



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.4. Weather conditions were favorable for farmers this week for planting corn, peanuts, cotton, and soybeans and for cutting hay. Topsoil moisture is drying out in some areas of the State. High temperatures were in the 80s to 90s, and lows were in the 40s to 50s. Precipitation amounts were up from the previous week.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 05/17/15

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	3	17	70	10
Subsoil	2	12	80	6

- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 05/17/15

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	7	7	22	62	2
Grapes	3	2	9	86	-
Peaches	13	8	21	58	-
Barley	-	3	28	58	11
Corn	-	1	15	76	8
Oats	2	5	49	41	3
Potatoes, Summer	-	-	35	65	-
Tobacco, Greenhouse	-	4	14	67	15
Tobacco, Plantbeds	-	8	16	69	7
Hay, Alfalfa	-	3	28	61	8
Hay, Other	-	4	30	59	7
Winter Wheat	-	1	22	65	12
Pasture	1	7	30	53	9
Livestock	1	5	28	55	11

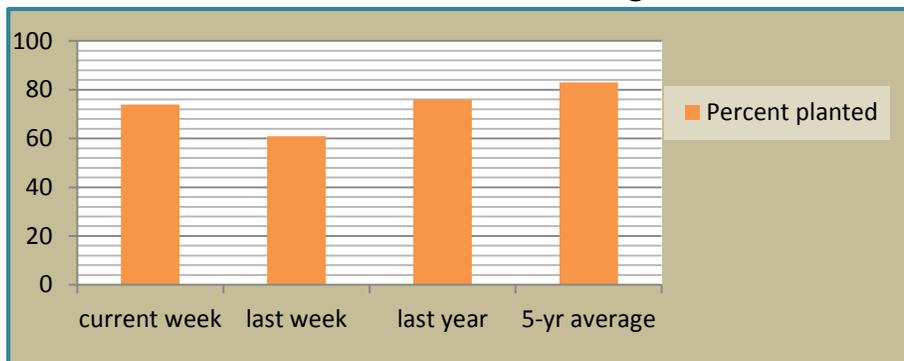
-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 05/17/15

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Corn planted	74	61	76	83
Corn emerged	50	34	53	66
Cotton planted	55	28	66	70
Peanuts planted	52	23	45	48
Soybeans planted	23	12	15	22
Soybeans emerged	7	1	-	-
Tobacco, Burley transplanted	22	4	11	18
Tobacco, Fire-cured transplanted	23	5	27	37
Tobacco, Flue-cured transplanted	65	24	69	68
Winter Wheat headed	70	43	81	91

- Represents data not available.

CORN PLANTED for week ending 05/17/15



Weather Summary- For the week ending May 17, 2015

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to May 16	Mar. 1 to May 16 norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	79	55	85	43	67	5	695	635	0.86	8.78	-0.56	13.16	-2.88
Norfolk	80	62	90	51	71	6	760	681	0.15	7.96	-1.40	14.14	-2.49
Richmond	82	60	92	50	71	7	853	730	0.02	9.40	0.19	16.67	0.95
Roanoke	80	58	88	49	69	6	711	NA	0.07	10.13	0.58	14.04	-1.91
Wash/Dulles	79	58	87	46	68	7	637	NA	0.71	7.13	-1.67	12.16	-2.49

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. 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 remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)

Extreme heat and summer temperatures this week.

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

A lot of corn went in the ground last week prior to weekend rains. The state corn grain and silage variety trials were planted last week.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

A week of mostly dry and clear weather with light winds and temperatures around 80 degrees allowed a significant amount of first cutting hay to be made in very good condition. Other field work was running behind normal for this time of year but near round-the-clock effort on the part of some farmers got much of the area's corn acres planted. Scattered thunderstorms at the end of the week spoiled a few fields of mowed hay but otherwise a very good week for farmers.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Crops and livestock look good for the most part, despite the late spring warm up, frequent spring rains, and now a hopefully short lived hot and dry spell.

HENRICO (Karen Carter)

Very dry week. Topsoil moisture has been short.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Hay is being baled about the area. Apples and peaches are at 1/2 to 3/4 inches. Some orchards have been heavily damaged by a 2 minute hail storm on May 11th in Amherst County, resulting in significant fruit damage. Barley is headed out and maturing. Hops are at 1-2 foot height.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Thunder storms on Saturday evening broke a two week period that saw little to no rain in this area.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rainfall was scattered throughout the area and topsoil moisture is drying out in some areas. Farmers were busy planting full-season soybeans and applying fungicides to wheat for scab protection. A few producers started sidedressing corn with nitrogen and more will begin next week. Some producers continued working on the first cutting hay crop. Asparagus and strawberry harvest remained active.

SOUTHWESTERN

WASHINGTON (Phil Blevins)

We need a good rain in many parts of the county.

SOUTHERN

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

Still looking for rain. Everyone's been able to make good progress planting and transplanting with it dry, but we do need rain. Lost some tobacco transplants in the clayey areas of some fields with this dry, hot weather. Most of the transplants look good and have begun to grow thanks to all of the sunshine we have had. The corn has shot up and is now very noticeable in the field. Soybeans are popping up, though there is planting left to do. Wheat looks great overall. Livestock look great and pastures are holding on. Most producers are into the hay season now.

PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe & Stephen Barts)

Two weeks without any moisture has left us needing a shower very badly. Hay making conditions have been great and producers are well into the hay season at this point. Tobacco transplants need a little rain soon.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Final field preparations for tobacco are going on and planting is in full swing. Soybeans are emerging and the corn planted in the county is coming along nicely. Burn downs for no-till planting are coming along. Hay is being cut and baled. Fall calves are being weaned and some have already been marketed.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Soybean planting rolled on this week with dry and warm conditions. Hay making was also full speed ahead with good drying weather. Wheat and barley could use a good rain now as seed fill is taking place. It has been about 3 weeks since any appreciable rain has fallen on most of the county.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

We had a good planting week, with lots of seed going in for cotton, peanuts, and soybeans. Corn is up with very good stands.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

A great planting week for peanut, cotton and soybean. Warm weather has pushed germination in the field as growers rush to finish spring planting and burn-down applications. The wheat crop looks very good at this time.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

Good weather has allowed grain and vegetable farms to continue making progress with all field activities. Strawberries are at peak production for most farms in my area.