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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: April 26, 2009

Number: 7

Released: April 27, 2009

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 26, 2009

Although rain showers continued into the early week throughout much of the state, by mid-week, unseasonably warm temperatures and dry weather allowed for producers to catch up on previously delayed planting and field operations. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.6. Corn planting is well underway and producers anticipate the start of soybean and cotton planting shortly. Also, with the continued warm weather, tobacco growers are gearing up to begin transplanting activities. Small grains are showing slight distress from the warm weather, although those that received adequate fertilizer continue to thrive. Producers choosing to harvest their small grains for silage are taking advantage of the dry weather to do so.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 26, 2009	0	6	86	8
April 19, 2009	0	6	84	10
April 12, 2009	0	10	80	10
April 5, 2009	1	7	79	13



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	2	6	31	58	3
Livestock	2	6	29	56	7
Hay, Other	1	3	34	58	4
Hay, Alfalfa	1	4	31	55	9
Winter Wheat	1	4	28	54	13
Barley	0	2	23	68	7
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	4	68	28
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	46	54	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	40	40	20
Apples, All	2	3	61	34	0
Peaches	0	4	61	35	0
Grapes	0	0	21	79	0
Oats	0	0	1	98	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	29	15	44	45
Corn Emerged	4	0	14	15
Winter Wheat Headed	7	2	34	10
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	1	0	0	6
Potatoes, Summer Planted	100	90	100	97

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 26, 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. 25	Mar. 1 to Apr. 25 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	73	43	91	34	58	2	365	373	1.15	6.10	-.53	10.37	-2.92
Norfolk	73	51	90	42	62	3	396	396	1.03	7.56	.69	10.64	-3.54
Richmond	76	50	92	43	63	5	409	434	.74	6.82	.14	9.05	-4.25
Roanoke	73	48	91	41	61	4	394	NA	.87	6.67	-.06	10.62	-2.49
Wash/Dulles	72	43	92	36	57	3	306	NA	1.67	6.21	.07	9.23	-2.75

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.

NORTHERN

ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)

Rainfall early in the week provided some much needed moisture but delayed field work until late in the week. This week saw increased field activity with many local farmers harvesting small grain silage. The first corn went in the ground with warmer temperatures towards weeks end boosting soil temperatures near 60 degrees.

WESTERN

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

We have experienced unseasonably warm temperatures in the 90s, and warm night temperatures during the latter half of the week.

CENTRAL

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Farmers are busy cutting rye for hay, servicing planting equipment and applying herbicides to cover crops. Corn planting is well underway with some soybeans also being planted. Small grain and hay fields that received adequate fertilizer look extremely good.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain producers are well into corn planting with about half of the crop planted. Barley is heading out and wheat is just beginning to emerge. Moisture conditions are once again becoming critical. Hot, dry, windy conditions are slowing the growth of winter grains, and stressing newly emerged corn.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Spring field activity is going full throttle in all areas due to excellent weather and recent rains. Rye is heading out. Tomato and corn planting are under way. Farmers are applying soybean and corn burndown herbicides, fertilizer and lime, and scouting in wheat for pests. We have had excellent weather this past week.

NEW KENT (Paul Davis)

Producers have been trying to plant corn, scouting for wheat diseases, turkey hunting, and spraying corn herbicides.

SOUTHWESTERN

LEE (Harold Jerrell)

Temperatures were in the upper 80's a few days, drying soils quickly.

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

The weekend was hot and dry.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Grass is beginning to green up but we still had snow flurries this past week.

SOUTHEASTERN

MECKLENBURG (C. Taylor Clarke Jr.)

With the forecast for warm weather for the weekend and early next week, growers are gearing up to begin transplanting tobacco. Tobacco land preparation has been delayed in the western part of county due to wet soil conditions.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Warm weather has arrived and corn and cotton planting are getting underway. Lime and fertilizer applications continue along with herbicide applications. Fumigation for peanuts will start this week as soil temperatures warm up. Strawberry picking is about to get underway also.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Thunderstorms hampered farmers in getting corn planted this week. Most farmers either lost days for field work or had to search for dry ground to work. Strawberry growers are delayed about one week from opening U-Pick because of overcast weather and cool temperatures.

SUFFOLK CITY (Rex Cotton)

Moisture levels for both topsoil and subsoil continue to be adequate. Warmer temperatures have allowed for producers to make progress on corn planting, spring topdressing of fields, and tillage activities.