



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 MAY 18, 2014

The week started off hot and dry, with highs in the 90s. A cold front moved into the Commonwealth on Thursday, which brought cold temperatures and rain. At least one southwestern county experienced frost. Rains varied by location, but most areas experienced 1 to 4 inches of rain; there were some reports of minor flood damage. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.6. Corn planting was behind normal for this time of year. In some cases, corn acres were replanted due to poor germination. Full season soybean planting began in earnest, but was halted later in the week due to the rain. The 1st cutting of hay was underway; hay quality was poorer than hoped for due to the wet, cold, early spring. Other farming activities for the week including applying fungicide to winter wheat, harvesting strawberries, and tending to the vegetable crops.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 18, 2014	1	9	69	21
May 11, 2014	0	11	72	17
May 4, 2014	0	7	67	26
April 27, 2014	0	12	81	7

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 18, 2014	1	8	74	17
May 11, 2014	0	7	79	14
May 4, 2014	0	6	74	20
April 27, 2014	0	6	82	12

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Virginia Cooperative Extension
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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	0	2	18	71	9
Barley	4	4	25	63	4
Oats	1	3	30	58	8
Tobacco, Greenhouse	1	1	30	54	14
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	30	69	1
Livestock	1	4	25	62	8
Pasture and Range	2	9	37	45	7
Hay, Alfalfa	0	6	45	44	5
Hay, Other	1	7	44	44	4
Apples, All	1	1	46	52	0
Grapes, All	0	10	45	39	6

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Cotton Planted	73	25	61	73
Peanuts Planted	49	20	46	53
Corn Planted	77	69	84	85
Corn Emerged	55	41	72	69
Soybeans	16	10	21	24
Winter Wheat Headed	84	66	91	94
Flue-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	73	45	67	71
Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	29	18	34	42
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	13	1	23	20

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING May 18, 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 17	Mar. 1 to May 17 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	78	54	91	41	66	4	744	651	3.26	12.12	2.66	19.20	3.07
Norfolk	80	62	92	55	71	6	771	698	3.01	11.82	2.37	18.12	1.35
Richmond	82	61	94	53	72	8	834	747	1.04	8.66	-0.65	14.97	-0.95
Roanoke	78	55	91	44	66	3	697	n/a	1.99	9.14	-0.58	15.41	-0.64
Wash/Dulles	76	57	90	45	66	5	559	n/a	4.02	16.20	7.30	22.70	7.96

* 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)

This past week we have had severe thunderstorms. Between 2-5 inches of rainfall. Corn plantings have been delayed due to wet conditions.

LOUDOUN (Corey Childs)

Loudoun County received 3.5" - 4" rain late 15 May and early 16 May. Fields will be inaccessible for at least 72 hours.

CENTRAL

AMELIA/CHESTERFIELD (Joan Poore)

A good week for planting through Thursday pm. Rainfall beginning around 4:00 pm Thursday, steady through Friday 8:00 am. Some areas had scattered showers Wednesday, totaling 2.75 to 3.5 inches. This stopped planting for several days. Several creeks overflowed their banks. Tobacco planting is a week to 10 days behind normal schedule. Temperatures have dropped from above average at the beginning the week to a few degrees below average by the end of the week (Thurs after the front moved through.

The week was a good start to continue with soybean planting. A front moved in Thursday PM with a steady rain ending Friday AM. 2.75 up to 3.5 inches of rainfall, with temperatures above average at the beginning of the week, dropping to a few degrees below average after the cold front moved in Thursday pm. No planting for several days.

AMHERST (John Benner)

Rainy conditions during end of week prevent harvest of some cover crops. Temperatures dropped after Wednesday from upper 80's to mid 70's.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Orchards are completing their thinning operations, made difficult this year by flower mortality/crop load uncertainty stemming from temperatures approx. 28 degrees on April 17-18. First cutting just now underway though cool season forage grasses in bloom. Heavy rains (approx. 3 inches) occurred over area May 15-16.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Heavy rain mid-week, delayed fieldwork

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers were busy applying head scab preventative fungicides to wheat, preparing fields for full season soybean planting, and planting soybeans. Cool and dry conditions late in the week allowed several producers the opportunity to cut hay.

GLOUCESTER/MIDDLESEX/MATHEWS (David Moore)

Corn planting wrapping up except for low ground areas. Most corn is up and doing ok, but have reports of replanting and also some yellow areas due to poor nutrient uptake and some sulfur deficiencies. Not a lot of replanting in our areas, very spotty depending on soil type. Full season soybean planting continues. Some producers finished. Most soybeans in area will be double cropped. Lots of spray applications going out for head scab in wheat. Most is for prevention, very little disease has been observed in field. Vegetable planting has begun and is proceeding well. Peppers, tomatoes, cantaloupes, eggplant, squash, etc. Problems in corn fields include yellowing in some areas due to cold ground and micro problems. Grubs and a few reports of slugs. When corn grows slow, bad things can happen. More rain is forecast for weekend and could be heavy at times.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Temperatures Friday evening/early Saturday morning were below freezing and frost was apparent in parts of the county.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Cool, wet conditions early this spring has set back most pasture and hay growth. Now, dry conditions are beginning to show impacts also. First cutting hay looks to be short and thin. Strawberries have fared well, with large size and good yield. Another 3-4 weeks of picking is expected. Vegetable plantings look good, with concern over it being too dry to properly form beds for late planting.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Last week's rains slowed slow crop work down. Some minor flooding occurred with some creeks and rivers rising, along with water standing in fields. Small grains are heading out and tobacco is coming along both in planting and in the fields

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

Several hundred acres of corn has been replanted due to poor germination. A lot of corn being planted this week also due to a late start. Field conditions are in the "good" range this week.

MECKLENBURG (Taylor Clarke)

County received between 3 and 7 inches of rain, lot of flooding and washing. Tobacco transplanting progressing slowly. Transplants are in high demand and supplies are tight. Field work may be able to resume mid-week.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

This week growers finished corn planting, started planting soybeans in earnest, and applied some fungicides to wheat. Some hay was made early in the week but curing days has been limited.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Field work is beginning to be caught up. Cotton, peanuts, and soybeans are being planted at a rapid pace. Hay cutting and vegetables are also progressing. Field reports of strawberries are sweet as ever.