

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

38

VIRGINIA SECTION

F. N. HIBBARD

VOL. XLIX

RICHMOND, VA., YEAR 1939

No. 13

GENERAL SUMMARY

For the state as a whole the weather for 1939 was slightly warmer than usual and somewhat drier. Precipitation lacked 0.7 inch of equaling the forty nine year average, and temperatures exceeded the usual figures by 1.3 degrees.

Section temperatures ranged from 54.3 degrees in the Great Valley to 60.0 degrees in Tidewater, with a variation in departures from plus 1.1 degrees in the Great Valley to plus 1.6 degrees in Tidewater. Average temperatures at individual stations ranged from 47.9 at Big Meadows to 62.2 degrees at Diamond Springs; and station departures from minus 0.3 degrees at Christchurch to plus 3.0 degrees at Culpeper. April, July, and November, were the only months colder than usual, with the last named month being the fifth coldest of record. Temperatures during the other months were higher than usual, with those of February the sixth highest, and those of June the third highest of record.

In precipitation, the unusually wet months were February, July, and August, with February the third wettest, and July the sixth wettest of record; but the excesses in these months were well offset by the deficiencies of May, the fourth driest, September, the third driest, and December, the fifth driest of record. Section amounts ranged from, roughly, 38 inches in the Great Valley to about 49 inches in Tidewater; corresponding to a deficiency of five inches in the former and an excess of nearly five inches in the latter. Amounts at individual stations ranged from 27 and a fraction at Radford to more than 61 inches at Wallaceton; and departures from a deficiency 12 inches at Saltville to an excess of more than 11 inches at Norfolk. Snowfall was about normal.

Excepting drought conditions in May, and a hard freeze in April, that damaged the peach crop rather seriously, the weather was generally favorable for growing crops and farm work. The average killing frost in Spring ranged from April 6th in Tidewater to April 27th in the Great Valley; and the first in Autumn, from November 10 in Tidewater to October 4 in the Great Valley; likewise, the growing season ranged from 219 days in Tidewater to 171 days in the Great Valley. Unusually heavy rainfall in February, accompanied by rather warm weather, delayed spring spinach, cabbage, and other truck. Considerable blue mold was reported in the tobacco districts during April, but with drier conditions during May it was checked. May dry weather seriously injured truck crops, especially potatoes, peas, and snap beans, and gardens; hay crops and pastures were greatly retarded. This dry weather was fully relieved during June and all crops made rapid progress thereafter. Drought conditions again became severe during September but most farm crops had reached maturity and suffered little damage. Fall plowing and seeding, however, was delayed.

Storm damage was as follows: February 15th straight line winds damaged \$3,250 worth of property in and around Buena Vista; brush fires entailed some small damage around Lynch-

burg in March; April 1st a thunder squall near Norfolk entailed a loss of \$7,000 to telephone lines, windows and roofs; two persons were killed in Danville by lightning on June 20th; hail and wind entailed a \$15,000 loss to crops and buildings near Purcellville on June 22d.

Hail in July caused a loss of \$27,500 to tobacco in Halifax, Henry, and Roanoke Counties, \$20,000 to apples and other crops in Frederick County, and \$1,000 to general crops in Smyth County. Heavy rain entailed a loss of \$3,000 to roads and bridges in Bedford County and \$20,000 to real property in Norfolk and vicinity. On the 18th an incipient tornado caused \$2,000 damage to crops and \$2,000 to buildings and livestock in Pittsylvania County; and lightning on the 29th caused \$9,500 damage to buildings in Chesterfield and Hanover Counties. On August 4th, lightning destroyed a barn and silo near Lynchburg, \$3,900; August 15th, a tornado in Northumberland County entailed a general loss of \$100,000, with one person killed and eight injured; flood waters in the Smyth River took a toll of \$12,000 in roads and bridges; a \$2,000 barn near Bedford was destroyed by lightning on September 3d; and forest fires in November burned over nearly 12,000 acres in southwestern Virginia.—L. L. K.

