

Received July 22, 1897

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

REPORT FOR JUNE, 1897.

VIRGINIA SECTION

OF THE

CLIMATE AND CROP SERVICE

OF THE

WEATHER BUREAU,

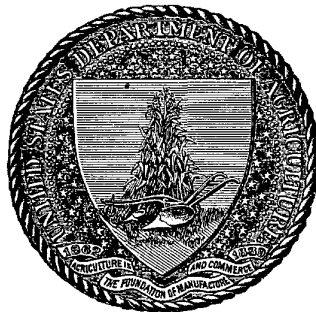
IN COOPERATION WITH THE

VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
WILLIS L. MOORE,
CHIEF OF BUREAU.

BY

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RICHMOND, VA.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
CLIMATE AND CROP SERVICE
 OF THE
WEATHER BUREAU.

Central Office,
 WASHINGTON, D. C. }

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VIRGINIA SECTION,
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VOL. VII.

RICHMOND, VA.

No. 6.

JUNE CROP CONDITION.

The progress of the crops during June was rather slow owing to two causes.

1st. Unusually cool weather in all portions of the state during the first fifteen days, and

2nd. Local droughty conditions, especially in the Tidewater section. The growth of corn and tobacco was much retarded. The former came through the month in a very backward state, being uneven, and short in stalk; but the latter, under the warmer and showery weather of the last decade, gained in condition. Farm work was vigorously pushed all the month. Harvesting of winter wheat began in the Tidewater and southern counties of the middle section during the first week, and was general throughout the month. Threshing followed with excellent results, the yield being reported the "best in years," by many correspondents. Some winter oats were cut, and spring oats headed well, but were generally quite short in straw. Haying was prosecuted but was rather below the average in quantity. All trucks made good progress, also garden stuff.

THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO MEASURE WIND FORCE.

Meteorological observers, especially those who have studied the development of anemometry, will recall the fact that the most simple and direct measurement of the velocity of the wind is made by observing the speed of light bodies, such as feathers or soap bubbles carried along by it. The first piece of apparatus applied to the measurement of the wind was the pendulous plate anemometer introduced by the Royal Society about 1665 on the recommendation of Sir Christopher Wren, Robert Hooke, and others, who constituted a committee on meteorological observations. This instrument gave a measurement of the effect of moving air on a resisting plate from which the velocity can perhaps be calculated. In using this and almost all other apparatus which measure some definite effect of the wind it is assumed that the wind blows upon the apparatus long enough to bring its moving parts into a steady condition, either of motion or of resistance, so that we measure the maximum effect that a given wind is capable of producing. Prof. C. F. Marvin has called our attention to the fact that meteorology owes another ingenious method to Sir

Isaac Newton. This eminent philosopher was for many years engrossed in the study of forces; he it was who first saw that the proper method of measuring and comparing forces among themselves is to measure the amount of energy that each force when acting continuously can communicate in a unit of time to a unit of mass of freely moving matter. It seems to have occurred to him to apply this idea to the resistance of the wind. When a body is falling freely through the air the resisting force of the air sometimes erroneously called friction is brought into play; this resistance can be expressed by the amount of retardation experienced by a falling body whose mass and resisting area are, respectively, unity. Newton also applied this same idea to an ingenious method of determining the relative strength of the various winds. His experiments in this line are narrated at page 15 of Sir David Brewster's *Memoir of the Life, Writings, and Discoveries of Sir Isaac Newton*, whence we take the following:

It was about this time, also, that he seems to have paid some attention to the subject of the resistance of fluids, to which his experiments with water wheels would naturally lead him. Mr. Conduit, apparently on the authority of Mrs. Vincent, informs us that even when he was occupied with his paper kites, he was endeavoring to find out the proper form of a body which would experience the least resistance when moving in a fluid. Sir Isaac, himself, told Mr. Conduit that one of the earliest scientific experiments which he made was in 1658, on the day of the great storm [September 3] when Cromwell died, and when he himself had just entered into his sixteenth year. In order to determine the force of the gale he jumped first in the direction in which the wind blew, and then in opposition to the wind; and after measuring the length of the leap in both directions, and comparing it with the length to which he could jump in a perfectly calm day, he was enabled to compute the force of the storm. Sir Isaac added, that when his companions seemed surprised at his saying that any particular wind was a foot stronger than any he had known before, he carried them to the place where he had made the experiment, and showed them the measures and marks of his several leaps. This method of jumping to a conclusion, or reaching it *per saltum*, was not the one which our philosopher afterward used. Had he, like Coulomb, employed a shred of paper instead of his own person, and observed the time it took to fly through a given distance, he would have obtained a better substitute for an anemometer.

