



# Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia Tech  
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 4.1. Cooler temperatures and rain continue to limit crop progress and planting; some pastures are showing signs of grazing pressure as hay feeding has been limited. Farming activities for the week included planting crops and preparing fields for peanuts.

## SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 04/29/18

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	-	4	89	7
Subsoil	-	13	84	3
Hay & Roughage	5	34	58	3

- Represents zero.

## CROP CONDITIONS for week ending 04/29/18

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Barley	-	2	22	67	9
Hay, Alfalfa	-	11	31	56	2
Hay, Other	2	6	32	59	1
Winter Wheat	-	1	13	76	10
Pasture	3	13	36	40	8

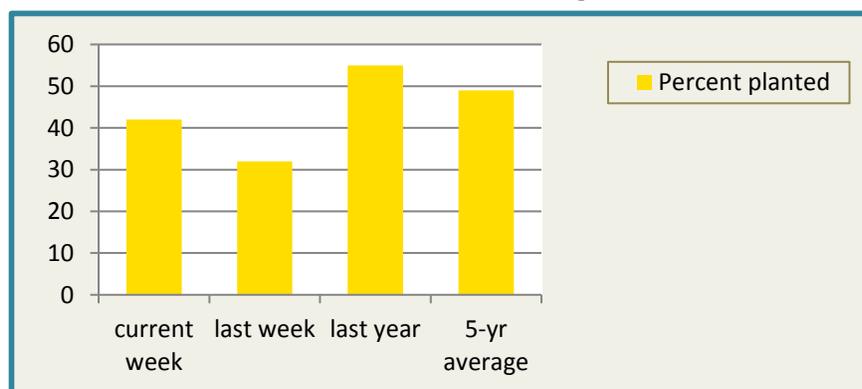
-Represents zero.

## CROP PROGRESS for week ending 04/29/18

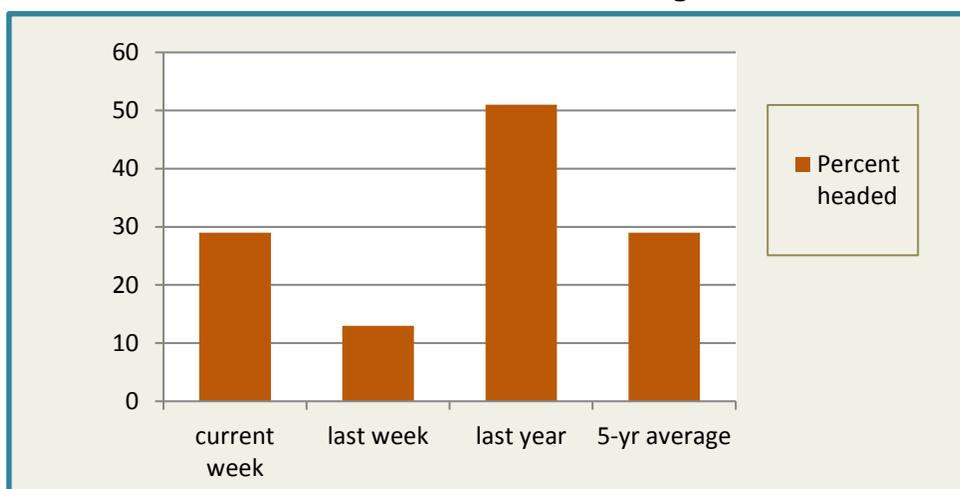
Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Corn planted	42	32	55	49
Corn emerged	5	2	19	20
Cotton planted	5	3	14	5
Peanuts planted	1	-	3	3
Potatoes, Summer planted	75	69	86	-
Soybeans planted	2	-	-	-
Tobacco, Burley transplanted	1	-	-	-
Tobacco, Flue-cured transplanted	4	-	-	-
Winter Wheat headed	29	13	51	29

- Represents data not available or zero.

