



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: May 20, 2012

Number: 11

Released: May 21, 2012

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR MAY 20, 2012

In some areas of the State, heavy rain early in the week brought flooding and some hay damage; other areas are still dry and in need of more moisture. Fieldwork continued in earnest this week, with advances seen in tobacco, cotton and peanut planting. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.1. The timely rain showers are starting to pay off with improved crop and pasture conditions, although slugs continued to be a problem in corn. Hay cutting has started and the crop is looking very good. Other activities included side dressing corn with Nitrogen, scouting small grain fields, and applying post herbicide applications on corn.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 20, 2012	0	14	82	4
May 13, 2012	0	13	81	6
May 7, 2012	1	13	78	8
April 29, 2012	1	15	74	10
April 22, 2012	6	19	67	8

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 20, 2012	1	16	82	1
May 13, 2012	2	18	77	3
May 8, 2012	2	22	74	2
April 29, 2012	6	18	73	3
April 22, 2012	1	16	82	1

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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
Pasture	0	3	19	68	10
Livestock	0	2	18	59	21
Hay, Other	0	6	29	57	8
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	25	56	18
Corn	0	1	14	74	11
Winter Wheat	0	1	15	76	8
Barley	0	2	21	67	10
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	47	35	18
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	66	34	0
Tobacco, Flue Cured	0	0	41	34	25
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	5	93	2
Apples, All	10	9	31	49	1
Peaches	0	6	37	55	2
Grapes	0	1	27	71	1
Oats	0	0	22	57	21

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	89	84	84	86
Corn Emerged	77	71	66	68
Winter Wheat Headed	98	96	96	77
Winter Wheat Harvested	1	0	NA	NA
Soybeans Planted	24	21	31	23
Soybeans Emerged	12	8	13	8
Barley Harvested	22	11	0	1
Flue Tobacco Transplanted	91	58	68	77
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	30	15	14	21
Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	75	30	37	49
Peanuts Planted	78	33	59	54
Cotton Planted	85	58	91	79

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING May 20, 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 19	Mar. 1 to May 19 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	75	54	81	48	65	2	921	697	0.94	9.66	-0.09	14.49	-1.97
Norfolk	75	62	81	58	68	2	1061	750	2.42	9.61	-0.09	14.08	-2.88
Richmond	78	58	82	50	68	3	1037	797	0.73	7.02	-2.59	11.97	-4.20
Roanoke	75	56	81	51	66	2	972	NA	1.60	9.28	-0.69	13.18	-3.09
Wash/Dulles	77	54	83	45	66	4	852	NA	1.14	5.10	-4.00	9.19	-5.87

* 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 R Smith)

Conditions are still dry and we need more moisture.

WESTERN

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

The weekly precipitation was 1.6" with seasonal temperatures.

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Heavy rain to start the week brought flooding and some isolated damage to hay crops, with rain fall amounts ranging from 2 to 6 inches across Rockbridge. Pasture conditions are excellent and corn planting work is drawing to a close.

CENTRAL

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Regular rains the last few weeks have improved things considerably. Grass has resumed growth and it looks like a good year for a later harvested hay crop. Corn seems to be behind normal in growth stages. I think cooler than normal weather has inhibited growth. We have had very few corn days so far.

Small grains, while reduced in size, seem to be making good heads and harvest should be decent.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Side dressing corn with nitrogen, planting full-season soybeans, and hay making were the primary activities during the week. Some late season diseases, including head scab, tan spot, and septoria leaf and glume blotch were reported in some wheat fields. Barley is maturing very rapidly and harvest could begin before Memorial Day if the weather allows.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Barley harvest may begin next week. Corn is looking very good due to recent showers and warm weather. Soybeans are beginning to emerge and stands look good. Still finding some slug damage and some micronutrient problems in corn. Lots of haymaking going on. As it turns out, this cutting might be pretty good. Vegetables are slow growing due to cool temps. Planting continues. Field work includes planting soybeans, topdressing N on corn, scouting small grains, field prep for soybean planting, post herbicide applications on corn.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County has chances of scattered thunder storms this week on Tuesday and Wednesday with temps in the high 80's. Farmers were out all last week cutting hay fields like crazy, this week between the rain will be the same. The grass is getting tall, time to cut it if you want to achieve good quality. Corn is emerging all over the place; height is all depending on when it was planted. I have seen some fields looking about a foot high already. With the warm weather this week that corn is going to grow, there still are a couple farmers getting corn into the ground. There are still some barley and oat fields out there waiting to be chopped. Cows are looking good, the rapid grass growth rates right now are allowing for longer grazing before moving to new fields.

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

Every time it "rains" we get no more than 2/10. We need water. It is an unusual year in a lot of ways: plants, insects, etc. are all early and most are more prevalent. Curious to see how this summer plays out.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

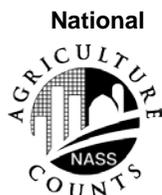
VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Some corn is being over taken by grass, the wet weather has kept some farmers from getting herbicide applications on in a timely manner. Very little field work was accomplished last week with the fields being too wet.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Recent wet weather has contributed to significant slug damage to emerging corn crops. Some areas of the county had very heavy rain early in the week with minor stream flooding. No crop damage was reported. Fair weather later in the week permitted some of the first hay of the season to be made.



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