The reader will perceive that provided one jumps with the same force first with and then against the wind he may take half the difference of the two distances as being the effect of the wind in carrying him along while he is in the air. The wind acts upon him continuously during this brief interval just as gravity acts continuously upon any falling body. If, indeed, the observer simply jumps vertically upward or, still better, if he lets an inanimate spherical ball fall vertically downward and observes the amount of horizontal movement he has a direct measure of the force or pressure whence he may calculate the velocity of the wind. There are several reasons why such calculated velocities are rather rough compared with the results given by other methods, but it is certainly of the highest interest to find that Sir Isaac Newton in his boyhood, and before he could have known anything of Galileo's works, devised this simple method of estimating the energy and velocity of the wind.

ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.

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The mean monthly air pressure as deduced from the U. S. Weather Bureau Stations at Lynchburg, Norfolk and Washington, D. C., was 29.99 inches; highest 30.29 inches, at Norfolk and Washington, D. C., on the 2nd; lowest 29.71 inches, at Washington, D. C., on the 13th; range 0.58 of an inch.

TEMPERATURE. (DEG. F)

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TIDEWATER VIRGINIA.—Highest monthly mean, 77.6, at Doswell; lowest monthly mean, 71.6, at Warsaw; maximum temperature, 100, at Doswell, on the 16th and 30th; minimum temperature, 36, at Petersburg on the 21st; greatest daily range 39, at Petersburg.

MIDDLE VIRGINIA.—Highest monthly mean, 80.2, at Maidens; lowest monthly mean, 70.4, at Leesburg; maximum temperature, 103, at Farmville on the 25th; minimum temperature, 30, at Guinea, on the 2d; greatest daily range, 44, at Leesburg.

THE GREAT VALLEY.—Highest monthly mean, 74.8, at Goshen; lowest monthly mean, 67.4, at Blacksburg; maximum temperature, 96, at Woodstock on the 30th; minimum temperature, 37, at Burke's Garden, on the 22nd; greatest daily range, 44, at Big Stone Gap and Dale Enterprise.

FOR THE STATE.—Average of the monthly mean temperatures, 71.7; average of the maximum temperatures, 94; average of the minimum temperatures, 45; average of the greatest daily range, 34.

June was marked by considerable cool weather, especially during the first decade when the temperatures ranged decidedly below the normal, and for a few days during the last decade when the minimum for the month was recorded at several stations. The dates on which the maximum temperatures for the month were recorded were in almost every instance the 16th and the 30th. The extreme range of temperature for the state was 73 degrees. A heated period prevailed generally at the middle and close of the month, during which temperatures between 90 and 103 degrees were recorded. The average temperature, 71.7, was 2.0 below the normal. Crop growth was considerably retarded during the first half of the month, corn and tobacco feeling the effect of the cool weather the most. Wheat was too far advanced to be damaged, but winter and spring oats suffered some.

PRECIPITATION.

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TIDEWATER VIRGINIA.—Greatest monthly precipitation, 4.14 inches, at Warsaw; least monthly, 0.71 inches, at Spottsville, greatest amount in any twenty-four consecutive hours, 2.51 inches, at Ashland, on the 4-5th.

MIDDLE VIRGINIA.—Greatest monthly precipitation, 11.56 inches, at Guinea; least monthly, 0.99 of an inch, at Callville; greatest amount in any twenty-four consecutive hours, 5.10 inches, at Guinea, on the 17th.

THE GREAT VALLEY.—Greatest monthly precipitation, 5.83 inches, at Marion; least monthly, 1.31 inches, at Salem; greatest amount in any twenty-four consecutive hours, 3.00 inches, at Marion, on the 18th.

FOR THE STATE.—Average total precipitation, 3.18 inches.

The average total precipitation for the State, 3.18 inches, was 0.50 of an inch below the normal for the month.

By sections Tidewater Virginia was 1.35 inches below the normal; middle Virginia, 0.23 of an inch below, and the Great Valley, 0.31 of an inch below.