## CORN PLANTED for week ending 04/29/18



### WINTER WHEAT HEADED for week ending 04/29/18



### Weather Summary- For the week ending April 29, 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 Apr. 28	Mar. 1 to Apr. 28 norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	68	45	77	43	57	0	333	405	2.96	7.88	0.91	16.54	2.88
Norfolk	71	53	80	44	62	2	362	432	1.60	7.29	0.08	12.53	-1.87
Richmond	70	50	79	42	60	1	372	469	1.60	5.91	-1.12	11.76	-1.75
Roanoke	68	49	77	45	59	1	340	NA	2.37	7.41	0.29	14.73	1.34
Wash/Dulles	68	47	77	42	57	2	252	NA	1.92	5.64	-0.84	12.13	-0.12

\* 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

##### CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

If you ask me what percent of grazing livestock are still eating hay, I would say 75%. A very high number for this time of year. Pasture growth and rate of accumulation on most farms improved to seasonal norms just in the last week. Overall grazing has kept up with and exceeded growth on pasture. Temps in the 30's overnight (4/29/18) puts a damper on pasture outgrowing rate of intake, the coming warm days will restart pasture accumulation.

#### WESTERN

##### ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas Stanley)

Cool, wet conditions dominated the week in Rockbridge with 1.5 inches of rain Wednesday and continuing showers Thursday and Friday contributed to over 2 inches for the week. Precipitation totals for April measured at Lexington were 4.9 inches, 1.5 inches above normal. Frost Monday morning 30 of April. Very little if any corn has been planted at this point, but pastures have greened-up and most livestock producers have stopped feeding hay.

##### BATH/HIGHLAND (John Benner)

Cooler temperatures at night combined with rain have prevented field work from occurring. Grass and pasture is slow to come on.

#### CENTRAL

##### CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Frequent rains and windy weather has kept soil temperatures low and ultimately slowed planting.

#### EASTERN

##### KING GEORGE (Mike Broaddus)

Frequent rains and windy weather has kept soil temperatures low and ultimately slowed planting.

**CHARLES CITY (Scott Reiter)**

Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 0.8 to 2 inches. Corn planting was mostly on hold from Tuesday-Saturday. Some field work occurred on sandy soils with less rainfall. Fumigation and bedding of peanut land made progress over the weekend. Hay and small grains are starting to head out.

**GLOUCESTER/KING AND QUEEN/KING WILLIAM/MIDDLESEX (Tracy Porter)**

Alfalfa hay is rated poor due to pest infestation, not due to weather. Corn planting is over 2 weeks behind due to cooler than normal temps and rain. Pastures are weedy.

**SOUTHWESTERN****CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)**

Crop progress is slower than normal because of the unseasonably cool weather.

**GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

Cool and dry weather for most of April has the area at least two weeks behind normal. This week's significant rainfall was welcome, but further limited field operations. Fertilizer and liming applications are well behind schedule. The biggest concern is widespread overgrazed pastures that simply have not had a chance to grow as normal. I am concerned that season-long forage yield could be significantly reduced if conditions suddenly turn hot and dry.

**SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Cooler temperatures are still keeping grass suppressed. Many farmers are reaching a critical time with hay supplies. If warm weather does not push grass growth, many will have to look for outside supplies of hay to feed. Strawberries are coming into production.

**SMYTH (Andy Overbay)**

Cool weather is beginning to suppress pasture and hay crop spring growth. While hay feeding has pretty much ceased, pastures are showing some signs of being taxed by grazing pressures.

**SOUTHEASTERN****BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)**

Rain this week slowed planting this week. Parts of the county got lesser amounts of rain in the two showers, but seems everywhere got some. Some creeks and rivers were above normal stage, but not out of banks. Some producers got planting done early in the week prior to rains of soybean, corn, and flue cured tobacco. The weekend found producers trying to restart planting in places and trying to get early hay on the ground.

**PRINCE GEORGE/SURRY/SUSSEX (Scott Reiter)**

Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 0.8 to 2 inches. Corn planting was mostly on hold from Tuesday-Saturday. Some field work occurred on sandy soils with less rainfall. Fumigation and bedding of peanut land made progress over the weekend. Hay and small grains are starting to head out.

**GREENSVILLE (Sara Rutherford)**

Rain events Tuesday and Wednesday helped planted fields greatly, hindered planting of others. Pastures are improving. Higher temperatures are expected this time next week; very good for morale.

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

Cool soil temperatures are delaying corn emergence, but most acres will be successful in germination without any replanting.