



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: April 22, 2012

Number: 7

Released: April 23, 2012

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR APRIL 22, 2012

The Commonwealth of Virginia received some needed rainfall this week. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.1. The rains have been beneficial for small grains, pasture and planted corn. Some corn planting had stopped due to the hard ground. Growers will finish corn and get ready to plant cotton peanuts and soybeans. Tobacco transplanting has begun. Strawberries are continuing to ripen. Cattle look good.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

| Week Ending | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|----------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| April 22, 2012 | 6 | 19 | 67 | 8 |
| 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 22, 2012 | 10 | 22 | 62 | 6 |
| 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
Service



Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

| CROP CONDITION PERCENT | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Pasture | 0 | 7 | 41 | 48 | 4 |
| Livestock | 0 | 3 | 27 | 57 | 13 |
| Hay, Other | 0 | 10 | 46 | 38 | 6 |
| Hay, Alfalfa | 0 | 2 | 38 | 47 | 13 |
| Winter Wheat | 0 | 2 | 20 | 70 | 8 |
| Barley | 0 | 3 | 34 | 57 | 6 |
| Oats | 0 | 0 | 49 | 49 | 2 |
| Tobacco, Greenhouse | 0 | 0 | 38 | 43 | 19 |
| Tobacco, Plantbeds | 0 | 0 | 97 | 3 | 0 |
| Potatoes, Summer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 97 | 3 |
| Apples, All | 0 | 1 | 80 | 7 | 12 |
| Peaches | 0 | 3 | 56 | 30 | 11 |
| Grapes | 0 | 3 | 33 | 44 | 20 |

| CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
| Corn Planted | 60 | 44 | 34 | 33 |
| Corn Emerged | 20 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| Winter Wheat | 74 | 39 | 12 | 8 |
| Cotton Planted | 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| Summer Potatoes | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 22, 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. 21 | Mar. 1 to Apr. 21 normal | Last Week | Since Mar. 1 | Mar. 1 dep. from normal * | Jan. 1 to date | Jan. 1 dep. from normal * |
| Lynchburg | 75 | 51 | 85 | 46 | 63 | 7 | 554 | 329 | 0.90 | 6.70 | 0.56 | 11.53 | -1.28 |
| Norfolk | 78 | 59 | 90 | 50 | 68 | 10 | 621 | 351 | 0.18 | 3.13 | -3.25 | 7.60 | -6.21 |
| Richmond | 79 | 55 | 90 | 47 | 67 | 10 | 617 | 385 | 0.22 | 2.74 | -3.48 | 7.69 | -5.12 |
| Roanoke | 75 | 52 | 89 | 44 | 64 | 7 | 581 | NA | 1.57 | 5.18 | -1.06 | 9.08 | -3.53 |
| Wash/Dulles | 75 | 51 | 88 | 42 | 63 | 9 | 488 | NA | 0.47 | 2.16 | -3.52 | 6.25 | -5.32 |

* 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

(Central continued)

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Frederick received some most needed rainfall on Thursday. This will help with dryness, but we still need more rain.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Finally some rain showers one day mid week that were less than 2/10 of an inch in western Hanover. Mid county got steady rain all day. Eastern county got several good showers.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Two rainfall events this week, Wednesday and Sunday, combined to bring over 2 inches of rain to the Rockbridge area this week. The moisture was needed and resolved some soil moisture deficiencies. Field activities were limited due to the rainfall.

HENRICO (Kilby D Majette)

Some farmers stop planting corn this week because of shortage of moisture.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Much needed rain fell last Saturday and Sunday, Strawberry harvest begun.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

A few scattered showers earlier in the week gave a little moisture to the area, however some areas received nothing. A much needed rain started Saturday night and continued through Monday morning. The rain was steady throughout Sunday, receiving anywhere from 1.2 to 1.8 inches of rainfall. The temperatures also fell to below average temperatures, 40's - 50's. The much needed rain was a good soaker.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

A much needed good soaking rain fell starting Saturday night through early Monday morning. The temperature also fell below normal, but is expected to last only a couple of days before warming up to normal.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Weekend rains provided needed relief to what was becoming a very droughty situation.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rainfall Saturday night and Sunday replenished topsoil moisture. A few producers planted corn during the week, while others chose to wait until rainfall. Some producers were also busy making hay last week.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Great, Timely rain fell over the weekend. Over 2.5 inches in most places. Wheat really needed it. Corn also as many fields have now emerged. This will help most folks finish up. Some producers stopped to wait for the rain to finish. Some never began planting. Hay fields look kind of sparse, but rain should help and cutting may begin in a week or so. Field prep for corn and beans as well as scouting small grains are the activities of the week. Crops have much more potential now after the rain.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

(Southeastern continued)

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Parts of Rocky Mount and Franklin County got 1.30 inches of rain over the last few days. Helping with soil moisture, but hindering farmers cutting rye for silage and hay. This week will be cool at night and in the 70's during the day. Still chances of rain this week, mostly Monday April 23 and Thursday April 26. Franklin County was lucky, no snow here. The rain is going to help out with pasture growth and adding moisture to soil for future crops. The cattle look good. Cows enjoying the warmer weather and cool nights with pasture to eat. Family gardens - Potatoes are growing great.

SOUTHEASTERN

MECKLENBURG

Tobacco transplanting began the end of week. Rain was much needed for planting crops, wheat crop which is in flower, pasture and hay. Tobacco transplanting will begin in earnest by the end of this week.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Rains last week and over the weekend have been beneficial for small grains, pasture and planted corn. Some areas received 2+ inches of rain with 1+ across the entire county. It will take a few days to dry out enough to resume planting of corn.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

1.5 - 2.5 inches of rain on Sunday 4-22-12 helped erase part of early spring drought. Some corn planting had stopped due to the hard ground. Growers will finish corn and get ready to plant cotton peanuts and soybeans.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Much needed rain fell over the area over the week-end, we had gotten very dry to begin the planting season. Cotton, peanut and soybean planting will start soon.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Corn planting is starting to wrap up. The rain that arrived this weekend will help the small grain significantly and should be just right for any corn that has not emerged. Strawberries are continuing to ripen, over the past weekend supply just barely kept up with demand.



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