COMPARATIVE ANNUAL DATA FOR THE STATE

Year	Mean temperature	Highest	Lowest	Average precipitation	Average snow-fall	No. of days 0.01 inch or more of precipitation	No. of clear days	No. of partly cloudy days	No. of cloudy days
NORMALS OR EXTREMES.....	55.9	109	-29	41.95	16.9	104	162	101	102
1891.....	55.6	106	-8	47.94	95	163	101	102
1892.....	54.6	104	-26	39.45	103	156	100	109
1893.....	56.8	106	-11	35.76	17.0	88	166	104	95
1894.....	54.4	107	-18	38.23	38.8	94	174	103	88
1895.....	56.6	105	-10	42.64	12.3	93	163	106	97
1896.....	56.0	103	-15	39.19	11.8	92	171	99	95
1897.....	56.6	105	-9	44.71	8.7	108	162	101	102
1898.....	55.4	106	-29	42.20	36.7	98	176	95	94
1899.....	57.1	107	-3	39.52	18.6	85	181	91	93
1900.....	54.5	106	-14	49.99	9.5	100	167	94	104
1901.....	55.6	108	0	40.67	14.8	95	170	97	95
1902.....	54.9	105	-13	44.09	8.4	95	172	89	104
1903.....	53.7	100	-14	36.11	24.9	95	170	101	95
1904.....	54.9	98	-15	43.27	18.5	111	155	112	98
1905.....	56.2	102	-2	50.03	15.2	124	143	120	102
1906.....	54.5	97	-16	44.41	17.4	115	159	115	91
1907.....	55.5	102	-20	46.17	30.0	110	162	108	96
1908.....	55.6	102	-5	38.02	12.9	101	171	104	90
1909.....	54.8	102	-9	41.37	20.3	112	151	116	98
1910.....	56.8	104	0	41.00	9.2	115	149	110	106
1911.....	54.9	100	-25	40.88	24.6	103	165	106	95
1912.....	57.2	102	-3	42.33	4.0	100	178	98	89
1913.....	55.1	103	-17	36.66	39.8	101	168	100	97
1914.....	55.6	101	-6	40.03	13.5	97	160	116	89
1915.....	55.6	102	-11	38.94	18.6	103	165	106	95
1916.....	53.3	103	-27	40.11	23.7	114	158	107	100
1917.....	55.5	108	-22	43.48	24.7	105	159	97	109
1918.....	56.8	103	-16	41.65	7.4	102	161	99	105
1919.....	54.8	99	-9	45.91	7.1	106	162	89	115
1920.....	58.4	104	-12	34.94	13.8	97	161	102	102
1921.....	56.9	100	-13	45.15	24.8	110	145	107	113
1922.....	56.1	103	-1	40.90	10.3	104	168	96	101
1923.....	54.4	107	-12	47.34	12.8	105	165	90	111
1924.....	56.6	103	-14	32.55	9.5	98	160	99	106
1925.....	55.5	107	-6	41.41	16.5	112	157	97	111
1926.....	56.5	104	-7	41.64	10.4	113	146	103	114
1927.....	55.7	103	-5	43.07	9.2	110	151	112	103
1928.....	56.2	99	-8	46.31	16.7	115	155	97	113
1929.....	56.9	109	-13	24.99	23.4	86	165	99	101
1930.....	57.8	104	-2	38.00	3.7	105	163	106	96
1931.....	57.5	108	-9	44.68	13.1	102	169	90	107
1932.....	57.6	104	-7	39.46	8.2	105	163	101	101
1933.....	56.2	107	-16	45.73	21.6	113	157	104	104
1934.....	55.4	101	-16	46.68	21.9	119	150	103	112
1935.....	56.0	109	-17	45.30	25.1	108	169	95	102
1936.....	55.7	102	-3	53.20	14.7	126	155	99	111
1937.....	57.0	101	-3	42.21	9.1	113	169	89	107
1938.....	57.2	101	-1	41.26	15.9	106	176	91	98
1939.....	57.2	101	-1	41.26	15.9	106	176	91	98

Climatological Data for the Year 1939

Table with columns: Stations, Counties, Elevation, Temperature (Annual mean, Highest, Date, Lowest, Date), Precipitation (Total for the year, Greatest monthly, Month, Least monthly, Month, Total snowfall), Number of rainy days, Sky (Number of clear days, Number of partly cloudy days, Number of cloudy days), Prevailing direction of wind. Rows are categorized by Tidewater Virginia, Middle Virginia, and The Great Valley.

Section and State averages are computed from monthly means. The mean departures from normal temperature and precipitation are based only on records from stations that have 10 or more years of observation. Reference letters, a, b, c, appearing in the tables indicate number of days missing; for example, a represents two days, etc. T. Precipitation is less than 0.01 inch rain or snow. Also on other dates. * Interpolated. † Partially interpolated. ‡ Post-office addresses of these stations are as follows: Diamond Springs, Norfolk; Lincoln, Purcellville; Mount Weather, Bluemont; Wallaceton, Hickory; Pinnacles, Meadows of Dan; Balcony Falls, Glasgow; Big Meadows, Sexton Shelter and Camp 3, Skyland; Moores Creek Dam, Lexington; North River Dam, Staunton.

Monthly and Annual Precipitation for the Year 1939 with Departures from the Normal

Table with columns for Stations, months (January-December), and Annual. Each month has two sub-columns: Precipitation and Departure. Rows are grouped by region: Tidewater, Middle Virginia, Great Valley, and State Means.

Note.—In this publication, annual means are computed from data for all stations; except those in supplemental table; whereas, in monthly reports, means may not include all stations, as in some cases reports are not received in time to be used in the computations. All means include the interpolated values.

