

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.

**CENTRAL (continued)
CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

A severe thunderstorm with hail on Wednesday caused extensive damage to strawberries and ornamentals at a least one large local vegetable farm. Seedling corn seems to have escaped injury. This line of storms also gave the county over two inches of rain in most areas. It washed out some roads and caused minor flooding. Many fields which had been very dry are now covered with water. Soil moisture is generally much improved. I have also not seen much damage to small grain crops--lodging due to extensive winds, rain and hail, etc. It seems the crop was still stout and short enough to withstand the violent weather without falling down. Some small grain crops are showing the effects of the late hard freeze. Grain heads are withered and not filling properly in these stands. Barley seems to be more affected, perhaps because it was more mature when the freeze hit.

NORTHERN

FAUQUIER (Timothy Mize)

Light rains at the end of the week have done little to improve soil moisture conditions. Production from pastures and hay fields is behind normal. Corn plantings are behind but are catching up now that soil temperature levels have risen. Small grains grown for silage and haylage are yielding less than last year, due to the freeze damage and lack of moisture.

SOUTHWESTERN

PULASKI (MJ Fisher)

This week was variety in the weather with temperatures near 90 degrees in the early to mid-week and cool temperatures at the end of the week. Depending on the location, Pulaski County received from 0.1 to nearly 2.0 inches of rain on Wednesday alone. Light showers and/or drizzle also blanketed the county on Saturday.

We were just starting to see forages beginning to recover from the Easter cold snap, with obvious growth differences noted among various species of plants. However, with the predicted frost advisories for Sunday and Monday nights, we will have to wait and see. Those who planted corn are waiting to see what happens, half are expecting a late freeze.

WYTHE (Joseph W. Massey)

Pastures and hayfields are showing some recovery with the rain and milder temperatures. Yield reductions of both grass and alfalfa hayfields is in excess of 50% for the first cutting. Pasture has been slow to recover and some producers have had to extend their feeding period an extra 2-3 weeks beyond normal. This has cut into hay reserves drastically. The reduced first cuttings will further weaken reserves of hay. Apple trees show a loss of 95% of the blooms this year. Peaches show a loss of 100%. There is the potential for a loss of 25% of the grapevines in the county. These seem limited to specific varieties.



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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week of: April 30-May 6, 2007

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 6, 2007

Recent showers were welcomed in the Commonwealth this week. Temperatures were above normal with highs around 88 degrees with an average of 0.84 inches of rainfall. Days suitable for field work were 4.8. Topsoil moisture was adequate. Grain producers continued scouting for cereal leaf beetles, aphids and diseases. Insecticides and fungicides were being applied to wheat fields; some areas showed signs of powdery mildew and cereal leaf beetle infestations. Corn growth was slow due to the cool temperatures. Strawberry and asparagus harvests continued. Other farm activities included: seeding and fertilizing pastures, shearing sheep, fence mending and making hay.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 6, 2007	1	13	83	3
April 29, 2007	1	19	79	1
April 22, 2007	3	11	60	26
April 15, 2007	2	19	59	20
April 8, 2007	1	29	66	4

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AWIS WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 6, 2007

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	85	42	61	3	0.10	-0.64	1
Warrenton	85	46	63	5	0.11	-0.76	1
Winchester 7 SE	83	46	61	5	0.06	-0.71	2
Dale Enterprises	85	45	60	3	0.31	-0.42	4
WESTERN							
Glasgow	92	47	63	4	0.62	-0.16	3
Roanoke AP	92	51	66	6	0.69	-0.20	2
Waynesboro	88	46	61	5	0.82	0.03	2
Staunton AG	86	44	61	5	1.34	0.55	4
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	88	44	64	3	0.75	-0.27	3
Piedmont Res ST	87	48	64	5	0.44	-0.49	4
Bremo Bluff	92	46	67	8	0.28	-0.54	3
Richmond AP	92	48	66	4	1.26	0.46	3
EASTERN							
Eastville	85	49	63	2	1.18	0.51	3
Wallops Island	84	48	63	2	0.68	0.03	2
Williamsburg	89	46	62	0	0.96	0.06	5
Keysville	90	48	64	5	1.08	0.28	3
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	86	44	60	6	1.19	0.28	4
Wytheville	84	40	58	3	0.88	-0.01	3
Saltville	88	41	62	5	0.76	-0.22	4
Richlands	84	41	61	9	1.92	0.95	4
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	91	46	63	4	0.74	-0.31	4
Danville AG	94	50	66	4	0.14	-0.68	2
Chatham	89	42	62	4	0.30	-0.61	4
Martinsville	90	40	62	3	0.44	-0.47	4
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	90	52	66	4	1.29	0.49	3
Oceana	90	50	66	5	1.03	0.22	3
Emporia	89	50	65	5	1.20	0.44	3
Newport News	89	48	65	3	1.40	0.60	3

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

WEATHER & CROPS

Week Of April 30 – May 6, 2007

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	0	6	33	55	6
Livestock	0	3	20	67	10
Other Hay	1	14	51	30	4
Alfalfa Hay	0	15	43	39	3
Corn	0	1	29	64	6
Winter Wheat	1	4	28	62	5
Barley	1	7	33	55	4
Summer Potatoes	0	0	40	60	0
All Apples	3	4	32	61	0
Peaches	53	35	9	3	0
Grapes	0	13	57	30	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	77	60	71	66
Corn Emerged	52	20	47	41
Soybeans Planted	8	3	10	7
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	35	25	28	20
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Transplanted	6	2	3	6
Peanuts Planted	15	7	28	22
Cotton Planted	42	22	57	51
Summer Potatoes Planted	95	90	NA	NA

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

EASTERN
ESSEX (Keith Balderson)
 Corn planting is winding down. Corn emergence and growth have been slow due to cool conditions, but emergence seems to be good with only very limited acres needing to be replanted at this point. Farmers were busy scouting small grains for insects and disease. To date, pest pressure has been low. There is a wide range in the amount of freeze injury in small grain crops due to differences in the planting date, variety, and elevation within fields. We expect a relatively wide range in small grain yields this year.

MIDDLESEX (Moore)
 More rain fell this week that will do wonders for corn emergence and growth. Corn planting continues in areas with the high water table. There have been isolated cases of cutworm and armyworm problems. Wheat has just about all headed. Scouting continues for insects and diseases. Some fields have been sprayed for disease. There are significant amounts of Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus in some fields. BYDV is vectored by aphids in the fall and/or early spring. Farm activities include corn planting, field prep for soybeans, scouting small grains, planting vegetables, and hay making.

CENTRAL
CAMPBELL (Scott Reiter)
 The hay crop looks disappointing. Orchardgrass and fescue are in the boot through early heading stage but growth is only about knee high or less. Many growers are expecting about 50-60% of normal yields again this spring. Some wheat, rye, and orchardgrass was cut last weekend and baled on Tuesday and Wednesday. Rain showers on Thursday should help corn and soybean planting to resume with improved soil conditions.