The rainfall was fairly well distributed during the month, and hence no drought of any consequence prevailed. Local extreme deficiencies and excesses were reported from Callville and Spottsville, in the southeast portion of the State, and Guinea, in the east central portion, respectively. The total monthly amount of this latter station is largely in excess of the average quantity for June, and appears to have fallen during three rainstorms of unusual severity. Sufficient rain for crop purposes obtained in nearly all counties, and but for the deficiency in temperature their growth would probably have been normal.

The average number of days on which 0.01 of an inch or more of rain or snow fell, was 8 in Tidewater Virginia; 7 in Middle Virginia, and 8 in the Great Valley. Average for the State, 8.

WIND.—The prevailing direction of the wind in the different sections was as follows: Tidewater Virginia SW.; Middle Virginia, SW.; the Great Valley, W. Prevailing direction for the State, SW.

WEATHER.—Tidewater Virginia, average number of clear days 9; partly cloudy, 10; cloudy, 11. Middle Virginia, average number of clear days, 15; partly cloudy, 10; cloudy, 5. The Great Valley, average number of clear days, 12; partly cloudy, 14; cloudy, 4. For the State, average number of clear days, 13; partly cloudy, 11; cloudy, 6.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

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Voluntary observers, who have not already done so, are requested to return to this office their old copy of "Instructions to Voluntary Observers," edition of 1892. These instructions are now obsolete, and have been called in by direction of the Chief of the Weather Bureau.

In all entries of precipitation it is very desirable that the times of beginning and ending should be given, if possible. This information, though not so important as the amount of precipitation occurring, is still very necessary and greatly increases the value of each report. Observers omitting these entries are invited to make them.

Reports from Stanleyton not received.

Climatological Data for June, 1897.

