



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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



WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: May 6, 2012

Number: 9

Released: May 7, 2012

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR MAY 6, 2012

Scattered thunderstorms mid-week brought additional precipitation to the state and helped maintain and improve soil moisture conditions. Warmer temperatures also helped to improve crops and allowed producers to make progress with planting. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.3. With the additional moisture and warmer weather, conditions are improving for early planted corn, as well as, assisting with rapid growth in pastures and hayfields. In southeastern Virginia, planting is well underway, with many growers finishing up corn and starting on soybeans and cotton. Other activities include field preparations for peanuts, cotton and soybeans, scouting of small grains for disease and following up with fungicide applications, when suitable.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 7, 2012	1	13	78	8
April 29, 2012	1	15	74	10
April 22, 2012	6	19	67	8
April 15, 2012	22	48	29	1
April 8, 2012	1	36	58	5

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 8, 2012	2	22	74	2
April 29, 2012	6	18	73	3
April 22, 2012	10	22	62	6
April 15, 2012	11	42	45	2
April 8, 2012	1	21	74	4

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 3,4

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
Pasture	0	4	33	57	6
Livestock	0	4	23	57	16
Hay, Other	1	7	42	43	7
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	30	54	15
Winter Wheat	0	2	19	69	10
Barley	0	3	29	59	9
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	4	38	45	13
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	74	22	4
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	2	95	3
Apples, All	0	3	84	13	0
Peaches	0	8	43	45	4
Grapes	1	3	17	77	2
Oats	0	0	27	66	7

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	79	66	69	69
Corn Emerged	55	41	34	41
Winter Wheat Headed	92	87	58	48
Soybeans Planted	10	6	7	9
Flue Tobacco Transplanted	28	5	20	29
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	9	0	6	4
Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	9	0	13	6
Peanuts Planted	5	0	14	11
Cotton Planted	27	7	38	33

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING May 6, 2012

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to May 6	Mar. 1 to May 6 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	78	57	87	44	67	8	720	488	0.17	8.35	0.40	13.18	-1.30
Norfolk	79	59	89	49	69	7	825	516	0.25	5.78	-2.24	10.25	-5.04
Richmond	81	59	89	47	70	9	807	567	0.64	5.46	-2.34	10.41	-4.04
Roanoke	79	59	89	46	69	9	763	NA	0.54	7.11	-0.96	11.01	-3.47
Wash/Dulles	78	53	84	40	65	7	645	NA	0.18	3.49	-3.93	7.59	-5.49

* 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)

Parts of Frederick had hail on May 2. There was some damage to strawberries.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

A line of thunderstorms Wednesday night brought .25 - .6 inch of rain to the Rockbridge area helping maintain soil moisture levels. Seasonally normal temperatures provided conditions for rapid forage growth in pasture and hayfields.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Soil moisture is good right now - but the ground was very chilly earlier in the week. It warmed up quickly to upper 80's - above normal for the area and date. The corn made an improvement in color after those 80 degree days came about. The early planted corn was not adapting well to those chilly nights and days.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Good ground moisture conditions for now. It was a chilly week and weekend last weekend - but Tuesday through Saturday, it has been very warm. The early planted corn is looking better with the warm temps.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Thunderstorms in the last week continued to spottily fill the rain deficit. One storm at my house brought .35 inches and two miles away brought 1.5 inches. Conditions are much improved from just a few weeks ago when pastures were withering. Fields are greening with new corn. Wheat while reduced in sized seems to be heading out very uniformly. Early reports of hay brought better yields than expected but grass stands still appear to be somewhat thin. Recent rain has given us good clover this spring.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Much of the area received .5 - 1.0 inch of rainfall during the week, which continued to help restore soil moisture. A few producers started side dressing corn with nitrogen. Other activities included planting full-season soybeans, field preparation for full-season soybean planting, and hay making.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Crops looking pretty good due to recent rains and cool temperatures. Corn planting continues and is about to finish up. A few soybeans have been planted; expect full season planting to continue next week. The scouting of small grains continues as some late season powdery mildew and other foliar disease are showing up. All in all, the wheat crop should be an above average crop. Activities of the week include corn and soybean planting, small grain fungicide applications, haymaking, field prep for soybean planting, vegetable plastic laying and planting. Corn is experiencing some slug and bird damage.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Weather Report for Franklin County - looking to be a wet week. Beginning of the week showing 40% to 60% chance of rain. Partly cloudy most of the week with highs in the 70's. Hopefully there will be a break in the weather to allow some of the hay already cut and laying on the ground to be baled. A lot of farmers took advantage of the warm, sunny weather in the last 2 weeks to get a lot of corn in the ground. Heard one farmer say he already has an early field emerging. There is plenty of grass in the pastures right now, think about creative ways to utilize it all. Remember after a certain height, animals get less benefit from it when grazing and spent more time wasting it. Think about baling the over growth.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Heat and some spotty storms were prevalent the week. Planting is well underway. Fall-born calves are being weaned at this time. Grass is coming along well and hay is looking good.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Growers have wrapped up corn planting this week and a few have started planting soybeans. Cotton planting is underway. Peanut planting will begin early in the next week as growers finish land preparation. Pasture and hay growth has improved with the rainfall two weeks ago but yields will still be lower than expected for the first cutting.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Cotton planting continues with some soybeans being planted. Weather continues to cooperate with timely rains. Field prep for cotton and peanuts is on-going. Pastures are holding well with rains and warmer weather.

(Southeastern Continued)

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Corn planting is pretty much complete. Cotton, peanuts, and early soybeans are going in. Recent showers have helped the topsoil moisture situation.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Much needed rain has fallen throughout the county this week, as farmers got busy preparing for peanut, cotton and soybean planting to begin. The showers hit the wheat crop just right. Burndown herbicide applications continue for soybean plantings. Growers will be busy for the next two weeks.



**National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service**

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

Address Service Requested