



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Weekending: April 14, 2013

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR APRIL 14, 2013

It was a warm week for the Commonwealth. Farmers were grateful for the change from the previous cool weather that spring had thus far brought. Most of Virginia experienced an average high of 80 degrees, with night time lows averaging in the mid 50s. Overall, Virginia was about 14 degrees warmer than normal for this time of year. Scattered rain showers were experienced throughout most of the state, with accumulated rainfall varying from about ¼ of an inch to 1 ¼ inches. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.6. Corn planted is still behind last year's progress, but in line with the 5 year average; temperatures were near ideal for corn planting, but the ground was too wet in some areas. The warm weather contributed to good growth in the hay and small grain crops; however, in the cooler Blue Ridge Mountains, some growers are still supplement feeding livestock as they wait for pasture conditions to improve. It was a week of "catch up" as farmers tried to recoup time lost earlier in the month due to poor weather. Farming activities for the week included applying lime, fertilizers, and herbicides, scouting crops for insects, and harvesting strawberries.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 14, 2013	0	4	79	17
April 7, 2013	0	3	70	27
March 31, 2013	0	3	60	37

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 14, 2013	1	4	79	16
April 7, 2013	1	4	76	19
March 31, 2013	2	4	70	24

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	2	6	40	45	7
Livestock	0	4	23	63	10
Hay, Other	0	2	55	38	5
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	40	50	9
Winter Wheat	0	1	24	66	9
Barley	0	2	27	62	9
Oats	0	0	19	75	6
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	14	65	21
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	15	85	0
Apples, All	0	1	12	87	0
Peaches	0	2	28	66	4
Grapes	0	1	15	83	1
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	0	98	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	21	2	41	22
Summer Potatoes Planted	96	88	98	90
Winter Wheat Headed	4	1	33	8
Cotton	0	NA	3	2

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING April 7, 2013

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar 1. To April 14	Mar. 1 to April 14 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	81	50	91	37	66	13	238	228	.85	4.96	-.31	12.59	.72
Norfolk	80	59	89	41	69	14	237	250	.22	3.64	-1.96	11.20	-1.67
Richmond	82	55	91	34	69	14	263	274	.24	6.66	1.16	14.59	2.54
Roanoke	81	55	90	41	68	14	236	na	1.21	5.31	-.05	14.60	2.92
Wash/Dulles	80	50	89	39	65	14	186	na	.56	3.98	-.93	9.31	-1.39

* 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 Smith)

Weather has been good. Temperatures were in 80-90's during day and in 40's and 50's at night. We are having some rain today.

WESTERN

BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)

Late snow and cold spring temps have kept crops doormat longer than normal. Grass is slow coming, livestock producers are still feeding hay.

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Sunny skies and temperatures in the 80's characterized the first half of the week and quickly transformed winter dormant fields to active growth. Most of the Rockbridge region received around 1 inch of rain early Friday morning and more seasonal temperatures should allow pasture and hay fields to grow quickly. Farmers are still trying to catch-up on late winter field work that was not accomplished due to a cold wet March.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Above average temperatures had producers planting corn on land where the topsoil was not too wet. Barley is starting to head out in some areas.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Topsoil is very wet, soil types makes it too wet for planting corn yet. Temperatures soared above average

last week.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

It finally warmed up and dried up a bit and the corn planters have begun to roll. Lots of cover crops were sprayed down this week. Small grain is still a tad behind, but it has begun to grow well with warmer temperatures. Pastures have just begun to green up and we are a good three weeks behind in grass and hay development. While there has been abundant spring moisture so far this year, the ground water levels are still low, and there are many reports of wells going dry. Many streams have not yet returned to full flow....runoff streams are flowing.

ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)

Soil temps are cooler than normal. Turn out on grass is running 10 days to 2 weeks later than normal. Corn planting started this week.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Wine grapes are at bud break and apples are at 1/2" green tip. Peaches and redbuds are in full bloom. Vineyards are being scouted for cutworms and flea beetles.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers made very good progress planting corn last week. Other activities included scouting small grains for insects and diseases. Pest pressure to date has been low. Barley is starting to head out and is shorter than usual as a result of the cool temperatures in March.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

(Eastern continues)

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn planting off and running. Folks had a pretty good week of getting started. Showers at week's end will slow things a bit, but next week should be wide open. Some fields still soft and wet. Field prep continues as lime and fertilizer, spray applications continue. Wheat looks good and has really grown this week. Heading is not far off. Cover crops too as some rye has headed. Some folks are considering some early planted soybeans but we are still a couple of weeks off from that too. Plants in greenhouses really grew off this week with temps of over 80 degrees. Some beets, peas and potatoes planted. Hay and pasture beginning to green up.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Warmer temperatures finally started to push grass out. Beef producers were getting cattle ready for turn-out, somewhat behind schedule. Grass is still limiting for this time of year, and hay stocks that looked sufficient in February are mostly depleted now.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Ground is beginning to dry and allow for plowing and discing. Some farmers have been buying hay, as their supplies were getting sort. Strawberries forecasted for picking at first of May, with good plant growth and no disease or insect issues noted.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Pastures beginning to green up.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L Gregg)

Heat dried out land some this week, then the rain on Thursday/Friday slowed it down. Several tobacco producers are beginning to prepare fields for planting. Small grains are growing well. Lime and fertilizer is being spread across the county.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Corn planting is underway across the county. Growers continue to scout wheat for insect and disease issues.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Growers continue with lime and fertilizer applications and burn-down applications for cotton and soybean. Corn planting is underway with summer-like temperatures and growers are getting equipment ready for the upcoming season.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Corn planting has gotten off to a slow start this year due to a wet March. Farmers have begun planting this week but some land is still heavy with moisture. Almost all wheat has been fertilized and greening up nicely.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

The warmer weather is really making all crops wake up and take notice. Many farmers are utilizing the good weather, keeping the sprayer rolling applying burn-down herbicide and keeping the corn planter moving as well. The first strawberries of the season were picked this week with most growers' crop starting in two weeks or so.

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