



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE



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>

Week: May 4, 2014

Number: 8

Released: May 5, 2014

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR MAY 5, 2014

Rain showers were present Monday through Thursday, with the heaviest rains occurring on Wednesday. Some parts of the State experienced flash flooding. Total rain accumulation varied based on location; some areas received slightly less than one inch, while other areas received over 5 inches. In some places, rain was reported at 7 inches. Temperatures were seasonable with highs in the 80s and lows in the 40s. Days suitable for fieldwork were 2.9. The rain showers slowed crop plantings; no cotton or peanuts were planted, and corn was 12% points behind the 5 year average planted for this of year. Farmers were waiting for field to dry before beginning their first cutting; hay yields were expected to be down due to the harsh winter. Other farming activities for the week included weaning fall calves, planting vegetables, preparing to spray herbicides, and mending broken fences.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 4, 2014	0	7	67	26
April 27, 2014	0	12	81	7
April 20, 2014	0	5	79	16
April 13, 2014	0	5	79	16
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 4, 2014	0	6	74	20
April 27, 2014	0	6	82	12
April 20, 2014	0	4	83	13
April 13, 2014	0	4	83	13

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

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service



Virginia Tech

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

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	1	3	28	60	8
Barley	3	4	30	59	4
Oats	1	1	42	55	1
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	0	99	1
Tobacco, Greenhouse	1	1	33	48	17
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	30	70	0
Livestock	1	3	26	62	8
Pasture and Range	3	10	40	41	6
Hay, Alfalfa	1	9	44	40	6
Hay, Other	1	9	44	42	4
Apples, All	0	0	52	48	0
Grapes, All	0	9	48	36	7

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Cotton Planted	0	0	1	21
Peanuts Planted	0	0	9	7
Corn Planted	56	40	67	68
Corn Emerged	30	11	41	37
Soybeans	2	n/a	5	7
Winter Wheat Headed	29	13	56	56
Summer Potatoes Planted	99	92	100	100
Flue-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	10	0	12	24
Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	4	n/a	16	8
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	0	0	5	5

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING May 4, 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 May 3	Mar. 1 to May 3 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	68	48	80	44	58	-1	522	452	2.02	8.56	0.92	15.64	1.30
Norfolk	70	56	81	49	63	2	495	481	0.96	8.69	0.94	14.99	0.00
Richmond	72	55	81	50	63	2	556	527	1.06	7.30	-0.30	13.61	-0.56
Roanoke	69	49	86	47	59	0	462	n/a	1.76	6.94	-0.85	13.22	-0.99
Wash/Dulles	64	47	76	42	55	-2	344	n/a	5.49	11.69	4.57	18.19	5.29

* 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)

Received approximately 1 inches of rain this week with all the storms that came through. Had flash flood warnings, but no damage was reported.

CENTRAL

AMELIA/CHESTERFIELD (Joan Poore)

The county had a lot of rainfall this week, starting as a light rain Monday afternoon and ending early Thursday morning. Tuesday night into Wednesday evening was the heaviest periods of rainfall. Rainfall received ranged from 5.0 to over 7.0 inches of rainfall for Amelia, and 4.0 to 6.0 inches of rain for Chesterfield. Low ground areas & many pastures were flooded, no hay has been cut. Maybe corn planting will resume next week after the land dries more. No livestock loss reported or known of.

AMHERST (John Benner)

Beginning of the week through Wednesday very intense storms with significant rainfall. Field work and pasture work unsuited for those days. The previous 2 weeks had an intermittent cold spell during several nights, burning some clover seedlings

BUCKINGHAM (Joe Chandler)

Excessive rainfall/heavy rains created flooding through many parts of the area not prone to flooding. Fencing was damaged/destroyed in both counties.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Due to excessive recent rainfalls, some of the not so well drained soils with small grain has stunted the crops.

POWHATAN/GOOCHLAND (Rachel Groose)

Over 5" of rain the past week.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Heavy rain mid week up to 6 inches in some locations over a three day period. No fieldwork to speak of was accomplished.

EASTERN

GLOUCESTER/MIDDLESEX/MATHEWS (David Moore)

Wet. Corn planting has stopped until dry out. Crows and other birds are pulling young corn seedlings up. Field prep continues and preparations are made for soybean planting. Producers are scouting wheat for possible pest problems. Vegetable planting is increasing. Some peppers and tomatoes have been set out as well as some squash, peas, beets, etc. have been planted. Haymaking waits patiently for dry out. Some showers forecast again for next week.

KING GEORGE (Mike Broaddus)

Due to excessive recent rainfalls, poor drainage in heavier soils has resulted in some small grain stunting.

NORTHUMBERLAND (Landre Toulson)

Barley is starting to head out.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Welcome rains early in the week limited field work, but helped stall rapidly declining spring forage conditions. Pasture and hay fields are well behind normal production levels due to cool, dry spring weather. Wind following the few spring showers has kept topsoil moisture low and minimized pasture recovery after the rain.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

The recent 2 inches of rainfall has once again delayed corn and soybean planting. The majority of farmers are still waiting for dryer conditions to finish burn down applications and get pre-plant fertilizer spread on corn ground. The few producers who got their small grains and spring forage cover crops planted timely last fall have managed to stay on track this year. However, the majority of farmers are faced with the decision to either sacrifice the forage or grain by spraying them down and getting their summer annuals planted timely or continue to pump inputs into those spring covers and follow with short season corn or double crop beans.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Last week's rains slowed down plantings. Crops are coming along right now. Fall calves are beginning to be weaned.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Most of Prince George received 1.5-2 inches of rain over the last week. Most corn planting was finished ahead of the rains this week. Field activities have been limited. Planning for peanut and cotton planting, wheat fungicide applications, and soybean burndown herbicide applications were made this week so producers can roll on next week when fields dry. Wheat is starting to head with short plants this year. Hay yields also look to be down this spring as grass is heading being only knee high.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Recent heavy rains have slowed planting progress. Corn about 70% complete with cotton, peanut, and soybean planters waiting for ground to dry out.