower yields are expected from the crops impacted.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 04/24/16

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	13	36	49	2
Subsoil	6	26	67	1

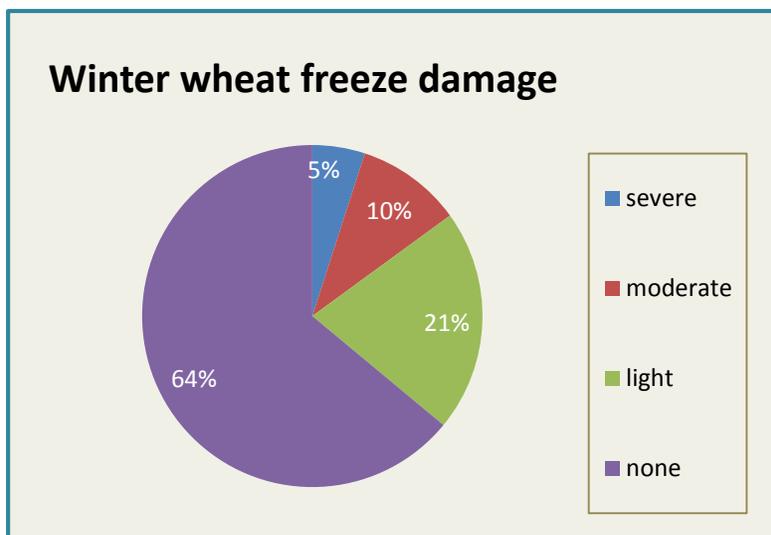
- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 04/24/16

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	4	20	70	6	-
Grapes	1	45	44	10	-
Peaches	4	18	72	6	-
Barley	3	9	39	46	3
Hay, Alfalfa	4	11	35	46	4
Hay, Other	7	14	29	47	3
Oats	-	4	45	47	4
Potatoes, Summer	-	15	19	66	-
Tobacco, Greenhouse	-	-	10	30	60
Winter wheat	1	7	28	57	7
Pasture	13	23	29	30	5
Livestock	2	10	31	49	8

-Represents zero.

WINTER WHEAT for week ending 04/24/16

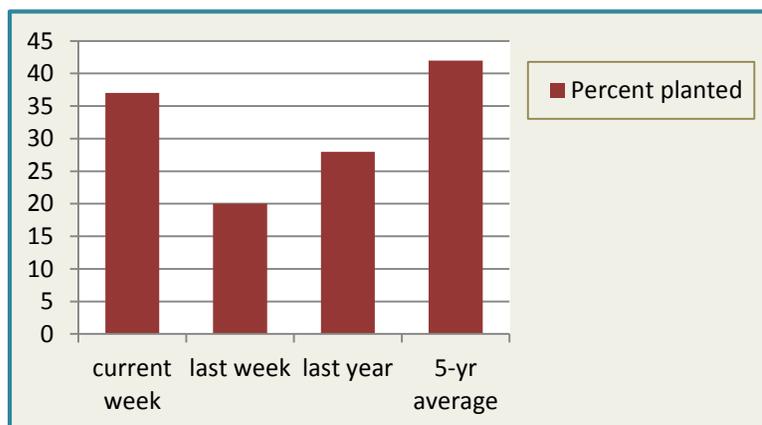


CROP PROGRESS for week ending 04/24/16

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Corn planted	37	20	28	42
Corn emerged	5	-	4	12
Cotton planted	5	-	-	3
Potatoes, Summer planted	70	43	94	97
Tobacco, Greenhouse seeded	85	65	-	-
Winter wheat headed	16	-	4	25

- Represents data not available.

CORN PLANTED for week ending 04/24/16



Weather Summary- For the week ending April 24, 2016

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 Apr. 23	Mar. 1 to Apr. 23 norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	76	47	85	36	61	5	456	358	0.36	5.01	-1.41	12.30	-0.78
Norfolk	74	50	85	42	62	4	492	380	0.65	5.42	-1.18	16.29	2.37
Richmond	78	47	87	37	63	5	487	416	0.60	2.59	-3.88	10.24	-2.72
Roanoke	78	50	88	38	64	7	492	NA	0.21	2.69	-3.87	10.92	-1.92
Wash/Dulles	75	47	83	38	61	7	428	NA	0.19	2.83	-3.06	11.08	-0.70

* 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)

Continued dry conditions. Corn planting started Tuesday.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

Dry and warm conditions persisted this week, but rain showers Thursday prevented the topsoil from drying down further. Most of Rockbridge received a little over .25 of an inch of rain so conditions remain dry.

