



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Weekending: April 28, 2013

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR APRIL 28, 2013

Virginia's temperatures were up and down for the week. Overall, Virginia was just a few degrees below normal for this time of year. Cooler temperatures prevailed in the southwest; some counties experienced a late frost this week. Along the coastline, warmer temperatures were evident as good progress was made on corn plantings. Light showers were scattered throughout the Commonwealth with increased rain on Sunday night. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.7. Cattlemen in southwestern Virginia continued to supplement feed their cattle; cool weather has delayed the growth of pastures. Farmers were busy preparing to plant soybeans. Winter cover crops were being burned down and applications of lime were being applied. Other farming activities for the week included applying fungicides, planting and preparing to plant vegetables, picking strawberries, and cutting rye hay.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 28, 2013	0	7	79	14
April 21, 2013	1	9	76	14
April 14, 2013	0	4	79	17
April 7, 2013	0	3	70	27

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 28, 2013	1	7	83	9
April 21, 2013	2	5	85	8
April 14, 2013	1	4	79	16
April 7, 2013	1	4	76	19

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	7	26	56	10
Livestock	0	5	25	59	11
Hay, Other	2	3	38	47	10
Hay, Alfalfa	0	4	31	56	9
Winter Wheat	0	1	21	65	13
Barley	0	1	17	67	15
Oats	0	0	20	72	8
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	31	45	24
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	35	65	0
Apples, All	0	0	14	86	0
Peaches	0	0	24	73	3
Grapes	0	0	15	85	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	5	93	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	58	39	65	52
Corn Emerged	30	11	38	19
Winter Wheat Headed	23	11	85	39
Soybean Planted	2	NA	5	3
Flue Tobacco Transplanted	10	NA	4	9
Cotton Planted	0	0	7	10

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING April 28, 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 28	Mar. 1 to April 28 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	67	43	76	36	55	-2	402	394	0.01	6.20	-0.68	13.83	0.28
Norfolk	62	45	76	44	54	-5	396	420	0.02	4.36	-2.78	11.92	-2.44
Richmond	67	43	79	36	55	-4	439	457	0.04	7.44	0.56	15.37	1.89
Roanoke	67	41	78	34	54	-4	393	na	0.03	6.03	-0.98	15.32	2.00
Wash/Dulles	64	39	78	33	52	-3	327	na	0.03	5.36	-1.02	10.69	-1.45

* 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)

Cool nights and temperatures in 60's -70's during day. Farmers are waiting to plant due to the up and downs in temperatures during this month.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Temperatures have been running a little below normal, but very comfortable. Moisture isn't bad, just the windy conditions are drying the topsoil quickly. Corn planting continues. Small grain looks good. Barley is heading and looking better than a couple months ago.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

T The past week started with a frost, apparently there was limited damage. I have not heard of any crop kills. In spite of the cold weather, corn is seen to be emerging everywhere. The week was fair dry and cool. Small grain is beginning to head, but it varies by stand and field; some fields are well behind and I am not sure if it is because of variety or season. The cool late spring pattern continues and grasses and pastures are also behind. Normally by now the hay-bins are starting to appear but the only hay I have seen cut was Rye.

SOUTHWEST

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

The last full week of April was marked by 4 days of heavy frost, and drier weather. Moisture conditions are good, but pastures are not growing and cattlemen are eagerly awaiting warmer temperatures. A few folks who have turned out are still having to supplement with hay until grass catches up.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Good weather has allowed farmers to catch up on land prep. Grass is still slow growing, and cool temperatures continue to delay growth. First strawberries beginning to ripen, with picking still a week to 10 days away.

SOUTHERN

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Still too wet to plow or spread fertilizer. Grass is taking off, and cattle are being turned out.

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

We've gotten rain, and temperatures were a bit warmer than the week before. Most everything looks good. Pastures have greened up and the cattle are looking better. The wheat is looking good. Won't be long before it's headed out. Some damage to wheat from hail last week, as well as some greenhouse damage. Tobacco (greenhouse) looks good and everyone is itching to get it in the ground. Most of the land in eastern Lunenburg is bedded. Western Lunenburg is a few weeks behind them. Most of the guys are emptying the last little bit of grain from the bins and waiting on the warmer temperatures to get to planting. Still keeping an eye out for kudzu bugs: a few have been spotted.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Conditions were very good for field work, and corn planting is essentially done. Over half of the crop has emerged, and emergence has been good. Some growers reported frost injury to corn from frost received on April 22nd, but the corn should make a full recovery. Some thoroughbred barley fields were treated for powdery mildew, and farmers also started applying burn-down herbicides and fertilizer for full-season soybeans.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Lots of wheat heading going on. Time to make some fungicide decisions. Corn planting going well. Some folks are finished and some just starting. Low ground fields still waiting. Wheat crop looks good, not much disease present so far. Field prep for corn and soybeans continues. Some lime spreading and fertilizer applications continue. Vegetables look good in greenhouse and transplanting will begin next week depending on rain events. Some corn up and looking good. Some yellowing due to cool and damp weather.

KING WILLIAM

Mild conditions continue. Soil is moist and water is standing in some areas. Small grain crops overall are looking good.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L Gregg)

Temperatures coming up slowly this week were helpful to crops, small grains are beginning to head out. Land is prepared for tobacco, some producers pushed back their transplant date due to cooler weather conditions. Fertilizer and lime are still beginning spread. Fields are continuing to be burned down for no-till. Spring gardens are coming in nicely right now and other vegetables are being planted for summer gardens.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

We had a good work week (4/22-28) with a lot of corn going in. Land being prepared for cotton, peanuts, and soybeans. Cool weather has corn coming up slow.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Growers continue applying lime and fertilizer to fields as well as applying burn-down herbicides to corn cotton and soybean land. Growers are also applying nitrogen and minor nutrients and insecticides to small-grain crop. Corn planting is underway and other growers are getting ready to plant cotton.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Strawberries are off to a slow start with most producers still closed to the you pick market. The week of May 5-12 seems to be the possible start date for strawberry harvest this year.

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