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CROP-WEATHER BULLETIN



In Cooperation with:
 US Department of Commerce-NOAA
 USDA Farm Service Agency
 WV Cooperative Extension Service
 WV Dept. of Agriculture

SOURCE: USDA/NASS West Virginia Field Office
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 FOR WEEK OF: May 14 - 20

GENERAL

Cooler temperatures warmed up as the week progressed, bringing beautiful, sunny weather to the Mountain State. The week began with showers and cool air left over from last weekend. Highs were generally in the 60s Monday but a gradual warming pushed highs into the mid 80s by the end of the week. With the early-week storm system pushing off to the east, high pressure took control bringing lots of sunshine and comfortable conditions. In fact, the state average temperature jumped four degrees from last week while the rainfall average dipped by 0.81 of an inch.

Temperatures: Both Wheeling and Parkersburg had the highest recorded temperature of 87 degrees. Both Wheeling and Keyser had the lowest recorded temperature of 40 degrees. The state average temperature was 64 degrees.

Precipitation: Keyser had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.30 inches. Wheeling, Creston, and Huntington all had the lowest with zero recorded precipitation. The state average precipitation was 0.49 of an inch.

Number of days suitable for fieldwork averaged 5 days last week. Total acres plowed that are intended for spring planted crops were 91 percent complete, compared with 57 percent in 2011 and 83 percent for the 5-yr average.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	PERCENT			
Current				
Week	1	12	84	3
Last				
Week	1	15	70	14
Last				
Year	--	--	53	47

SUPPLIES

Hay and roughage supplies ranged from short to surplus, but were reported as mostly adequate. Feed grain supplies ranged from short to surplus, but were reported as mostly adequate. Farming activities included: planting home gardens, preparing and planting fields, baling forages, working and moving livestock and fence work.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
	PERCENT				
Cattle & Calves	--	2	25	66	7
Sheep & Lambs	--	3	39	55	3
Apples	4	20	47	27	2
Peaches	23	38	28	10	1
Hay	1	10	30	54	5
Wheat	4	8	28	58	2
Pasture	--	9	37	46	8

FRUIT

Apples are showing the traditional natural or "June" drop. Some varieties have shed considerable fruit. Peaches are growing rapidly and many have passed the 25-30 mm size. Hand thinning should be nearly completed. Sweet cherries are turning from the green to straw color stage and some are exhibiting red color development. Apple conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most orchards in mostly fair condition. Peach conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most orchards in mostly poor to fair condition.

GRAINS and HAY

Corn was 75 percent planted, compared with 36 percent last year and 64 percent for the 5-yr average. Corn was 35 percent emerged, compared with 18 percent last year and 33 percent for the 5-yr average. Soybeans were 57 percent planted, compared with 12 percent last year and 38 percent for the 5-yr average. Soybeans were 33 percent emerged, compared with 1 percent last year and 12 percent for the 5-yr average. Winter wheat conditions ranged from very poor to excellent, but most fields were reported in good condition. Winter wheat was 85 percent headed, compared with 50 percent last year and 57 percent for the 5-yr average. Hay conditions ranged from very poor to excellent, but fields were reported in mostly good condition. First-cutting was 13 percent complete, comparison data not available.

LIVESTOCK and PASTURE

Cattle conditions ranged from poor to excellent, but most herds were reported in good condition. Sheep conditions ranged from poor to excellent, but most flocks were reported in good condition. Pasture conditions ranged from poor to excellent, but most fields were reported in fair to mostly good condition.

HISTORICAL CROP PROGRESS

YEAR	PERCENT OF TOTAL ACRES PREPARED FOR SPRING PLANTING	CORN		SOYBEANS		WHEAT	HAY
		PLANTED	EMERGED	PLANTED	EMERGED	HEADED	1 ST CUT
2012	91	75	35	57	33	85	13
2011	57	36	18	12	1	50	N/A
5 YR AVG	83	64	33	38	12	57	N/A

N/A-Not Available



Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending 05-20-12

Station	Temperature				Precipitation				
	High	Low	Weekly Average	Weekly Departure	Week's Total	Week's Norm	Since April 1st 2012	Same Week Last Year	Season Normal

--NORTHWEST--									
WHEELING	87	40	64		0.00		4.71	9.33	
PARKERSBURG	87	48	66	3	0.05	0.98	7.63	11.07	5.82
CRESTON	85	42	64		0.00		6.27	12.92	

--NORTHCENTRAL--									
MORGANTOWN	85	49	65		0.15		4.85	13.40	
CLARKSBURG	86	46	64	4	0.14	1.05	4.36	11.75	6.27
BELINGTON	86	46	63		0.20		4.78	12.74	
WESTON	85	45	65		0.17		4.70	11.41	

--SOUTHWEST--									
WILLIAMSON	86	55	69		0.05		6.17	11.52	
HUNTINGTON	85	45	66	2	0.00	1.05	6.36	16.08	6.04
CHARLESTON	85	48	66	3	0.14	0.99	7.09	10.41	5.87
RIPLEY	85	42	64		0.01		7.05	12.91	

--CENTRAL--									
TERRA ALTA	79	43	60		0.87		5.56	11.30	
ELKINS	84	42	61	3	1.14	1.12	9.19	12.69	6.42
MARLINTON	79	43	59		1.08		5.29	11.59	
BECKLEY	76	45	60	2	0.35	0.98	6.95	8.87	6.01

--SOUTHERN--									
PINEVILLE	81	51	66		0.41		7.14	10.90	
BLUEFIELD	78	46	62	0	0.74	0.99	7.55	8.36	6.05
WHITE SUL SP	82	46	63		0.90		6.23	10.40	
BLUESTONE DAM	82	47	65		1.00		6.07	8.68	

--NORTHEASTERN--									
MARTINSBURG	84	42	64	1	1.17	0.98	4.34	14.24	5.72
KEYSER	85	40	62		1.30		4.09	13.06	
MOOREFIELD	84	41	63		0.93		3.34	11.22	

State Average Temperature	64								
State Average Precipitation	0.49								

Sources:

Weather comments and data - Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service, Charleston, WV.

Fruit comments - Stephen S. Miller, Ph.D. Research Horticulturist.