



NATIONAL
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

WEATHER & CROPS



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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR MAY 25, 2014

Virginia experienced seasonable temperatures and a few isolated showers this week. Some places experienced 3/4 of an inch of rain, but the majority of the Old Dominion received no rain. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.9. Dry weather was welcomed by those cutting hay. Hay yields were reported down from normal, but quality was favorable. Those waiting to cut hay to optimize on yields were expected to have poorer quality. Good progress was made on corn, soybean, cotton, and peanut plantings this week; growers were still behind the 5 year average, but have double their efforts to make up for the delay. Other farming activities for the week included side-dressing corn, growing vegetables, and transplanting tobacco.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 25, 2014	1	12	70	17
May 18, 2014	1	9	69	21
May 11, 2014	0	11	72	17
May 4, 2014	0	7	67	26

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 25, 2014	1	7	78	14
May 18, 2014	1	8	74	17
May 11, 2014	0	7	79	14
May 4, 2014	0	6	74	20

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Virginia Cooperative Extension
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Virginia Tech

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Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	0	2	17	71	10
Barley	4	4	26	62	4
Oats	1	3	31	58	7
Tobacco, Greenhouse	1	1	31	53	14
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	35	64	1
Livestock	1	3	24	64	8
Pasture and Range	2	9	34	48	7
Hay, Alfalfa	0	4	40	50	6
Hay, Other	1	8	39	48	4
Apples, All	1	1	46	52	0
Grapes, All	0	9	35	50	6

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Cotton Planted	83	73	87	91
Peanuts Planted	65	49	76	74
Corn Planted	82	77	90	90
Corn Emerged	65	55	81	77
Soybeans Planted	26	16	30	33
Winter Wheat Headed	90	84	96	98
Winter Wheat Harvested	2	n/a	0	0
Barley Harvested	15	n/a	15	10
Oats Harvested	7	n/a	3	n/a
Flue-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	86	73	81	87
Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	68	29	56	67
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	51	13	28	38

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING May 25, 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 24	Mar. 1 to May 24 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	78	51	87	42	65	1	857	772	0.00	12.12	1.68	19.20	2.06
Norfolk	77	59	87	52	68	1	897	829	0.24	12.06	1.76	18.36	0.71
Richmond	80	56	90	47	68	2	962	875	0.72	9.38	-0.81	15.69	-1.00
Roanoke	79	54	85	43	66	1	819	n/a	0.00	9.14	-1.48	15.41	-1.52
Wash/Dulles	75	50	85	39	63	0	661	n/a	0.12	16.32	6.49	22.82	7.19

* 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

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Frost and freeze a couple of mornings are keeping grass growth at a slow pace.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A. Stanley)

Clear weather allowed field work to progress rapidly this week, though hay drying was slow due to moderate daytime temperatures and cool nights with heavy dew. First cutting hay yields are considered below normal and is generally attributed to the cold weather conditions that persisted well into April. Most corn acres have been planted but later than normal due to cool and wet conditions in late April and early May.

CENTRAL

AMELIA/CHESTERFIELD(Joan Poore)

A dry warm week - good for soybean planting and hay harvest, but could use a shower of rain because the top of the ground is hard.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

This week has been mostly dry; some scattered light showers. Lots of hay has been made over the last two weeks. I have not talked to enough producers to yet get a feel for quality and quantity; my observation is stands are thinner and more weedy this year than normal. The superior managers are still making decent quality hay. Small grain seems to be heading nicely and may make a decent crop, but straw yield will likely be lighter than normal due to short stature of the plants. Most livestock is starting to look decent after the brutal winter, but still too many producers in our area are overstocked with marginal pastures; with today's high prices they are not inclined to reduce stocking rates.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Hay making is started and well under way.

EASTERN

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

More rain fell during mid-week slowing bottomland corn planting again. Some folks still intend to plant some of the lower lying fields if rain will stop. Most corn looks pretty good. Some environmental stress in some places. Reports of grubs and birds still around. Side-dress of corn begins. Full season soybean planting just about done in many places. A large wheat crop awaits the majority of the soybean planting as double cropped. Haymaking in full swing. Lots of hay cut and baled during the week; showers have slowed that. Many vegetables have been planted and are waiting for warm temps to set them off -tomatoes, squash, peppers, sweet corn, etc.

SOUTHWESTERN

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Hay crop is currently being harvested. Yields are light but quality is good on most hays. Those waiting to get increased yields from recent rains will see quality reduced by half or more.

SOUTHERN

HENRY (Melanie Barrow)

Lack of rain has prevented direct seeded late crops from germinating but has allowed for hay to be cut and baled easily.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK Cynthia Gregg

Hay is being cut at this time, including some small grains. Tobacco plants are in short supply and planting is going full swing. Burn downs have been done and some full season soybeans are germinating nicely. There was some minor flooding in fields due to rain along with creeks and rivers up. A few fields had some erosion due to the heavy, fast rainfall from the storm.

SURRY Glenn Slade

We had a good week with field work catching up. Cotton and peanut planting almost complete. Corn beginning to be side-dressed and soybeans planted.

SUSSEX Kevin Wells

Good weather conditions have allowed growers to cultivate flue-cured tobacco, finish cotton, peanut and planting full season soybean. Some growers are making herbicide applications to cotton. Growers have taken advantage of the good weather to get along.