



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: April 24, 2011

Number: 7

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 24, 2011

Severe thunderstorms and heavy rains caused flooded rivers, fence damage and debris on April 16, 2011. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.80. Fieldwork continued to progress well with warmer temperatures showing up later in the week. Continued rains are needed to increase the quality of the pastures and hayfields. Farmers are underway planting corn and scouting small grains for insects and diseases. Land preparations for peanuts, cotton, soybeans and tobacco are underway in some areas. Much of the early planted corn has emerged or is beginning to do so. Vegetable farmers are planting some summer crops and preparing for tomato, squash, and pepper planting. Wheat and barley fields continued to look good while fungicides were applied to wheat fields. Strawberry production is well under way.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 3, 2011	2	4	86	8
April 10, 2011	0	6	83	11
April 17, 2011	1	2	73	24
April 24, 2011	2	6	75	17

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 3, 2011	8	22	68	2
April 10, 2011	4	18	75	3
April 17, 2011	3	10	80	7
April 24, 2011	2	11	79	8

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Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service

Virginia Tech

Virginia State University



Virginia Cooperative Extension
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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	6	23	62	9
Livestock	1	6	25	54	14
Hay, Other	1	3	26	64	6
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	20	64	15
Winter Wheat	0	1	17	54	28
Barley	1	3	23	59	14
Oats	0	1	23	75	1
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	31	58	11
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	21	79	0
Summer Potatoes	0	0	0	100	0
Apples, All	0	0	37	63	0
Peaches	0	0	46	54	0
Grapes	0	0	42	58	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	39	22	52	41
Corn Emerged	2	0	10	11
Summer Potatoes Planted	100	99	94	98
Winter Wheat Headed	16	1	10	8
Peanuts Planted	2	1	0	1
Oats for grain Seeded	32	15	32	N/A
Cotton Planted	10	8	7	8

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 24, 2011

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. 23	Mar. 1 to Apr. 23 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	73	50	84	45	62	6	377	347	0.29	5.67	-0.70	9.08	-3.89
Norfolk	76	54	87	44	65	7	404	369	0.03	3.96	-2.75	9.84	-4.01
Richmond	75	50	86	42	63	5	426	405	0.18	6.09	-0.38	10.65	-2.33
Roanoke	73	51	83	44	62	5	383	NA	0.26	8.48	1.96	11.50	-1.27
Wash/Dulles	69	45	86	41	57	3	293	NA	0.50	8.56	2.62	12.64	0.83

* 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 had severe thunderstorms on April 16. Creeks and rivers flooded. Fence damage and debris.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Very nice week weather wise after the storms of the previous weekend. No measurable precipitation at my Western Hanover home. Some spotty showers. On 4/21/2011 I saw my first emerged corn.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Wet conditions caused by heavy rains April 16th prevented much field work from taking place early in the week. Rainfall Friday on the order of .2 of an inch further delayed field crop work. However, some essential field activities were accomplished Wednesday and Saturday.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Bees are being removed from orchards as most blocks are approaching or at petal fall. Rye is being cut for hay.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Corn planting progressed rapidly last week. Much of the early planted corn has emerged or is beginning to do so. Fungicides were applied to a few wheat fields. Vegetable producers were busy setting out tomato plants and planting sweet corn and other summer vegetables.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D. Poore)

A good week after last weekend's storms. About 1/4 inch of rain Friday night April 22, overcast and drizzle Sat AM 4/23.

SOUTHWESTERN

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Field work was progressing well. One producer planted around 50 acres of soybeans last week which should be coming up very soon with the warmer than usual weather. We have been getting spotty rain, but it dries rapidly with the windy conditions.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Major storms have come through Lee and Scott Counties, with hail as large as 2.5" diameter. One tobacco greenhouse operator lost 10 greenhouse covers and approximately 5% of tobacco transplants due to hail damage. Strawberry production looks promising, with first picking this week.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Moisture conditions are OK, but we still have not had a lot of precipitation this winter. Pastures and hayfields are looking good, but we need continued rains to insure good growth. Grain farmers are planting corn. Scouting small grains for insects and diseases and getting fields ready for soybean planting. Vegetable farmers are planting their early plantings of some summer crops, and getting ready to plant tomatoes, squash, and peppers. Strawberries are just starting to come in.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D. Poore)

After last weekend's storms the weather was warm and breezy. About 1/4 inch of rainfall Friday evening and overcast Saturday morning with drizzle.

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)

We were missed by the tornados. Some areas got some heavy rain with minor flooding. Producers are getting ready to plant tobacco next week. Some producers cut a little hay and haylage this week. Some small grain haylage is looking pretty good at this point.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Fieldwork resumed by the end of the week as fields dried out from the 1-3 inches of rain last week. Corn planting continues as well as preparations for peanut, cotton, and soybean planting. Wheat and barley continue to look good with a few fungicide applications being made for powdery mildew. Overall disease and insect pressure is low in small grains.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Corn planting is well underway. Land preparation for peanuts and herbicide application for soybeans and cotton is progressing. Pastures are slowly improving with the recent rains and warmer weather.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)

Thunderstorms moved through our area on last Saturday giving us just over an inch of heavy rain and very little wind damage. We could use more rainfall and hopefully more is on the way. Farmers are busy trying to finish up corn planting, getting peanut land ready, and fumigation. Soybean planting is underway and cotton planting will begin in a few day as weather warms up. Small grains look good with very little disease or cereal-leaf beetle activity at this time.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Some powdery mildew is showing up on lower leaves and stems following last Saturdays rain and moderately cool temperatures this week. Some fungicide applications were being made. No thresholds reached for cereal leaf beetle yet. Corn planting continues with considerable more acres yet to plant.



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