



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Weekending: May 12, 2013

Number: 10

Released: May 13, 2013

Special Note:

Alert! The window to respond to the Census of Agriculture is almost closed!

There are only a few weeks left to complete and return the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Because time is running out, NASS may contact you or farmers in your area by phone or in person to collect information for the Census. ***Help ensure you and your industry have the most complete set of agricultural statistics available for your country or county.*** For more information or for help filling out your Census form, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (888) 424-7828.

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR May 12, 2013

Heavy rainfall was experienced in most of the Old Dominion this week. Most areas received between 2 to 3 inches. Some locations experienced minor flood damage. Due to the wet fields, farmers were halted on field work. Days suitable for field work were 3.3. Overall, crop progress was behind schedule. The cooler than usual weather, coupled with rain showers, delayed crop plantings and plant growth. The wet, cold, weather also contributed to a slug infestation in some crops. Mildew and mold are also a concern in some of the crops. Other farming activities for the week included applying fungicides, side-dressing crops with nitrogen, and harvesting strawberries.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 12, 2013	0	2	71	27
May 5, 2013	1	6	81	12
April 28, 2013	0	7	79	14
April 21, 2013	1	9	76	14
April 14, 2013	0	4	79	17

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 12, 2013	0	4	80	16
May 5, 2013	1	9	84	6
April 28, 2013	1	7	83	9
April 21, 2013	2	5	85	8
April 14, 2013	1	4	79	16

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	4	26	58	12
Livestock	1	3	18	67	11
Hay, Other	1	6	36	51	6
Hay, Alfalfa	0	2	36	54	8
Corn	0	5	27	62	6
Winter Wheat	1	2	23	59	15
Barley	0	2	19	67	12
Oats	0	0	14	78	8
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	41	39	20
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	55	45	0
Apples, All	0	0	14	86	0
Peaches	0	0	24	74	2
Grapes	0	0	8	92	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	13	83	4

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	75	68	83	77
Corn Emerged	58	43	69	58
Winter Wheat Headed	76	62	95	84
Soybean Planted	12	5	19	16
Barley Harvested	15	NA	9	NA
Flue Tobacco Transplanted	40	12	54	45
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	10	6	14	10
Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	25	19	27	18
Peanuts	20	10	29	27
Cotton Planted	27	1	54	52

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING May 12, 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 May 12	Mar. 1 to May 12 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	70	50	84	43	60	-1	541	561	3.82	10.51	1.83	18.14	2.77
Norfolk	76	57	87	52	66	2	569	598	0.70	6.52	-2.17	14.08	-1.92
Richmond	75	54	87	45	65	2	618	648	1.60	10.05	1.47	17.98	2.88
Roanoke	68	52	81	45	60	-1	536	na	2.80	9.16	0.27	18.45	3.21
Wash/Dulles	71	52	84	44	61	2	473	na	2.21	7.67	-0.40	13.00	-0.97

* 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 R. Smith)

This week has been rainy. There were times of heavy downpours. It rained Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, some of Thursday. So far Friday no rain. Temperatures were in the 50's. Today we got in to the 70's. Calling for thunderstorms tonight and all day Saturday.

ROCKINGHAM (Matthew Yancey)

Heavy rains put a stop to any field work. Early planted corn is slow to come up and slower yet last week. Slugs are present in many reduced tillage fields. Wheat is just starting to head out. Rye and barley are fully headed but not yet mature; any rye for hay/haylage has been harvested. Barley is not yet at soft dough stage. Warmer weather is needed to bring conditions along for drying and warming soils, and crop growth.

WESTERN

AUGUSTA (Matt Booher)

In addition to anywhere from 3-6 inches of rain this past week in the county, temperatures have been cool. Cool-season pasture and hay has been doing ok, but any corn that has emerged is just sitting still, allowing slugs to feed on it, possibly causing damage. Generally, not much corn has been planted. Some hay has been cut and wrapped. A significant amount of rye for silage has been cut already.

BOTETOURT

Our county experienced heavy rains and flooding this week. While the moisture was needed, 5+ inches in less than 24 hours was a little too much. Any corn that was in the ground will more than likely rot. Field work will be nearly impossible for the next 4 or 5 days assuming we get some drying conditions they might get back in the fields first part of next week. Some winter wheat and barley that was looking very good was knocked down by heavy rains and running water. Many farmers lost water gaps and parts of fences due to flooding. Some loss of low water bridges also. Forecast for next week looks good, lots of sun. Should be a good week to get first cutting hay made.

