



NATIONAL  
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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: April 1, 2012**

**Number: 4**

**Released: April 2, 2012**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR APRIL 1, 2012

Freezing temperatures granted reasons for concerns in many parts of Virginia. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.6. Farmers were assessing the damage to fruit trees and strawberries from the freeze. Small grain is starting to head out. Only a few areas have had corn planted. Producers are preparing fields for plantings, making machinery repairs and planning for fertilization and seeding. Cows were able to get out into the pastures and graze.

| TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT |            |       |          |         |
|--------------------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| Week Ending              | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
| April 1, 2012            | 0          | 16    | 73       | 11      |
| SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT |            |       |          |         |
| Week Ending              | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
| April 1, 2012            | 0          | 16    | 80       | 4       |

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Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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Virginia Tech

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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                       | 0                | 2           | 22          | 63          | 13               |
| Livestock                     | 0                | 3           | 20          | 66          | 11               |
| Hay, Other                    | 0                | 0           | 21          | 66          | 13               |
| Hay, Alfalfa                  | 0                | 0           | 27          | 55          | 18               |
| Winter Wheat                  | 0                | 0           | 8           | 74          | 18               |
| Barley                        | 0                | 0           | 17          | 66          | 17               |
| Oats                          | 0                | 0           | 13          | 78          | 9                |
| Tobacco, Greenhouse           | 0                | 0           | 1           | 55          | 44               |
| Tobacco, Plantbeds            | 0                | 0           | 95          | 5           | 0                |
| Apples, All                   | 0                | 1           | 84          | 5           | 10               |
| Peaches                       | 0                | 2           | 43          | 43          | 12               |
| Grapes                        | 0                | 2           | 15          | 71          | 12               |

| <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                                    | 6                | NA               | NA               | NA                 |
| Summer Potatoes                                 | 65               | NA               | NA               | NA                 |

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 1, 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   | 72          | 45        | 83        | 31       | 59   | 10                      | 0.05          | 5.72         | 1.89                      | 10.55          | 0.11                      |
| Norfolk     | 68          | 49        | 80        | 42       | 59   | 7                       | 0.04          | 2.62         | -1.47                     | 7.09           | -4.34                     |
| Richmond    | 69          | 45        | 83        | 36       | 57   | 6                       | 0.16          | 2.52         | -1.54                     | 7.46           | -3.19                     |
| Roanoke     | 71          | 47        | 83        | 37       | 59   | 9                       | 0.21          | 3.53         | -0.30                     | 7.43           | -2.74                     |
| Wash/Dulles | 63          | 40        | 73        | 30       | 52   | 5                       | 0.21          | 1.52         | -2.01                     | 5.61           | -3.73                     |

\* 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 Smith)**

On March 27, 2012 we received a freeze in the early morning. Temperature ranged from 26-28 degrees. Farmers are assessing damage now to fruit trees and strawberries. We have had small amounts of precipitation and this week has been cool.

#### **ROCKINGHAM (Matthew Yancey)**

Small grain hay/haylage harvest is well underway. Barley is heading out.

### CENTRAL

#### **AMELIA (Joan D Poore)**

March 27 - a freeze warning for the area. The morning low was 35 degrees - high of 59. No reports of crop damage. The rest of the week was averaging low 40's high 70's. Light showers Saturday morning with scattered showers in the evening. There is still concern that the small grain is starting to head out, but has no height to it. No corn planted at this time, but I expect the coming weeks will be busy.

#### **CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)**

Average temperatures for the week. No corn planted in the county. Grain is looking good, just concerns of heading out too early.

#### **HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Unusual week...Rain from last Sunday only delayed planting a bit. Two nights of near freezing temperatures but have heard

### EASTERN

#### **MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Corn planting begins more aggressively next week. Wheat development is 2-4 weeks ahead of normal. We are hoping weather will cooperate from here on. Producers are preparing fields for corn planting, making machinery repairs and planning for fertilization and seeding. Still some N applications to wheat.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

### SOUTHERN

#### FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Last week's hail storm, rain and wind damaged a lot of properties. I saw several places where hail damaged ag bags containing feed for dairy cows. The ag bags were littered with holes of all sizes which will now cause water and moisture damage to the feed, allowing oxygen. Several towns in the Franklin County area reported. Body condition scores on both beef and dairy are looking good. Cows are able to get out on pasture and graze. Producers still have a good amount of feed left over from last season's crop, to prevent shortages. Several producers in Franklin and Pittsylvania counties have started cutting Rye grass, hoping for high yields with this early season.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Rains last week slowed down a few outside chores. The land is working very well; some had to be redone after the previous week's storms. Grass is coming along and folks are making plans on marketing fall calves, however many calves have already left the farm early.

### (Southeastern continued)

#### SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Producers have applied burn down sprays. Most corn planting will be started this week although some was in the ground last week. Pastures and hay are growing well providing some early season grazing. Wheat is about 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Producers are anxious to plant with the gracious weather.

#### SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Growers are spraying burn down, spreading fertilizer, and servicing equipment. Corn planting has started.

#### CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Warm temperatures and adequate soil moisture has pushed plant emergence and leaf development 2-weeks ahead of normal. Farmers are being cautious about planting corn too early, but some planting was started last week. Warm temperatures will likely help put more seed in the ground this week. Seed delivery is a bottleneck in some cases with seed companies scampering to deliver seed from mid-west to warmer climate of southeast.



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