



NATIONAL  
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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: April 15, 2012**

**Number: 6**

**Released: April 17, 2012**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR APRIL 15, 2012

Continued dry weather, along with windy conditions, has significantly decreased overall soil moisture across the state. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.8. Corn planting progressed this week, although some producers have stopped planting due to concerns that the dry conditions will effect soil germination. The dry weather has also halted hay and pasture growth and wheat is starting to show sign of drought stress. A couple nights of heavy frost this past week damaged some fruit trees and vegetables that were not protected. Everyone is in need of some rain for both the small grains and recent corn plantings.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 15, 2012	22	48	29	1
April 8, 2012	1	36	58	5
April 1, 2012	0	16	73	11
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 15, 2012	11	42	45	2
April 8, 2012	1	21	74	4
April 1, 2012	0	16	80	4

### IN THIS REPORT:

Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3,4

Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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<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	6	42	48	3
Livestock	0	4	24	63	9
Hay, Other	0	8	46	40	6
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	42	44	13
Winter Wheat	0	2	19	74	5
Barley	0	4	29	59	8
Oats	0	0	33	62	5
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	45	40	15
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	99	1	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	50	50	0
Apples, All	0	1	94	5	0
Peaches	1	4	45	45	5
Grapes	0	7	28	64	1

<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	44	22	18	20
Corn Emerged	6	NA	NA	NA
Winter Wheat	39	NA	1	2
Cotton Planted	3	NA	6	2
Summer Potatoes	100	85	97	91

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 2012**

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. 14	Mar. 1 to Apr. 14 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	67	37	74	30	52	-2	458	244	0.00	5.80	0.43	10.63	-1.44
Norfolk	69	46	78	44	58	2	493	267	0.00	2.95	-2.72	7.42	-5.59
Richmond	70	43	78	39	56	1	499	292	0.00	2.52	-3.08	7.47	-4.57
Roanoke	67	41	76	36	54	-1	484	NA	0.00	3.61	-1.85	7.51	-4.22
Wash/Dulles	65	36	74	33	51	0	389	NA	0.00	1.69	-3.28	5.78	-5.12

\* 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)

Conditions are getting dry. There is no precipitation to talk about.

*(Eastern continued)*

corn stand density and uniform plant emergence. There is also concern about what effects dry conditions will have on small grain yields. Some hay was harvested as conditions were ideal for curing hay.

### WESTERN

#### ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

The weekly precipitation was 0. Overnight lows in upper 30s. Cool weather inconsistent with warm weather experienced regionally.

#### WESTMORELAND (Stephanie Romelczyk)

Soil is very dry and farmers are holding off on planting corn. Also, vegetable farmers are waiting to lay plastic and transplant due to the dry soil.

### CENTRAL

#### AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

What a difference a week can make with up and down temperatures, winds have been blowing every day, causing very dry conditions. The ground is so dry and hard in many areas to where the farmers quit planting corn until some rain arrives. Hopefully soon. I have seen some small grain that look, on average, pretty good. Then some still doesn't have much height and is starting to head.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Grass growth has almost stopped. Grazing livestock are eating the grass faster than it is growing and prospects for the first hay cutting fall by the day, probably 50% of normal will be made. The benefit of dryer than normal conditions to grazing livestock will be higher than normal gains due to increasing dry matter content of pasture. These dry conditions unusually advance planting efforts to include spraying, fertilizer and lime applications and planting itself beyond normal progress for this time of year. Early emerging corn and soybean crops will be at risk of frost damage.

#### CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

The conditions have turned quite dry this past week and with the type of soils in Chesterfield - they can either be very wet or very dry. Right now - dry. The windy conditions and no rain in the past 10 plus days have soil conditions very dry.

#### SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Heavy frost two nights last week has severely damaged plants and vegetables that were not protected. Strawberry harvest has begun, with good size, but very few blooms. It appears all crowns have set and the season will be short this year.

#### HANOVER (Jim Tate)

It has been hot and dry. There has been no rain in weeks and not it is getting hot. Pastures have stopped growing and are starting to wilt. The past week we have had temps from frost to upper 80'S. There has been some fruit tree fruit damage due to frost. The dry windy weather is sucking any moisture out of the ground. Corn planting is stopping due to hard ground conditions. Not a lot of corn has emerged yet. We need rain.

#### SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Dry and cold conditions endangered young crops that were well ahead of schedule. For now, frost damage seems to have passed, but the need for appreciable moisture is critical.

### EASTERN

#### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Corn planting continued at a rapid pace and many growers are done. There is concern about the effects that dry soil conditions will have on

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

### SOUTHERN

*(Southeastern continued)*

#### FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Weather Report - Calling for chances of rain all week with ranges of 10% to 80%. Temps in the 70's. Animals are looking good; although, I've seen some fields being over grazing already. Start moving those cows. Farmers are out cutting barley for silage and working on hay fields. Some alfalfa fields have been cut. I will be on the look for farmers planting corn this week.

#### SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

We are on the downside of corn planting. Soil temperatures are well above normal but producers should be aware of the cool nights and still possible frost. We are in need of rain for both the small grains and recent corn plantings. Pastures are still holding up well and rains we may get later this week should help keep them that way.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Strawberry producers spent quite a few sleepless nights frost protecting last week, but the blooms and plants look like they made it through in good shape. You pick farms are all open at this point and with the warm weather in the coming week it is only going to get better. Corn planting is still in full swing and all of the earlier planted wheat is heading.

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Windy weather last week really dried things out. Cooler weather made it tough on young plants. Some strawberries were picked in some areas last week. Tobacco fields are being readied for planting.

#### PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Dry soil conditions have stopped corn planting due to concerns with seed germination and getting planters into the soil. Wheat is starting to show signs of drought stress. The prolonged dry weather has prevented any significant disease pressure in small grains. Hay and pasture growth has also nearly stopped.



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