



NATIONAL  
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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# WEATHER & CROPS



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

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR APRIL 27, 2014

Virginia experienced seasonable temperatures and scattered rain showers this week. A strong storm moved into the Commonwealth on Friday that contributed to heavy rain in some locations. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.0. Corn planting was still behind the 5 year average for this time of year; wet fields and cool soil temperatures contributed to the delay. Pasture and hay growth was slow in parts of the State due to the colder than normal spring weather; various cattlemen were supplementing feed to their livestock to compensate for the lack of pasture growth. Farmers spent the week planting corn, applying manure and chemical fertilizers to fields, and planting vegetables. Other farming activities included taking soil samples, applying lime, and maintaining farm equipment.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 27, 2014	0	12	81	7
April 20, 2014	0	5	79	16
April 13, 2014	0	5	79	16
April 6, 2014	0	4	70	26
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 27, 2014	0	6	82	12
April 20, 2014	0	4	83	13
April 13, 2014	0	4	83	13
April 6, 2014	0	3	80	17

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Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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Virginia Tech

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Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

<b>CROP CONDITION PERCENT</b>					
<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Winter Wheat	1	2	24	64	9
Barley	5	4	21	67	3
Oats	0	0	52	48	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	0	99	1
Tobacco, Greenhouse	1	1	40	39	19
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	27	73	0
Livestock	1	3	25	63	8
Pasture and Range	3	8	41	42	6
Hay, Alfalfa	1	5	45	45	4
Hay, Other	1	8	40	47	4
Apples, All	0	0	58	42	0
Grapes, All	0	11	57	27	5

<b>CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS</b>				
<b>Crop</b>	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>5 Year Avg.</b>
Cotton Planted	0	0	0	7
Peanuts Planted	0	0	5	2
Corn Planted	40	31	55	52
Corn Emerged	11	5	27	19
Winter Wheat Headed	13	4	21	32
Summer Potatoes Planted	92	92	100	99
Flue-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	0	0	9	8

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING April 27, 2014**

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 26	Mar. 1 to April 26 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	74	45	81	39	59	2	458	384	0.19	6.53	-0.20	13.61	0.27
Norfolk	68	49	82	44	59	0	402	409	0.57	7.73	0.77	14.03	-0.28
Richmond	74	45	84	39	60	1	461	446	1.45	6.23	-0.54	12.54	-0.80
Roanoke	72	46	81	38	59	1	392	n/a	0.24	5.18	-1.72	11.45	-1.71
Wash/Dulles	67	39	73	31	53	-2	290	n/a	0.38	6.19	-0.06	12.69	0.61

\* 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)**

We have had cool temperatures this week and at least two days of rainfall. Cloudy conditions this week.

**WESTERN**

**ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)**

Dry and warm conditions the second half of the week allowed soil temperatures to rise and field work to progress. Cool wet conditions have delay corn planting to this point.

**CENTRAL**

**AMELIA/CHESTERFIELD (Joan Poore)**

A warm and good working week. A lot of corn was planted last week or land preparation to plant. A major storm passed through Friday pm but no damage to crops or livestock. A good amount of rain in a short period.

**HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Most small grain crops continue to lag behind normal development. Growth is mediocre and most crops are very short. Some are starting to head. Corn is beginning to be visible in some fields. I would say that most has been planted. Spray rigs are still ubiquitous in the area. Grass also continues to be behind the normal growth curve but has been jumping lately with warmer weather. Rain late last week. I have 7/10 of an inch at my western Hanover home; looks like eastern Hanover got a bit more.

**LOUISA (Steve Hopkins)**

Cool conditions have effected early grass growth resulting in shorter pasture and hay growth to date. Small grain crops are also starting to head out with

shorter than normal growth. Corn planting has started behind schedule, but made good progress this past week. Cold temperatures have also impacted vineyards.

**EASTERN**

**GLOUCESTER/MATHEWS (David Moore)**

Corn planting took off this week. Activities include corn planting, field prep, soybean field prep, lime spreading, fertilizer spreading, soil sampling, and vegetable planting. Tomatoes, peppers and cantaloupes will begin around May 1. Haymaking will begin soon. Early planted corn is showing signs of greening up. Wheat should begin heading next week. Barley has been heading for about a week.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)**

Pasture grow is behind because of cool weather.

**GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

Pasture conditions continue to be generally poor. Cold mornings with dry, windy conditions have hampered spring grass growth, and cattlemen are continuing to feed hay. Hard freezes occurred evening of April 15 and 16.

**SOUTHERN**

**FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)**

Farmers where out spraying down fields and spreading manure/fertilizer. Pastures are growing and with warm temps over the weekend and rain coming this week, things will begin to grow. Farmers a waiting for ground to warm up and stay warm over night so they can get corn planted. Franklin looks to be ahead of other counties.