



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 26, 2013

Number: 12

Released: May 28, 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 26, 2013

Wet field conditions continued to limit the fieldwork activities last week. Topsoil moisture was rated mostly adequate for the state. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.7. The cool and wet spring conditions have delayed most planting of crops and hay cutting activities. Southeastern Virginia producers continued to make good progress on cotton and peanuts plantings, but plantings were slightly behind the 5-year average. Other farming activities for the week included side-dressing corn, post emergent herbicide applications on corn, planting soybeans, planting tobacco, and vegetable planting.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 26, 2013	0	2	80	18
May 19, 2013	0	2	74	24
May 12, 2013	0	2	71	27
May 5, 2013	1	6	81	12

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 26, 2013	0	3	87	10
May 19, 2013	0	3	82	15
May 12, 2013	0	4	80	16
May 5, 2013	1	9	84	6

IN THIS REPORT:

Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3,4

Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

Virginia Tech

Virginia State University

Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

VirginiaTech
Invent the Future



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	3	20	65	12
Livestock	1	4	22	63	10
Hay, Other	1	6	32	47	14
Hay, Alfalfa	0	2	32	54	12
Corn	0	2	23	68	7
Winter Wheat	1	2	18	66	13
Barley	0	1	20	66	13
Oats	0	0	17	73	10
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	5	49	32	14
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	100	0	0
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	0	0	28	52	20
Peanuts	4	7	44	45	0
Cotton	0	8	29	63	0
Apples, All	0	0	25	67	8
Peaches	0	0	24	67	9
Grapes	0	4	7	85	4
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	0	100	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	91	86	94	91
Corn Emerged	82	74	85	78
Winter Wheat Headed	97	93	100	99
Soybean Planted	31	23	37	33
Soybean Emerged	18	11	22	18
Flue Tobacco Transplanted	82	72	93	89
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	29	25	63	45
Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	60	35	90	68
Peanuts	80	50	84	77
Cotton Planted	90	67	97	94

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING May 26, 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 26	Mar. 1 to May 26 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	78	56	88	36	67	3	770	790	1.01	11.95	1.38	19.58	2.41
Norfolk	78	63	86	48	71	4	839	848	1.63	9.87	-0.51	17.43	-0.17
Richmond	78	61	86	45	70	4	875	894	0.26	10.95	0.62	18.88	2.03
Roanoke	77	59	89	44	68	3	766	na	0.93	11.25	0.44	20.54	3.43
Wash/Dulles	77	58	87	43	68	5	701	na	0.53	8.29	-1.69	13.62	-2.21

* 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.

WESTERN

BOTETOURT: (Kate Lawrence)

Starting to dry out enough from last week's heavy rains to be able to get in field to work. Been difficult to find window to make hay because of evening storms.

CENTRAL

AMELIA: (Joan D Poore)

Good weather week, however, temperatures below average toward the end of the week. Sunny, cool and windy. A lot of hay was cut for drying and baling last week through weekend.

CHESTERFIELD: (Joan D Poore)

Good week of weather, however a cool start into the weekend. Temperatures below average, sunny, but cool and windy through the weekend.

HANOVER: (Jim Tate)

Another cool and damp week....good for grass and grass has responded. When the weather finally cleared at the end of the week, vast quantities of hay hit the ground.....judging from what I saw driving to work this morning most has been sucessfully baled....this was an extremely late cutting of first cutting hay....but then corn that was head high at this time last year in not yet knee high this year. Soybeans are starting to be evident everywhere now with some fields just becoming apparent over the weekend. The last few days have had overnight lows in the lower 40s and upper 30s with daytime highs in the 70s. The weekend was clear and beautiful after a mostly dreary week without a lot of rainfall. Barley is beginning to turn....wheat not yet...

EASTERN

ESSEX: (Keith Balderson)

Activities for the week included planting full-season soybeans, applying post-emergence herbicides to corn, and sidedressing corn with nitrogen. Farmers also continued to cut and bale hay. Rainfall from the last 2 systems has been very limited in the area, and the corn crop needs a good rain on it to activate sidedress nitrogen.

MIDDLESEX: (Moore)

More rain at week's end has folks a little concerned about corn stands, wheat health and getting soybeans planted. Some areas received heavy downpours on Thursday afternoon which will delay some corn replanting and initial soybean planting. Yellow stunted corn is the talk of the week. Tissue and soil samples show no real problems or deficiencies. Most likely the cool soil conditions have given corn the most problems. Sidedressing with some sulfur nitrogen and some consistent warm conditions should help get us past all this. It is difficult to tell a producer to be patient. Wheat crop for the most part looks very good and quality is good. Barley and wheat is turning fast and barley is expected to begin being harvested in the next 10 days. A great hay crop, but we just can't get it cured and baled. With wetter than normal conditions, it takes a while to cure hay.. Vegetable planting continues. Things look pretty good. Plants that have been set out finally are looking good. Activities of the week include, sidedressing corn, post emergent herbicide applications on corn, soybean planting, haymaking, vegetable planting and field prep for soybean planting. Folks are also getting equipment ready for small grain harvest.

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)

Last week's rain was helpful to crops already planted. It proved challenging to producers continuing to plant. Hay is also being harvested.

PRINCE GEORGE: (Scott Reiter)

Rain showers lingered early in the week after heavy rains the weekend before. Peanut and cotton growth continued to be slow with the cool conditions and growers were assessing fields for thrips damage. Some corn was being sidedressed by late week as fields dried down. Full season soybean planting continued in areas that did not receive as much rain early in the week. Growers are assessing soybeans for emergence and making replant decisions. Some entire fields will need to be replanted and low areas in other fields need attention after the heavy rains and standing water from last weekend. Barley continues to ripen and early wheat has started to turn as well. Hay mowers went back into the fields by late week.

SOUTHAMPTON:

Very heavy rains in southern portions of the county will lead to replant situations, as much as 11 inches fell in 4 days beginning Friday 5/17

SURRY: (Glenn Slade)

Cool wet spring has delayed planting. Corn and cotton are pretty much planted and up, with good stands. Peanuts and early soybeans going in now, when growers can get on fields. Hopefully the frequent showers won't hurt wheat test weights.

SUSSEX: (Kelvin Wells)

Wet field conditions have put a stop to field work. Heavy rain has fallen over much of the area the last several days. Peanut and cotton plantings are nearing completion until the rain came. Soybean planting will start up after field conditions dry off.

CHESAPEAKE CITY: (Watson Lawrence)

Frequent showers have produced 3-inches of rain which has halted most field work this week. Seeing some late season diseases in wheat. Spring produce at farm markets may be a little late this year.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN: (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County saw some rain again last week. Slowing hay chopping down and still some farmers waiting to get corn into the ground. This week is suppose to be hot and sunny, let the crops grow!

PITTSYLVANIA: (Stephen Barts, Jamie Stowe)

Plentiful rains continue to delay tobacco planting and hay-making. Temperatures still remain cooler than normal for this time of the year.

SOUTHWEST

BLAND: (Jeannie Dudding)

Things are finally picking up. We certainly experienced the "Blackberry Winter" during the past two weeks! Tons of rain and then a cold spell (with frost reported) on the tail end of the rain. As expected pasture/hayland that receive more sun are finally looking good. Some pastures/hayland still looking thin, we need some consistent warm weather. Some folks have layed down first cutting, for some it will still be 2 weeks before they can mow!

SCOTT: (Scott Jerrell)

Rain has prevented haying, and grass is over maturing rapidly. Planting has been delayed, and tobacco transplants are suffering in the greenhouses and float beds.

