

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Cold nights and very little rain in April has caused severe retardation with forage growth in both pastures and hay fields. Full grazing of livestock has been delayed due to these factors. Supplement feed is still being utilized in many cases. Corn planting has begun even with cooler than normal soil temperatures with the hopes that things will warm up and normal rainfall will return quickly. Small grain yields for hay or silage have been below normal as well. This is highly due to the conditions mentioned earlier.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

A good week for planting - scattered showers Friday 4/23 pm and Saturday 4/24 AM - temperatures seasonal.

CENTRAL (continued)

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Small grain crops are looking very good with warmer temperatures and adequate rainfall. Corn planting continues full bore. Well over half of the corn crop is in. Full season soybean planting will begin soon.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

It was a pretty good week. Storms Saturday night, 4/24/2010, which brought variable precipitation (3/10 inch in western Hanover.) Corn is popping up everywhere now. Planters continue to roll. Small grain made a good growth spurt this week, looking dramatically better. Many pastures can be seen to have tracks from fertilizer rigs now and grass has finally grown some. Have seen a few stands of pretty alfalfa. Hay making should begin in earnest soon. My mood is much improved this week due to the better weather and grass outlook.



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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: April 25, 2010

Number: 7

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 25, 2010

The Commonwealth experienced scattered showers throughout the week. Temperatures were seasonable, averaging mid to upper 50s for the week. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.9. Good progress was made on corn plantings with 55 percent of the corn planted, about one week ahead of normal. Despite the cool weather, farmers are optimistic that the ground temperature will be sufficient for corn germination. A few wheat growers sited a small infestation of cereal beetle in their crop, and some growers worried that it might worsen due to the current weather. However, the majority of the Virginia's winter wheat remains in good condition. Other farming activities for the week included planting vegetables, tending to tobacco transplants, planting cotton, and feeding livestock.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 4, 2010	0	2	74	24
April 11, 2010	0	2	78	20
April 18, 2010	1	20	75	4
April 25, 2010	3	18	75	4



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	4	30	57	9
Livestock	1	4	31	56	8
Hay, Other	0	2	42	50	6
Hay, Alfalfa	0	0	26	60	14
Winter Wheat	1	8	34	53	4
Barley	2	4	33	57	4
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	1	93	6
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	92	7	1
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	0	100	0
Apples, All	0	0	58	37	5
Peaches	0	0	27	68	5
Grapes	0	0	10	70	20
Oats	0	0	32	68	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	55	35	27	39
Corn Emerged	12	0	3	12
Winter Wheat Headed	11	2	6	9
Cotton Planted	7	4	0	10
Potatoes, Summer Planted	95	85	99	97
Oats for Grain Seeded	35	15	NA	NA
Flue Cured Tobacco Transplanted	5	0	1	3

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 25, 2010

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. 24	Mar. 1 to Apr. 24 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	67	41	73	32	54	-2	484	361	0.85	7.96	1.44	15.04	1.85
Norfolk	66	48	73	41	57	-1	494	383	0.06	6.31	-0.47	14.33	0.29
Richmond	69	45	78	37	57	-1	559	420	0.62	7.35	0.79	13.77	0.66
Roanoke	69	45	75	37	57	0	497	NA	0.52	5.15	-1.45	11.83	-1.17
Wash/Dulles	66	42	75	32	54	0	472	NA	0.24	4.10	-1.92	10.65	-1.18

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.
1/ Total Growing Degree Days available thru Apr. 24, 2010.

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EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers continued planting corn at a good pace, and many growers have finished. Emergence of early-planted corn has been very good due to good soil moisture and the very warm weather in early April. A few cereal leaf beetles have been reported in wheat, but so far, populations remain relatively low.

NORTHERN

CLARKE (Jacob Grove)

Good weather and field conditions have many farmers planting corn earlier this year.

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

Apples and peaches are in bloom, hard to estimate crop conditions at this time. We had some showers last week and this weekend, but not enough to improve the figures. Also had a report of hail in Stephens City area.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Received some needed rainfall, luckily not heavy so little erosion to cropland. Vegetable crops progressing well. Same for winter grains, hayfields and pastures. Fruit crops looking good. Landscape crops showing some winter damage.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Cooler, moderate temperatures gave way to sunshine last week and everything has exploded with growth. Wildflowers and trees that normally have a few weeks between blooms have all started blooming at one time. Strawberries are within 2 weeks of picking with extremely heavy fruiting with some concern about the size of the fruit.

SOUTHEASTERN

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Small grain producers have started to spray wheat for cereal leaf beetles and leaf diseases. A few fields have moderate levels of powdery mildew. Insects and disease are definitely spotty with all fields not needing treatment at this time. Some very poor stands of small grain have been killed to plant full season soybeans. Corn planting has progressed well again this week and early planted corn is 3-4 inches tall. Cotton and peanut growers are finishing land preparation and will start planting cotton this week and peanuts next week. Hay growth appears to be off somewhat this spring as the grass looks short compared to what we expect this time of year.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Most all corn has been planted. Rain was welcome this past week for germination of planted corn. Soil moisture is adequate with more rain predicted for the upcoming week. Field work continues as producers prepare for cotton and peanut planting. Pastures are looking better.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)

Rain fall would be welcome as our soil has dried out. Corn and soybean planting continues. Cotton planting will get underway this week and peanut planting next week. Some insect applications have been made to small grain for cereal leaf beetles. Burn down herbicide applications continued for no-till soybean planting.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Wheat crop is thinly tillered this year. A few acres needing insecticide sprays for cereal leaf beetle, but most acreage is free from insect pressure. Not many wheat diseases, but that could change soon with frequent showers this week as head emergence approaches and moderately warm temperatures. Conditions are right for disease development. Corn planting continues. Temperatures are seasonably cool but plenty of sunshine to warm topsoil. Some hay cutting with a big demand for hay due to poor weather last fall for harvesting hay.