



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



Weekending: May 19, 2013

Number: 11

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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 19, 2013

Diverse temperatures were reported for the Commonwealth. Parts of northern Virginia and counties surrounding the Blue Ridge reported frost during the start of the week; however, no frost damage was reported for the field crops. By mid-week, temperatures climbed to highs in the low 90's. Rainfall was scattered with isolated storms. Overall, planted seeds germinated well with the moist soil conditions and warm temperatures. Days suitable for field were 4.7. Virginia's hay crop progressed at different speeds. In some places, hay was cut and baled while other places waited for a break in the rain before cutting. Southeastern Virginia made good progress on cotton and peanuts plantings, and soybean plantings were on track with the 5-year average. Other farming activities for the week included side-dressing early planted corn, planting tobacco, and applying herbicides.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 19, 2013	0	2	74	24
May 12, 2013	0	2	71	27
May 5, 2013	1	6	81	12
April 28, 2013	0	7	79	14

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 19, 2013	0	3	82	15
May 12, 2013	0	4	80	16
May 5, 2013	1	9	84	6
April 28, 2013	1	7	83	9

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	5	25	61	9
Livestock	1	3	19	66	11
Hay, Other	3	8	31	50	8
Hay, Alfalfa	0	3	26	63	8
Corn	0	1	20	71	8
Winter Wheat	1	2	19	63	15
Barley	0	2	19	69	10
Oats	0	0	24	69	7
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	4	39	40	17
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	65	35	0
Apples, All	0	0	12	88	0
Peaches	0	0	21	73	6
Grapes	0	0	15	82	3
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	5	93	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	86	75	88	85
Corn Emerged	74	58	76	70
Winter Wheat Headed	93	76	98	96
Soybean Planted	23	12	24	23
Soybean Emerged	11	N/A	11	10
Flue Tobacco Transplanted	72	40	86	74
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	25	10	28	21
Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	35	25	69	42
Peanuts	50	20	72	53
Cotton Planted	67	27	81	74

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING May 19, 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 19	Mar. 1 to May 19 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	74	48	89	34	61	-1	641	667	0.43	10.94	1.35	18.57	2.29
Norfolk	75	59	91	45	67	1	692	716	1.72	8.24	-1.34	15.80	-1.00
Richmond	77	53	90	41	65	0	732	764	0.64	10.69	1.23	18.62	2.57
Roanoke	74	51	91	35	63	0	638	na	1.16	10.32	0.50	19.61	3.41
Wash/Dulles	73	49	85	32	61	0	570	na	0.09	7.76	-1.26	13.09	-1.78

* 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)

We had a heavy frost warning on Monday and Tuesday of this week. I have not heard from my apple producers and vegetable producers. Still waiting for them to call me back.

be planted. Rain is not in short supply with another 2.5 inches this past week. Grass is happy and growing well in these moderate and moist conditions. Too bad there is precious little time to make hay while the sun shines; producers continue to try.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Mon & Tues cool, upper 30's both mornings, but no damage to crops. It has been a cool spring, but the temperatures soared Wed - Friday and with the moisture in the ground, you could tell the difference in the crops planted. Corn took a growing spurt and soybeans popping out of the ground. Hope there will be some reserve moisture for the summer to come.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Weather was unsettled during the later part of the week with scattered rain showers throughout the area. Farmers spent the week side-dressing corn with nitrogen and continued preparing fields for full season soybean planting. Some full-season soybeans were also planted. Weather conditions have not been conducive to making hay, but a limited amount of acreage was cut and baled early in the week.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Mon & Tues were cool with morning lows around 40 degrees. Temperatures really warmed up Wednesday - Friday, putting a growth spurt on the corn and soybeans planted. A wet weekend, holding up planting of soybeans.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Things are in a hurry, barley turning, corn finally growing and soybeans anxious to be planted. Corn is making a big change since warm weather finally looks like it is here to stay. It will be side-dress soon, and by the way, saw some of that going on the other day. Still see some fields looking yellow and stunted. Some wet and hard spots being replanted due to poor emergence. All in all, the crop is finally getting its act together. Still got some acres being planted.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Another week of see-saw weather, at least no frost this week. Last week's frost apparently did not do much damage, however, cool temps have still retarded corn growth. Beans are beginning to emerge and continue to

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Rain slowed some planting this week. Small grains are doing well. Soybeans are coming up. Tobacco is doing well.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

The most prevalent activity this week has been planting soybeans. Cotton and peanut planting finished this week on lower acreage than previous years. Good progress was made with cutting and baling hay as we finally had some clear, sunny weather. Other activities including scouting corn for problems, finishing soybean burn-down herbicide application, and preparing to side-dress some early planted corn.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Farmers are finishing corn planting which is a week or two behind this year due to late spring. Soybean planting is getting into action as farmers have been waiting for weather and storms to settle. Good soil moisture is prompting quick germination. Wheat crop still is looking good with few disease or pests reports thus far.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Spotty thunderstorms kept some farmers sitting in the barn yard while others are coming close to finishing up planting their early beans.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County saw wonderful weather the week of May 13-17, the sun was shining and hot temperatures allowed farmers to get out in the fields to plant corn and harvest hay. Now this week coming we are expecting rain most of the week, so farmers who didn't get corn in last when it was nice or hay cut will have to wait another week or more.

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

We've had some rain the last few days, but we still need more. Most of the tobacco is going in. Some soybeans and corn have emerged and are doing well. Hay is being cut, but much of the recent cuttings have been rained on. A lot of very thin hay fields this year as many producers have not been fertilizing due to high prices. Livestock still looks good.

SOUTHWEST

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

The week began with two mornings of slight frost followed by some of the best growing weather of the season to date. Pastures and hayfields still have ground to make up, and grasses are showing signs of maturing. Hay yield and quality may be subpar whenever first cutting is able to be made.

PULASKI (Scott McElfresh)

With a break in the weather, some producers are able to get in the fields to start planting seed.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Continued cool, wet weather has slowed some planting of corn and hay harvests but those that have had windows of opportunity have done well, and their crops are in good order. Re-growth of hay for second cuttings in field that have been baled is in full swing.

