

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CHARLES SAWYER, Secretary

WEATHER BUREAU

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CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

VIRGINIA

ANNUAL SUMMARY 1948

Volume LVIII No. 13



S. S. Schworm, Section Director - Richmond

GENERAL SUMMARY

The year averaged practically normal in temperature, but decidedly above normal in precipitation. It was the second wettest year on record, averaging 0.91 inch less than the record year of 1937. Only three months had less than normal precipitation, but only one of them was more than 0.50 inch deficient.

Chronologically the weather progressed in this fashion: **JANUARY:** The fifth coldest January of record; the lowest temperature (-14°) of the year occurred on the 25th at Timberville; snowfall was more than twice the usual amount. **FEBRUARY:** The driest month of the year, unusually cold weather until the 12th, followed by sudden thaw which caused great damage to many highways which had become cracked by much freezing and thawing weather during the earlier part of Winter; minor floods occurred in central and southern counties on the 13th-16th. **MARCH:** Mild, with moderately heavy precipitation. **APRIL:** Warmer and wetter than usual. **MAY:** Frequent brief cool spells; sixth wettest May of record; many damaging hail storms; a flash flood in the Chickahominy River tributaries in New Kent and Charles City Counties on 26th. **JUNE:** About normal in temperature and precipitation; many hail and wind storms. **JULY:** Near normal as to temperature and precipitation; warmest month of the year, many destructive hail, wind and electrical storms. **AUGUST:** Rainy, with temperature slightly below normal; the highest temperature (103°) of the year occurred at Lincoln on the 27th and Danville Airport on the 28th; the greatest 24-hour rainfall of the year occurred at Smithfield on the 22d, with 6.60 inches; damaging hail and wind storms occurred on three days; a minor flood occurred in the James River between Bremono Bluff and Richmond, the Rappahannock River overflowed above Fredericksburg and there was local flooding in Giles County on the 3-4th. **SEPTEMBER:** Slightly below normal in temperature and above normal in precipitation; some light frost occurred in Highland, Smyth and Washington Counties on the 26th. **OCTOBER:** Eighth coolest October on record; frosts occurred generally during period of 18th-23d, except in a few sections in the Tidewater sections; precipitation slightly above normal; snow fell in measurable amounts in some mountain areas on the 12th. **NOVEMBER:** Wettest and sixth warmest November of record; also wettest month of the year; snow fell in the upper Piedmont and upper Great Valley areas on 28-29th; a minor flood occurred in the James River at and below Bremono Bluff on the 28-29th. **DECEMBER:** Mild and very wet; fifth wettest December of record; snowfall slightly below normal; a White Christmas in most sections; a major flood occurred in the James below Lynchburg on the 3d-7th. At the same time the Roanoke River at Roanoke and Randolph, the Rapidan at Rapidan, the Rappahannock at Remington, the New at Pearisburg and the North Anna and the Mattaponi in their upper reaches also went out of their banks. At the close of the month the James was slightly above flood stage at and below Columbia.

The growing season for the State, based on the records for 89 stations, averaged 196 days, and ranged from 150 days at Big Meadows to 288 days at Cape Henry. In general, it was a fine year for crops. Except in a few south-central counties, corn exceeded all previous yields. It was an unusually good grazing season, with pastures continuing to furnish forage well into November. Apple and peach yields were normal or better, although a few varieties of apples were well below average quality. Dark-fired and burley tobacco made excellent yields, but the earlier flue-cured tobacco fell a little below normal. Cotton and peanuts yielded well. A poor drying season reduced the quality of peanuts. All truck crops did well, except for considerable blight in canning tomatoes. Green peppers, snap and lima beans were marketed in the Tidewater area until late in November.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to the climatological data from some 6,000 Weather Bureau and cooperative weather stations, this bulletin series contains records from Hydroclimatic Network Stations which were formerly reproduced in the Hydrologic Bulletin Series. The Hydroclimatic Network is a nationwide net of rain gages--mostly of the recording type which produce continuous records of precipitation. It was established in 1939 at the request of the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, to supplement existing precipitation stations in order to provide records of rainfall intensity which were essential to the planning of flood control and related works by the Corps of Engineers. This Network, now numbering about 2,000 recording, and 1,000 non-recording rain gages, has been maintained by the Weather Bureau through working funds transferred annually to the Weather Bureau by the Corps of Engineers. These transfers averaged about \$250,000 per year between 1940 and 1944, and nearly \$375,000 since that date. For the years 1940-42, the Department of Agriculture transferred about \$100,000 per year to provide data required in its work, and since 1947 the Bureau of Reclamation has transferred about \$25,000 per year to meet the increasing needs of their program in the Western States.

