



Crop Progress and Condition

USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office
Herman Ellison, State Statistician
P. O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
(804) 771-2493
Homepage: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

In Cooperation with:
U.S. Dept. of Commerce - NOAA
Virginia Tech
Virginia State University
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Released: April 2, 2018

Issue: 04-18

Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.0. Weather conditions have been mostly cool and damp, many fields are muddy. With a mix of temperatures, some pastures and fields are starting to green up, and small grains are growing. Farming activities for the week included applying fertilizers, spring tillage, and other preparations for the new season.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 04/01/18

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	0	3	85	12
Subsoil	0	12	82	6

- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 04/01/18

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	-	-	21	75	4
Grapes	-	-	20	80	-
Peaches	-	2	29	61	8
Barley	-	3	19	71	7
Potatoes, Summer	-	-	13	87	-
Hay, Alfalfa	-	1	48	51	-
Hay, Other	-	3	52	41	4
Winter Wheat	-	2	16	75	7
Pasture	3	15	45	34	3
Livestock	1	4	29	59	7

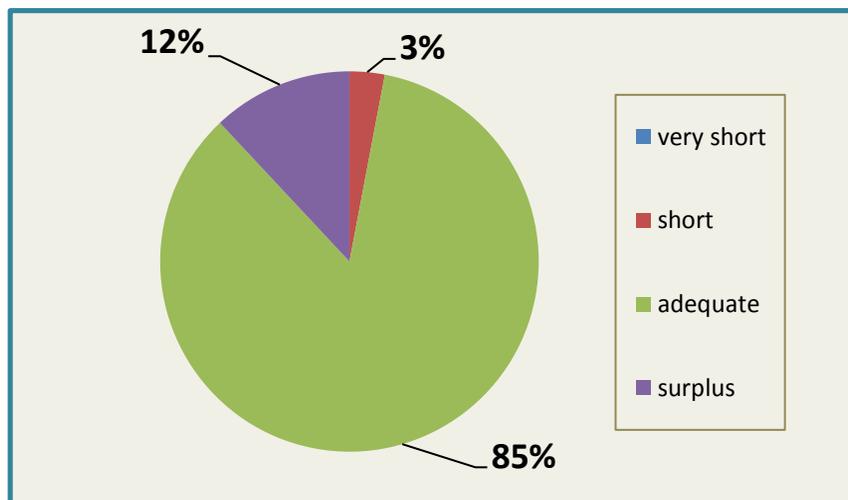
-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 04/01/18

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Potatoes, Summer planted	33	-	-	-

- Represents data not available.

Topsoil moisture for week ending 04/01/18



Weather Summary- For the week ending April 01, 2018

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 Mar. 31	Mar. 1 to Mar. 31 norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	61	35	78	28	48	-1	85	126	0.11	3.09	-0.72	11.76	1.26
Norfolk	62	45	83	39	54	3	77	140	0.08	3.89	-0.20	9.13	-2.28
Richmond	63	37	83	29	50	-1	90	155	0.02	2.33	-1.75	8.18	-2.44
Roanoke	61	37	79	31	49	-1	88	NA	0.22	3.39	-0.46	10.71	0.61
Wash/Dulles	57	34	76	23	45	-2	47	NA	0.28	1.79	-1.79	8.28	-1.12

* 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)

Small grains are growing rapidly. Pastures and hay fields are starting to green up, but have not grown much yet.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas Stanley)

Although Thursday and Friday were warm in Rockbridge, cool conditions persisted with a hard freeze Saturday morning. Light rains Tuesday and Wednesday, and again Sunday night prevented field applications of fertilizer and manure on some land, but not on others.

BATH/HIGHLAND (John Benner)

The past 7 days have been cold and damp. Snow melt was relatively slow due to most areas being in higher elevations. Mud persistent now. Green-up not yet occurred for most of the area.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Laura Siegle)

Forages are still greening up, but have not grown considerably more just yet; growth has been a bit slow lately, and inventories are low in places.

AMHERST/NELSON (Alyssa Elliott)

Temperatures ranging from 20s to a high of 80.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Because of the cool spring so far, tree fruit crops are behind where they normally are.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Moderating temperatures and rainfall are pushing grass, however we are still contending with mud around feeding and high traffic areas.

SOUTHERN

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

Things are greening up! Warm weather should bring good small grain growth and grazing.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

The fields and gardens in most areas are still too wet to get on at this time. The few that can be tilled are being done. Planting of some gardens is underway while some are a bit behind, due to cool and wet conditions. Tobacco greenhouses are coming along and plants are up. Fields are steadily being spread with lime and/or fertilizer if the equipment is able to get on to them.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

Our first strawberry farm opened up for you pick on Saturday, picked clean in one hour, but at least for them the season has started. Most farms are still 3 weeks or more from opening.

GREENSVILLE (Sara Rutherford)

Fields with spots prone to ponding are still holding water. Field prep underway in some locations. Unseasonably warm three day period this week.

ISLE OF WIGHT/SOUTHAMPTON/SUFFOLK CITY (Livy Preisser)

Farmers are getting to the fields to fertilize and are preparing to plant.