Stations.	Counties.	Elevation, feet.	Length of record, years.	TEMPERATURE, IN DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.						PRECIPITATION, IN INCHES.					SKY.				Observers.
				Mean.	Departure from the normal.	Highest.	Date.	Lowest.	Date.	Greatest daily range.	Total.	Departure from the normal.	Greatest in 24 hours.	Total snowfall (unmelted.)	Number of rainy days.	Number clear days.	Number partly cloudy days.	Number cloudy days.		Prevailing direction of wind.
TIDEWATER VIRGINIA.																			
Ashland	Hanover	220	5	72.2	-0.2	96	30	46	2	35	3.64	+0.22	2.51	9	5	16	9	ne.	E. L. C. Scott.
Birdsnest (t)	Northampton	40	28	73.5	+1.0	94	30	60	8	22	2.09	-1.86	0.75	11	4	10	15	sw ne	C. R. Moore.
Cape Henry	Princess Anne	17	22	73.3	+0.2	96	30	60	8	22	2.09	-1.86	0.75	11	4	10	15	sw ne	U. S. Weather Bureau.
Doswell	Hanover	134	0	77.6	.....	100	16	30	11	27	1.65	.....	1.00	5	8	2	10	w.	C. W. Butterworth.
Hampton	Elizabeth City	3	9	74.0	+1.1	93	16	30	2	23	2.43	-2.81	1.50	8	6	10	14	sw.	C. L. Goodrich.
Norfolk	Norfolk	3	25	74.0	+0.5	96	16	30	2	25	1.98	-2.25	0.64	13	7	9	14	sw.	U. S. Weather Bureau.
Petersburg	Dinwiddie	11	9	73.6	-2.0	98	16	30	21	39	2.19	-1.55	0.80	8	13	8	9	ne sw	Prof. Jas. M. Colson.
Richmond (near)	Henrico	96	21	72.5	-2.7	99	16	30	1	2	36	.....	.....	24	0	0	0	nwsw	Capt. J. C. Shafer.
Spottsville	Surry	15	7	73.9	-0.9	98	16	25	12	36	0.71	-2.43	0.28	7	16	7	6	sw.	B. W. Jones.
Sunbeam	Southampton	60	2	73.9	-1.9	97	30	49	22	30	1.23	-3.62	0.48	5	9	16	5	w.	Dr. W. H. Daughtry.
Warsaw b	Richmond	200	3	71.6	-2.4	95	30	48	2	37	1.44	+1.24	2.05	5	1	24	3	n.	C. H. Constable.
MIDDLE VIRGINIA.																			
Alexandria	Alexandria	35	37	71.0	-3.0	94	30	43	1	33	3.43	+1.04	1.50	10	5	22	3	nw.	H. C. Slaymaker
Barboursville	Orange	0	0	70.6	.....	94	16	45	2	33	3.63	.....	1.07	15	14	13	3	sw.	Dr. Thos. H. Ellis.
Bedford City	Bedford	900	6	72.1	-0.8	96	16	30	1	36	3.68	+0.83	1.87	8	14	14	2	w.	J. T. Davidson.
Bon Air	Chesterfield	130	2	73.9	-1.0	101	16	30	2	36	2.11	-1.51	0.97	9	10	8	12	ne.	Wm. H. Pleasants.
Buckingham	Buckingham	550	3	71.4	-1.8	97	30	43	1	35	1.90	-0.48	1.05	8	18	15	4	sw.	Dr. W. E. Pratt.
Callville	Brunswick	570	2	73.2	-0.5	96	30	47	2	32	0.99	-2.14	0.36	8	12	15	3	nw.	F. M. Gage.
Farmville	Prince Edward	0	0	76.2	.....	103	25	45	2	40	3.65	.....	3.60	4	23	2	5	se.	E. C. Rowe.
Fredericksburg	Spotsylvania	1	1	71.9	-1.4	97	30	46	2	38	3.63	+0.13	1.00	8	20	4	6	se.	H. S. Smithers.
Gordonsville	Orange	47	0	73.4	.....	99	30	57	2	16	1.80	.....	1.00	3	20	0	10	n.	M. A. Nunn.
Gaines	Caroline	0	0	70.4	.....	102	30	38	7	44	2.34	+8.30	5.10	3	15	13	2	sw.	C. A. English
Leesburg	Loudoun	100	0	70.4	.....	102	30	38	2	44	2.34	+8.30	5.10	3	15	13	2	w.	U. S. Weather Bureau.
Lynchburg	Campbell	17	73.1	-1.1	96	16	49	2	32	2.70	-0.76	1.40	16	10	12	8	ne.	J. R. Hopkins.	
Maidens b	Goochland	525	1	80.2	+2.1	100	16	25	8	22	1.75	.....	0.52	7	12	7	9	e.	Thos. H. Lion.
Manassas	Prince William	185	2	70.5	-0.9	94	30	41	2	36	7.19	+1.42	2.14	8	14	14	2	se.	E. V. King.
Quantico	Prince William	317	7	70.5	-0.5	95	30	41	2	37	.....	.....	.....	17	7	6	s.	J. H. Binford.	
Rocky Mount	Franklin	0	0	74.6	+0.4	96	16	48	22	34	1.09	-1.72	0.50	3	11	17	2	.....	W. N. Parrott.
Stanardsville	Greene	1150	2	69.7	-2.1	93	15	16	2	36	3.51	+0.25	1.22	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	J. T. Preston.
Warrenton	Fauquier	560	6	71.0	.....	93	30	51	2	23	3.54	.....	0.81	9	14	12	4	sw.	J. T. Preston.
THE GREAT VALLEY.																			
Big Stone Gap	Wise	1966	6	69.0	-0.1	90	15	16	1	44	3.62	-0.01	1.30	8	13	9	8	.....	John W. Fox. Sr.
Blacksburg	Montgomery	2100	7	67.4	-0.6	90	29	39	1	36	2.34	+0.13	0.88	7	13	12	5	w.	Prof. W. B. Alwood.
Bristol	Sullivan, Tenn.	1676	2	71.0	+0.1	89	2	28	21	28	4.07	+0.14	0.83	10	15	13	2	.....	J. Bunting, Jr.
Burke's Garden	Tazewell	0	0	67.6	+1.3	87	12	37	22	38	3.80	-1.50	0.82	12	10	15	5	w.	C. H. Greever.
Christiansburg	Montgomery	2160	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.04	.....	0.70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	H. D. Walters.
Clifton Forge	Allegheny	1047	2	68.4	.....	94	30	40	2	36	3.83	.....	1.20	12	15	13	2	sw.	T. P. Halloran.
Dale Enterprise	Rockingham	1350	10	69.2	-2.1	95	15	40	1	44	2.88	-1.30	1.31	12	13	12	5	s.	L. J. Heatwole.
Goshen	Rockbridge	1590	1	74.8	+2.3	92	30	50	22	30	4.75	-1.22	1.00	6	24	4	2	w.	J. B. Wood.
Graham's Forge	Wythe	3	69.0	-0.6	89	30	42	22	33	4.14	+0.47	1.66	7	8	20	2	sw.	David Graham.	
Hot Springs	Bath	2195	4	72.8	+5.2	91	15	29	1	31	3.52	-0.14	1.01	6	8	20	2	sw.	A. M. Stinson.
Lexington	Rockbridge	946	23	69.9	-0.4	91	16	44	12	38	3.33	-0.21	0.93	13	9	15	6	se.	Prof. H. C. Campbell.
Marion	Smyth	2124	8	69.9	+0.1	89	30	43	1	34	5.83	+0.30	3.00	9	9	15	6	.....	A. T. Lincoln.
Monterey	Highland	3008	2	64.7	-1.1	89	29	40	1	34	3.25	-0.85	1.30	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	Prof. S. C. Wells.
Salem	Roanoke	1200	6	73.2	+0.6	93	16	30	2	31	1.31	-1.60	0.26	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	C. M. Perry.
Saltville	Smyth	1739	2	69.9	+0.1	88	15	16	1	43	4.07	-0.38	1.19	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	A. K. Grim.
Stanleyton	Page	1084	0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	W. C. Hedrick.
Staunton	Augusta	1380	6	70.0	-0.6	94	30	42	2	36	2.18	-2.03	0.48	8	9	19	2	w.	W. B. Steele.
Stephens City	Frederick	4	70.2	-2.2	89	16	23	25	2	40	4.16	-0.38	1.32	9	15	12	3	w.	J. H. Steele.
Sword's Creek	Russell	0	0	70.3	.....	89	15	44	2	35	2.99	.....	0.65	8	10	5	15	.....	H. F. Miley.
Woodstock	Shenandoah	927	0	70.9	.....	96	30	45	1	30	3.37	.....	0.78	9	3	26	1	w.	Dr. P. B. Green.
Wytheville	Wythe	2370	25	69.2	+1.0	88	29	41	1	34	1.98	-2.43	0.62	11	17	8	5	w.	.....