AUGUSTA (Matt Booher)

Very dry. Hay yields will be 50% of normal. Pasture is not growing much at all, many farmers are still feeding hay. Pasture growth, while already poor, will be harmed further as livestock graze pastures without any rest. I have seen a lot of freeze damaged wheat lately. Small grain straw yields will have likely been affected by drought.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Both wheat and barley have suffered yield losses due to a very hard and long freeze on April 6 in Caroline and King George Counties. Exact damage is not known at this time, but undoubtedly it will be clearer at harvest. It is also believed any corn emerged prior to April 6 will also suffer a yield loss due to the late freeze. Also, soil moisture is very low now due to very recent high daytime temperatures and low humidity.

BUCKINGHAM (Jennifer Ligon)

Loss of all spring crops is evident. Fire danger is very high.

HANOVER (Laura Maxey-Nay)

Irrigated fields are already being watered due to the dry conditions. If there was freeze damage, we are seeing it in the small fruits, tree fruits, and very little in small grains.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

We did receive a bit of rain this past week, but not nearly enough to overcome the dry conditions we have been experiencing. Continued windy conditions, lack of moisture and warmer temps have kept us dry.

POWHATAN (Rachel Grosse)

Very dry.

CAMPBELL (Todd Scott)

First cutting hay yields I estimate will be decreased by 40% due to the heavy freeze. Fescue started growing early and the freeze hit it hard. The only way to make it grow after the freeze is to cut it early to stimulate more growth. Also the wheat, apples, and vineyards were hit very hard. I'd estimate at least a 50% decrease in production there.

LOUISA (Charles Rosson)

Very dry, windy conditions only .10 of an inch of rain for the week. Frost damage from 2 weeks ago is starting to show in the grasses and winter annual crops especially when combined with the lack of rain fall.

EASTERN

KING GEORGE (Mike Broaddus)

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GLOUCESTER/MATHEWS/MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn planting continues. Some folks have finished. Conditions for planting have been good to excellent, but soil moisture is decreasing each day. Chances of rain at week's end holds some promise. Wheat crop overall looks average to below average. Some areas are showing signs of slight to moderate frost and freeze damage, but I have not seen severe damage where entire fields would have to be abandoned.

Corn is beginning to emerge and stands look pretty good for the most part. Some vegetables are being planted, but no transplants have been set out as yet.

Activities include field prep for planting beans and corns, corn planting, herbicide applications, wheat scouting, and marketing decision-making.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Dry conditions continued for the most part as rainfall on Friday was generally a half inch or less. Corn planting continued to move at a rapid pace. More reports of freeze injury to wheat were received during the week with a few fields showing severe damage. Reports of powdery mildew in some wheat fields were also reported.

NORTHAMPTON (Ursula Deitch)

The warm temperatures at the end of the week helped rejuvenate the small grains crops. Disease is still being found, but not as frequently. Corn planting has begun. A reduction in acres planted for corn has been noticed. All potatoes have sprouted and commercial tomatoes are being transplanted as well. Planting of snap beans will begin in the first week of May.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Weather conditions remain very dry, 0.5 of an inch of rain fell last week. Frost conditions during the week of April were very devastating to the peaches, apples, and blueberries. Cherries were also tremendously hurt by the frost.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Rains this past week have improved an almost drought like condition in the county. Strawberry picking has started with above average sized berries. Heifer producers are preparing animals for breeding in the upcoming few months.

SOUTHERN**FRANKLIN (Chris Brown & Cynthia Martel)**

Franklin County is dry and is in need of rain. Rain on Friday did nothing to help out topsoil moisture. Delaying grass growth. Rye grass being chopped.

SOUTHEASTERN**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)**

Considerable corn acreage was planted this week with good soil conditions. Showers this weekend will likely lead to quick emergence of the majority of corn by early next week. Some fungicide sprays on wheat were started this week.

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Some small grains are showing damage from past freeze. The small grains are heading out. Crops fields for tobacco are being worked and were very dry last week.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Corn planting was the main activity for this week. Rain showers did not slow planting very long. The soil was already very dry and we only received 0.2-0.5 of an inch of rain. Some freeze damage was noted to wheat and barley this week as heads have emerged. Most damage is limited to a few kernels on some of the heads. The major concerns are dry conditions during head emergence and pollinating growth stages. Growers are anticipating reduced grain and hay yields due to dry weather this spring.

SURRY (Mr. Glenn Slade)

Some of our wheat is suffering from freeze damage due to late frosts, but it is hard to estimate total damage until we get to harvest to measure yield and test weight.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Field conditions have dried out and some rain is needed prior to planting. Next week will be good for planting.