



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

# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: April 3, 2011**

**Number: 4**

**Released: April 4, 2011**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 3, 2011

Spring entered the Commonwealth with cool and wet weather that persisted and slowed down grass green-up. Days suitable for field work were 3.1. Muddy conditions persisted throughout the week and there was minimal progress for pastures and small grains. Stink bugs have begun to pose a problem for the apples, soybeans, corn, and vegetable crops. Farmers continued to prepare their fields for early vegetables, although early planted broccoli was frost damaged. Some greens and onions have been planted. Some farmers continued to make the second spring nitrogen application while other small grain producers continued top-dressing wheat and barley. A few growers commenced with planting corn. Tobacco plants continued to progress nicely in greenhouses.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 3, 2011	2	4	86	8

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 3, 2011	8	22	68	2

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Service**

**Virginia Tech**

**Virginia State University**



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

<b>CROP CONDITION PERCENT</b>					
<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Pasture	1	9	48	41	1
Livestock	1	8	36	47	8
Hay, Other	0	1	72	26	1
Hay, Alfalfa	0	0	71	28	1
Winter Wheat	0	2	20	59	19
Barley	0	5	27	60	8
Oats	0	0	36	64	0
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	28	47	25
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	16	84	0
Apples, All	0	0	65	35	0
Peaches	1	1	76	17	5
Grapes	0	0	91	9	0

<b>CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS</b>				
<b>Crop</b>	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>5 Year Avg.</b>
Corn Planted	2	NA	3	NA
Summer Potatoes	74	NA	NA	NA

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 3, 2011**

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	49	32	58	27	41	-9	0.31	2.69	-1.38	6.10	-4.60
Norfolk	50	36	62	28	43	-9	1.00	2.96	-1.32	8.84	-2.79
Richmond	50	35	59	29	43	-8	0.47	4.35	0.00	8.91	-1.95
Roanoke	49	35	58	29	42	-9	0.55	4.27	0.21	7.29	-3.12
Wash/Dulles	47	30	51	26	39	-8	0.37	5.17	1.40	9.25	-0.38

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. 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 comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

**NORTHERN**

**FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)**

We were just informed yesterday that producers are having trouble with the stink bugs that migrated to this area last summer. Apples, soybeans, corn and vegetable crops have been and will be affected by these pests.

**ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)**

Cool and wet weather persisted through the week's end, with a few intermittent snow showers. Pastures and small grains progress was minimal and muddy conditions persisted through the week end. Dry and windy weather through the weekend have firmed up the ground enough that field work will likely resume this week.

**CENTRAL**

**AMELIA/Chesterfield (Joan D Poore)**

There were scattered showers the last week of March. No significant amounts just enough to make the top of the ground sticky. Annual rainfall to date is below normal.

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Small grain producers are top dressing wheat and barley. Vegetable farmers are getting fields ready for early vegetables. Some greens and onion sets have been planted.

**HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Cold weather has delayed the onset of spring and green-up. Peaches and pears are blooming, early planted broccoli was frost damaged. Grass for pasture is slow to start. March did bring some moisture after a dry winter.

**WESTERN**

**ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)**

Gentle rainfall throughout the week totaled .2 to .4 of an inch over much of Rockbridge. Cold and cloudy conditions have limited pasture growth and muddy conditions restricted field work.

**EASTERN**

**ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

A dreary week limited field activities somewhat. Farmers continued to make the second spring nitrogen application as conditions allowed. A few producers started planting corn. Small grains look very good in general, but pasture and hay growths were limited due to cool and cloudy conditions.

**MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Some corn planting begins. Soil temperatures are still cool. Folks are getting ready for some warmer and dryer weather to begin in full force. Land prep continues with burn down, fertilizer and lime application. Producers are watching the markets closely after the intentions report came out. Small grains look good. Not much disease present. Some nutritional deficiencies due to cool winter and spring, but warmer temperatures will remedy most of those. Slight signs of some powdery mildew on some varieties and producers should watch non resistant varieties as the weather warms up. Vegetable fields are being prepared. Gypsum and fertilizer applications are going on. Lying of plastic will begin soon.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The cooler weather last week slowed down grass green up. Several concerns about frost on fruit trees and grapes were expressed this week. Tobacco plants are coming along nicely in greenhouses. Land is being prepared for spring planting. Fertilizer has been put on small grain fields. Rain was much appreciated this week and needed as we are still behind in rainfall.

#### PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Rain showers during the week brought little rain but stalled field work until the weekend. Nitrogen application to wheat and burn down herbicide applications to corn fields were the main activities this week. Pasture and hay is greening up nicely.

#### SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Pastures are just beginning to green. Rain last week was essential for wheat. Producers are applying nitrogen on wheat. Producers are doing burn-down, applying potash, and 2-4D. Currently land prep is on-going for peanut planting. Expect corn planting to start the beginning of April with weather cooperating.

#### SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Corn planting will begin this week if weather permits. Small grains are growing well with some being top dressed for last time.

### SOUTHEASTERN (continued)

#### SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)

We are glad the showers are coming and hope they will continue. We are not yet out of our drought status yet. Small grains have received the last application of N with a fungicide and insecticide and the crop looks good at this time. Growers are getting prepared to get started for the 2011 growing season.

#### CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Rain continues to delay field work as we approach April. Rain is good because fields are not totally saturated, and this moisture is providing a good base of soil moisture to plant onto in coming weeks. Wheat crop is jointing rapidly now and has great potential.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Field condition: wet and cold; too cold for planting or transplanting of any crop

#### TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Rain & Cold. Most fields too wet to get into. Mud was everywhere near feeding cattle.



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