

# WEATHER & CROPS

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**Week Ending: April 5, 2009**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 5, 2009

Continued rain showers were welcomed across the state, and with soil moisture being reported at 92% adequate or surplus, pastures and hayfields are showing significant improvement with new growth. Days suitable for fieldwork were reported at 3.9. Corn planting got underway in areas where fields were dry enough, and preparations such as fertilizer application and burn down were taking place in anticipation of planting when the fields dry up. Small grain topdressing has continued, and the recent rains and warmer weather have the crop in good shape across much of the State.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 5, 2009	1	7	79	13

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**CROP CONDITION PERCENT**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Pasture	3	9	41	43	4
Livestock	1	6	30	57	6
Hay, Other	1	4	38	52	5
Hay, Alfalfa	1	4	32	55	8
Winter Wheat	0	2	26	60	12
Barley	0	0	26	63	11
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	1	25	69	5
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	9	64	27	0
Apples, All	0	0	59	41	0
Peaches	0	1	49	50	0
Grapes	0	0	19	81	0
Oats	0	4	22	73	1

**CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>5 Year Avg.</b>
Corn Planted	2	NA	4	8
Tobacco Greenhouse Seeded	97	NA	84	95
Tobacco Plantbeds Seeded	95	NA	80	90

## VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 5, 2009

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Apr. 4	Mar. 1 to Apr. 4 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	64	44	70	31	54	3	169	158	0.57	3.79	-0.51	8.06	-2.83
Norfolk	66	50	79	45	58	5	183	177	0.04	5.30	0.74	8.38	-3.42
Richmond	68	46	76	38	57	5	192	194	0.73	4.94	0.41	7.17	-3.86
Roanoke	63	45	68	34	54	2	196	NA	1.35	4.79	0.48	8.74	-1.91
Wash/Dulles	62	45	71	31	53	5	129	NA	0.74	3.15	-0.83	6.17	-3.62

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (500)); where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. \* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. NA = not available. T=trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### WESTERN

#### ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Above normal rainfall received the past week and a half has certainly put a positive spin on the beginning of spring. Stocker cattle have begun to find their way to market with some sizable runs at most sale barns in the Valley. Winter grains are doing excellent at this point. Pastures are beginning to take shape and grazing has begun to a degree; however, there is still a need for additional stored feed to be fed. Fruit producers are concerned about the above normal temperatures and it is a "wait-and-see" if they are being set up for some major frost damage as some fruit species are beginning to bloom.

### CENTRAL

#### AMHERST (William W. Seay)

Recent rains are filling the streams and greening-up pastures. Livestock producers are still feeding some hay, but it will not be much longer once temperatures rise.

#### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture is adequate. We have had some good precipitation in March and early April after a very dry winter. Pastures and hayfields are green and putting on new growth. Small grains are starting to come around, but are less developed than average for this time of year, due to the dry winter months. We had very little rain in January and February. Farmers have started planting corn and are working on preparing fields for more corn planting and full-season soybeans. They are also top-dressing winter grain crops with fertilizer.

#### FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Field conditions have improved due to recent rains. Winter wheat is doing very well. Pastures and hay fields are growing well, though producers are holding what little hay is left in anticipation of a dry summer.

#### POWHATAN (Eric Bowen)

Recent rains are bringing much needed moisture and at rates that are infiltrating the soil. Pastures are greening up, which is helping to reduce hay feeding. Wheat and barley are growing well as farms are preparing for corn planting.

### EASTERN

#### MIDDLESEX (Moore)

Showers during the week have slowed farm work. Corn planting began this week, with some early hybrids and sandy soils being planted. Next week should be the big week for corn planting as many will begin. Field prep for corn planting continues and sidedress Nitrogen for wheat is still in progress. Scouting of small grains and herbicide applications for corn fields are the main activities. Fertilization of hay crops and even some hay planting is in progress. Equipment repair and farm spruce up continue.

#### NEW KENT (Paul Davis)

Producers have been finishing topdressing wheat, spreading corn fertilizer and herbicides, working on corn planters and finishing income taxes.

#### NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)

Fields are too wet and cold to begin planting corn, which usually begins the last week of March. Producers are finishing up applications of nitrogen on winter wheat, and spraying burndown herbicides in preparation for corn planting.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Grass is greening up. The rains have been beneficial and recent winds have dried things out some. Some hay is still being fed to livestock. Tobacco land is being worked up at this time.

#### PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Growers made some progress this week top dressing wheat with nitrogen, applying corn fertilizer, and burning down no-till crop land. Some fields still have wet areas, and cool conditions have hampered thoughts of planting corn. Pastures and hay have greened up considerably over the last two weeks.

#### SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Fertilizer is being applied and land preparation is in full swing. Corn planting will be starting this week.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### SOUTHERN

#### **PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe/Stephen Barts)**

Recent rains and warmer temperatures have incited grass growth in pasture and haylands. Tobacco greenhouses are looking good, but remain slightly slow because of limited sunny days. Tobacco land prep has been slowed by rains. Small grains topdressing is complete and recent rains and warm days have the crop looking good.

#### **SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Rains are beginning to slow activities on the farms. Most producers are waiting for ground to get dry enough to till. Grass is coming on strong; however, forecasted cold weather and snow may set it back.

### SOUTHWESTERN



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