+ Estimated. ‡ Incomplete. tr. trace, or less than 0.01 of an inch. (t) Means from 7 am, 2 and 9 + 9 pm. observations. Letters following name of station indicate number of days missing from the report, as b=2 days, etc.

Note— Estimated and incomplete data not considered in means.

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA.

Meteors: Spottsville, 21; Dale Enterprise, 26.
Earthquakes: Fredericksburg, 8, 28; Staunton, Lexington, Graham's Forge, 28; Wytheville, 4, 5, 28; Blacksburg, 29.
Fogs: Bon Air, Woodstock, 18; Spottsville, 19; Fredericksburg, 5; Stanardsville, 18, 19; Hot Springs, 29.
Hail: Fredericksburg, 9; Stephens City, 16, 20; Doswell, 13; Birdsnest, 20; Clifton Forge, 13; Graham's Forge, 4; Marion, 17; Wytheville, 12.

Halos, Solar: Spottsville, 2, 13.
Thunder storms: Bon Air, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20; Ashland, 4, 13; Woodstock, 3, 4, 13, 16, 19, 20, 24; Dale Enterprise, 3, 4, 12, 13, 16, 19, 24; Salem, Hot Springs, 19; Bedford City, 13, 19; Fredericksburg, 4, 16; Stephens City, 3, 8, 13, 15, 16, 19, 26; Barboursville, 3, 4, 13, 16, 19, 24, 25, 26; Doswell, 13; Burke's Garden, 3, 4, 12, 18, 20; Staunton, 3, 4, 13, 16, 19, 26; Alexandria, 3, 4, 13, 16, 19, 20; Lexington, 3, 4, 12, 13, 18, 20; Sword's Creek, 16, 17; Graham's Forge, 3, 4, 12, 17, 19, 20; Marion, 17; Warrenton, 3, 4, 13, 18; Wytheville, 4, 12, 19, 20.

Daily Maximum and Minimum temperatures for June, 1897.

Table with columns for Stations, months 1-31, and Monthly Mean. Rows are categorized by region: TIDEWATER VA., MIDDLE VA., and GREAT VALLEY. Each station entry includes daily maximum and minimum temperature values.

‡ Incomplete. † Estimated.

CLIMATE AND CROPS: VIRGINIA SECTION.

JUNE, 1897.

TOTAL PRECIPITATION FOR JUNE, 1897.

Scale of Shades.