Previous to the introduction of this bulletin series, data from Hydroclimatic Network stations were presented in bulletins (Hydrologic Bulletins) which were issued monthly for each of 8 drainage areas embracing the entire United States, but since the Network was established to meet the internal requirements of the Federal agencies referred to above, no provision was made for public dissemination of the data, distribution being limited to cooperating agencies and to certain public repositories. A list of locations where reference copies of the Hydrologic Bulletin Series are available for inspection may be obtained upon application to Chief, U.S. Weather Bureau, Washington 25, D.C.

Many other records published in this bulletin have been made available through the cooperation of various public offices, private agencies, and individuals as listed in the Station Index.

STATION INDEX

VIRGINIA
1948

Continued.

Station	Former station name	Index No.	County	Drainage	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation above mean sea level (feet)	Years of record			Opened or closed during year		Refer to tables
								Temperature	Precipitation	Evaporation	Month opened	Month closed	
SUFFOLK LAKE KILBY		8192	NANSEMOND	NANSEMOND	36 44	76 36	23	6P	8A				1 2 3
SUGAR GROVE		8200	SMYTH	HOLSTON	36 46	81 24	2680	5P	5P				1 2 3
SWORDS CREEK		8282	RUSSELL	CLINCH	37 02	81 55	1900		7A				2
TAZEWELL		8354	TAZEWELL	CLINCH	37 07	81 31	2450		8A				2
TIMBERVILLE		8448	ROCKINGHAM	SHENANDOAH	38 38	78 45	1030	7P	7P				1 2 3
TROUT DALE		8547	GRAYSON	NEW	36 42	81 26	3100		MID				2
TYE RIVER		8600	NELSON	TYE	37 40	78 57	551		7A				2
URBANNA WB		8642	MIDDLESEX	RAPPAHANNOCK	37 38	76 35	31	MID	MID				1 2 3
VIENNA TYSONS CORNER		8737	FAIRFAX	POTOMAC	38 55	77 14	500		7P				2
WALKERS CHAPEL		8821	ARLINGTON	POTOMAC	38 55	77 08	240		5P				2
WALKERTON		8829	KING AND QUEEN	MATTAPONI	37 44	77 02	35	7P	7P				1 2 3
WALLACE		8833	WASHINGTON	HOLSTON	36 39	82 08	1885		7A				2
WALLACETON LAKE DRUMMOND		8837	NORFOLK	ATLANTIC	36 37	76 26	25		6P				2
WASHINGTON VIRGINIA		8902	RAPPAHANNOCK	RAPPAHANNOCK	38 43	78 10	650		9A				2
WASHINGTON WB CITY DC		8904		POTOMAC	38 54	77 03	72	MID	MID				1 2 3
WASHINGTON WB NATIONAL APT		8906		POTOMAC	38 51	77 02	64	MID	MID				1 2 3
WATERFORD		8915	LOUDOUN	POTOMAC	39 11	77 36	525	7A	7A				1 2 3
WAVERLY HILLS		8938	ARLINGTON	POTOMAC	38 53	77 07	340	6P	6P				1 2 3
WESTBROOK SANATORIUM		8984	HENRICO	JAMES	37 36	77 24	200	6P	6P				1 2 3
WHITE GATE		9060	GILES	NEW	37 12	80 50	1850		MID				2
WHITETOP MOUNTAIN		9094	WASHINGTON	NEW	36 38	81 36	5470		8A				2
WILLIAMSBURG 2 MI NW		9146	JAMES CITY	JAMES	37 17	76 45	100	5P	5P				1 2 3
WILLIAMSBURG		9151		JAMES	37 16	76 42	70		MID				2
WILLIAMSVILLE		9159	BATH	BULLPASTURE	38 12	79 34	1700		7A				2
WINCHESTER RESEARCH LAB		9186		POTOMAC	39 11	78 10	720	6P	8A				1 2 3
WOODSTOCK		9263	SHENANDOAH	SHENANDOAH	38 53	78 30	875	SS	8A				1 2 3
WYTHEVILLE P O BLDG		9301	WYTHE	NEW	36 56	81 05	2299	MID	MID				1 2 3

REFERENCE NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, dimensional units used in this bulletin are: Temperature in °F; precipitation and evaporation in inches, and wind movement in miles. Evaporation is measured in the standard Weather Bureau type pan of 4 foot diameter unless otherwise shown by footnote following Table 4.

The four digit identification numbers in the Index are assigned on a state basis. There will be no duplication of numbers within a state.

Delayed data and corrections will be carried only in the June and December issues of Climatological Data.

- No record.
- + Also later dates or months.
- M 1 to 10 days' record missing; see monthly Climatological Data for detailed daily record.

The subscription price for this Bulletin is 15 cents per copy or \$1.50 a year. (Yearly subscription includes the annual summary). Correspondence regarding subscriptions should be addressed to Weather Records Processing Center, Federal Building, Albany 1, N.Y.

W.R.P.C., Albany, N.Y. --- 6-7-49 ---1425