Wet conditions slow early fieldwork

fourth year in a row, wet conditions are preventing an early start on fieldwork, according to the Penn-sylvania Crop Reporting Service.

There were three days suitable for farm fieldwork during the week ending April 14. High soil moisture limited field activities to: hauling manure, spreading lime and fertilizer, fence repair. equipment preparation, orchard pruning and spraying, plowing, discing and planting of small amounts of oats and vegetables.

Soil moisture is rated mostly surplus by farmers across the Commonwealth.

Only nine percent of spring plowing has been completed, compared to 16 percent last year. The north reports eight percent spring plowing complete, central counties

HARRISBURG - For the are ten percent plowed, and nine percent of spring plowing has been completed in the south.

Oats, at six percent sown, are down one percent from the 1979 figure. Less than five percent of the oats have been sown in the northern and central counties, with the south reporting 12 percent sown.

Planting of potatoes has just started, behind last year's figure of five percent planted. Northern and central counties report no planting at this time, and planting of potatoes has just begun in the south.

Tobacco beds, at less than five percent planted, are well behind last year's 31 percent planted, and 1978's reported 58 percent planted...

Barley and wheat are reported in the pre-boot stage. Winter kill appears about average, or slightly

below average. Color is good and barley growth has begun.

Alfalfa and clover-timothy stands are reported in good condition by slightly over one-half of the reporters and fair by the rest.

All fruit is in the pre-pink state with some bud swell reported.

Farm operators report that vegetable plantings have been delayed by wet



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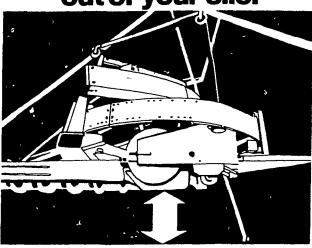
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