Supplemental Table of Monthly and Annual Precipitation for the Year 1939

Table with columns: Stations, Counties, Drainage-basin, Elevation, feet, Length of record, years, and monthly precipitation (January-December) plus Annual. Rows list various stations across Virginia with their respective data.

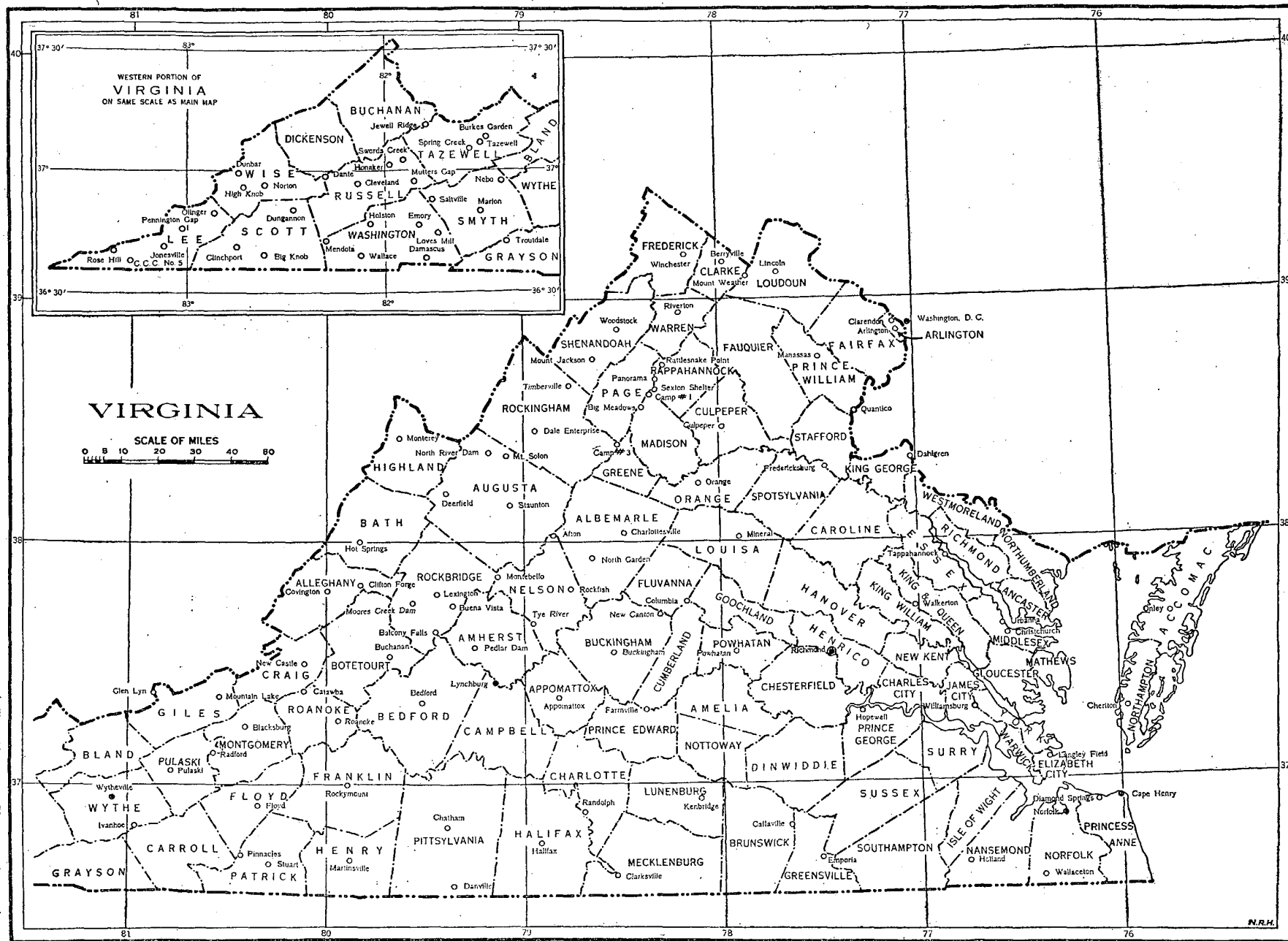
KILLING FROSTS 1939

Table with columns: Stations, Last in spring, First in autumn, Stations, Last in spring, First in autumn. Lists stations and their respective frost dates for 1939.

MONTHLY STATE DATA 1939

Table with columns: Month, Temperature (Mean, Departure from normal, Highest, Lowest, Average), Precipitation (Departure from normal, Greatest 24-hour, Average snow-fall), and Number of days (With 0.01 in. or more of precip., Clear, Partly cloudy, Cloudy). Rows show monthly data for 1939.

CHART SHOWING LOCATION OF OBSERVATION STATIONS



(VBO, Richmond, Va.—3-4-43-1, 200)

N.R.H.