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Two days of heavy rain started the week and brought virtually all field work to a grinding halt. Some limited work was done Thursday and early Friday, but thunder showers Friday afternoon and Saturday again halted field work. Most of Rockbridge recorded well over 2 inches of rain for the week. Cooler than normal temperatures have slowed plant maturity but have been good for cool season pasture and hayfields.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Mon - rainy; Tues-sunny/scattered showers; Wed-cloudy/showers; Thur-cloudy/showers; Frid & Sat,Sun, sunny, w/scattered showers -
A week of good moisture for the land, temperatures were mild most of the week.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

The week has been full of scattered showers, cloudy. The loamy/sandy type of soils keeps the topsoil wet, delaying some planting. Temperatures have been mild.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Rain: 2.4 inches at my western Hanover home. Central and eastern Hanover probably had more. Poor growing conditions. Corn is nearly two months behind in growth now. Last year at this time, it was tasseling and the rain quit. This year it is less than six inches tall and cold and wet. Seeded vegetables in my garden are very slow to germinate. Grass at least is booming now, but I still have seen very little hay mown. What was cut was rained on.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

This is a critical week for making chemical thinning decisions for local orchards. Cool and rainy weather last week caused many orchardists to recalculate their thinning program due to the impact of light and temperature on trees' natural thinning response.

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)

Wet weather somewhat limited field activities during the week. Due to the threat of head scab in wheat caused by the rainy conditions, some producers treated the crop with a head scab preventative fungicide. Farmers were also busy getting nitrogen sidedress equipment ready for sidedressing corn with nitrogen. Continued wet conditions have caused some reduction in corn stand in some fields. White grubs and slugs have also been reported to be causing damage in some fields. Some hay was cut during end of the week. Very little soybean planting has been done, but that should pick up next week if soils dry out.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

More rain this week halted corn planting, delayed soybean planting and wheat fungicide applications. Most folks are making a head blight treatment for wheat in hopes to protect the crop and maybe boost yield and quality. Wheat is all headed for the most part. Some scattered fields just starting. Crop is a short crop in height and heads of wheat do not look as large as 2012 crop. We will see. Folks are taking soybean delivery. Majority of the soybeans planted will be following small grains, so full season soybean planting won't take very long if weather permits. Producers are scouting corn for weed and other pests. Some reports of slugs, moles and voles and bird damage. A few acres have been considered for replant. First cutting of hay looks like it will be pretty good, just have to get weather to cure it. Vegetable planting continues.

KING WILLIAM (Laura Maxey)

King William had a lot of rain this week and hail was reported in the upper part of the county. Injury in wide leaves observed so some corn damage possible. There is also a lot of standing water still from the multiple downpours.

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WESTMORELAND (Stephanie Romelczyk)

Weather continues to be cool and wet which has been slowing wheat and barley development and hindering farmers' ability to work fields.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Rain this week was spotty and kept some producers out of the fields. Tobacco is being planted. Soybean fields are being prepared for not-till planting. Small grains are heading out. Fertilizer and lime is being spread as well.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Rainy weather has slowed spring plantings of cotton and soybean. Due to cool damp conditions cotton planting has got off to a slow start. Some growers have applied fungicides to small grain crop.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Corn planting is almost complete and soybean planting has started. Planting on vegetable crops is almost caught up to normal. Strawberry season has started for all growers with peak harvest coming over the next two weeks.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County saw a large amount of rain in the past week, preventing farmers from getting into any fields for planting or cutting grass for hay. This coming week is going to be nice and we should see fields drying out and farmers getting into the fields. Grass in many places is long enough for a first cutting.

SOUTHWEST

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Flooding rains dominated the week, keeping corn planters out of fields. Grasslands are already pushing up seedheads. Cold, damp weather has tempered vegetative growth and concern is mounting that first cutting hay yield and quality will be terrible. There have not been enough warm sunny days for many pastures to keep up with grazing pressure.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Strawberry picking off to a good start, with large berries. Gray mold becoming a problem as it has been too wet to maintain a good spray program. Cold weather forecasted for first of week has vegetable producers concerned about frost protecting tomatoes and pepper.

