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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  
 RELEASED: May 14, 2012

VOL. 12 NO.10  
 FOR WEEK OF: May 7 - 13

## GENERAL

After a very warm start, temperatures fell significantly before mid-week as a cold front arrived from the northwest. Highs in the 80s were common early on, but temperatures fell to the 50s and 60s before the week was over. This was primarily due to high pressure as the front pushed off to the east. There was some warming up over the weekend, but low pressure pushed in from the south and southwest and delivered overcast skies and rain as the weekend came to an end. As a result of all this activity the state average temperature dipped 9 degrees from last week. Once again, rainfall was above the seasonal normal. Thursday through Saturday was essentially rain-free but there was significant rain on either side of that period. Rainfall was the heaviest over the northwest and the Northern Panhandle. Wheeling and Parkersburg both measured over two inches.

Temperatures: Parkersburg had the highest recorded temperature of 86 degrees. Marlinton had the lowest recorded temperature of 31 degrees. The state average temperature was 60 degrees.

Precipitation: Parkersburg had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 2.83 inches. White Sulphur Springs had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.47 of an inch. The state average precipitation was 1.30 inches.

Number of days suitable for fieldwork averaged 4 days last week. Total acres plowed that are intended for spring planted crops were 86 percent complete, compared with 48 percent in 2011 and 79 percent for the 5-yr average.

## TOPSOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	PERCENT			
Current				
Week	1	15	70	14
Last				
Week	--	15	75	10
Last				
Year	--	--	47	53

## SUPPLIES

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

## CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
	PERCENT				
Cattle & Calves	--	2	32	61	5
Sheep & Lambs	--	2	47	49	2
Apples	1	11	46	40	2
Peaches	14	26	33	26	1
Hay	1	6	39	52	2
Wheat	--	1	41	58	--
Pasture	--	9	47	39	5

## FRUIT

Some apple varieties still show a small amount of bloom making them susceptible to fire blight. The shoot blight stage of fire blight can be found on some apples from an early infection. This has been one of the longest bloom seasons in memory. Warm daytime temperatures have accelerated natural fruit drop and thinning in apples. Peaches are at the stage when hand thinning can begin. This is almost 3 weeks ahead of normal. Apple conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most orchards in mostly fair to good condition. Peach conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most orchards in mostly the poor to good condition range.

## GRAINS and HAY

Corn was 62 percent planted, compared with 21 percent last year and 52 percent for the 5-yr average. Corn was 30 percent emerged, compared with 10 percent last year and 23 percent for the 5-yr average. Soybeans were 26 percent planted, compared with 4 percent last year and 24 percent for the 5-yr average. Soybeans were 10 percent emerged, comparison data not available. Winter wheat conditions ranged from poor to good, but most fields were reported in good condition. Winter wheat was 85 percent headed, compared with 44 percent last year and 48 percent for the 5-yr average. Hay conditions ranged from very poor to excellent, but fields were reported in mostly good condition.

## 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 fair to mostly good condition. Pasture conditions ranged from poor to excellent, but fields were reported in mostly fair to good condition.

## HISTORICAL CROP PROGRESS

YEAR	PERCENT OF TOTAL ACRES PREPARED FOR SPRING PLANTING	CORN		SOYBEANS		WHEAT
		PLANTED	EMERGED	PLANTED	EMERGED	HEADED
2012	86	62	30	26	10	85
2011	48	21	10	4	N/A	44
5 YR AVG	79	52	23	24	N/A	48



**Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending 05-13-12**

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
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--NORTHWEST--									
WHEELING	82	41	61		2.36		4.71	8.17	
PARKERSBURG	86	42	62	1	2.83	0.92	7.58	9.76	4.84
CRESTON	80	35	59		1.17		6.27	11.35	
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--NORTHCENTRAL--									
MORGANTOWN	83	40	60		1.58		4.70	12.33	
CLARKSBURG	84	38	60	2	1.10	1.03	4.22	10.11	5.22
BELINGTON	81	36	60		1.43		4.58	11.19	
WESTON	83	37	61		1.19		4.53	9.99	
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--SOUTHWEST--									
WILLIAMSON	85	45	64		1.46		6.12	10.38	
HUNTINGTON	85	42	62	0	1.66	1.00	6.36	14.55	4.99
CHARLESTON	84	37	61	-1	1.52	0.97	6.95	9.36	4.88
RIPLEY	85	35	60		1.51		7.04	11.22	
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--CENTRAL--									
TERRA ALTA	79	34	55		1.73		4.69	9.91	
ELKINS	77	33	55	-1	1.90	1.05	8.05	10.25	5.30
MARLINTON	73	31	54		1.05		4.21	9.66	
BECKLEY	77	32	55	-1	0.93	0.98	6.60	8.19	5.03
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--SOUTHERN--									
PINEVILLE	79	40	60		0.90		6.73	10.33	
BLUEFIELD	79	34	57	-3	0.66	0.98	6.81	7.36	5.06
WHITE SUL SP	80	33	58		0.47		5.33	8.32	
BLUESTONE DAM	81	43	62		1.41		5.07	8.08	
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--NORTHEASTERN--									
MARTINSBURG	79	40	62	1	0.56	0.95	3.17	10.84	4.74
KEYSER	78	37	61		0.56		2.79	9.80	
MOOREFIELD	80	38	61		0.62		2.41	7.48	
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State Average Temperature	60								
State Average Precipitation	1.30								

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.