

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

CENTRAL

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Field work was very busy last week with corn planting, soybean planting and hay harvest in full swing. The windy conditions rapidly dried the soil surface and many farmers are hoping for some rain. Tobacco planting has slowed as several producers wait for rain. Wheat is drying down very rapidly and producers are starting to get their combines ready for the field.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain producers are harvesting barley and planting double-crop soybeans into barley stubble. Producers are also side-dressing corn with nitrogen. Corn crop is starting to green up and put on excellent growth after cool weather and excess rains hampered early growth. Some damage from slugs and army worms, especially in no-till fields has been reported. Hay producers have generally gotten a very good first cutting and are fertilizing hayfields and hoping for continued good moisture. Vegetable farmers are harvesting an excellent crop of strawberries, staking and fertilizing tomatoes, and preparing land for pumpkin planting.

HENRICO (Kilby D Majette)

Several farmers had to replant their corn due to poor germination cause by this year's cold - wet spring weather conditions.

SOUTHEASTERN

MECKLENBURG (C. Taylor Clarke Jr.)

Cool weather, especially cool nights has slowed tobacco development substantially. Transplanting was delayed due to several rains during the month compared to last spring. However no one is complaining. Warmer weather forecasted for the upcoming week should improve

tobacco development, soybean emergence etc. seem to be doing very well. Tobacco is looking good in the fields and most is growing well. Trees in yards are showing stress from last year's drought.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

The area is beginning to dry out. Stands of corn are good after much replanting due to excessive rain in April. Peanuts, cotton, and soybeans are emerging well. Barley harvest is underway.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Frequent rains have hampered most field work. Many acres of alfalfa have over-matured waiting on suitable curing weather for first cutting. Last weekend brought the best curing weather we have seen this spring. A lot of hay being cut this week. Soybean planting has resumed since last week's 1/2 to 1-inch rain. Corn crop maturity is behind schedule at this point. Wheat is maturing nicely with adequate soil moisture. Strawberry season is extended this year due to favorable cool temperatures.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Warm weather is bringing the strawberry harvest to an end. It was an excellent crop but early season weekend rain showers kept many u-pickers away. A lot of fruit went un-harvested at that time.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Lots of hay being harvested - early reports estimated an average-high yield. Winter grains still being harvested and corn is beginning to be planted. Fruit crops are looking good so far, but need more rainfall than the brief showers we have been receiving. This need for precipitation is now becoming evident in pastures on marginal soils.

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**WEATHER
 &
 CROPS**



Week Of: May 26 – June 1, 2008

Number: 12

Released: June 2, 2008

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 1, 2008

Virginia experienced scattered showers, with heavier rains in the eastern part of the State. Days suitable for field work were 5.8. The majority of corn is in good to fair condition. Cool temperatures and lack of water in some areas have stunted corn growth and caused some yellowing. Most of this can be corrected with warmer weather and timely rains. The hay crop looks good as farmers complete their first cutting. The initial hay yields are favorable. Tobacco transplanting has slowed down as some farmers wait for rain. The majority of Virginia's tobacco is in good condition. Other farming activities included making hay, planting soybeans, side-dressing corn with nitrogen, harvesting strawberries, and attending Grain Field Day.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 1, 2008	1	16	65	18
May 25, 2008	0	10	62	28
May 18, 2008	0	0	62	38
May 11, 2008	1	9	62	28
May 4, 2008	1	10	74	15



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	3	26	57	13
Livestock	1	2	16	68	13
Hay, Other	1	3	23	57	16
Hay, Alfalfa	0	0	22	63	15
Corn	0	3	31	54	12
Winter Wheat	1	3	17	57	22
Barley	0	1	20	69	10
Tobacco, Flue Cured	0	0	15	60	25
Tobacco, Burley	0	0	45	55	0
Tobacco, Fire-cured	0	0	43	57	0
Peanuts	0	0	5	91	4
Cotton	0	0	23	53	24
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	30	45	25
Apples, All	0	0	21	74	5
Peaches	0	1	31	62	6
Grapes	0	1	7	90	2
Oats	0	2	10	67	21

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	95	90	98	96
Corn Emerged	82	78	89	85
Soybeans Planted	33	23	43	41
Soybeans Emerged	21	9	30	27
Winter Wheat Harvested	2	1	3	3
Barley Harvested	10	7	8	11
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	93	89	100	95
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	62	43	75	61
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	60	47	100	82
Peanuts Planted	95	76	98	93

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF May 25- 31, 2008													
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 31	Mar. 1 to May 31 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	80	53	87	40	66	-1	799	895	0.02	NA	NA	14.08	-3.97
Norfolk	81	56	89	46	68	-2	943	966	0.78	NA	NA	17.17	-1.29
Richmond	83	57	91	47	70	1	989	1007	0.02	NA	NA	21.30	3.56
Roanoke	82	58	87	49	70	2	865	NA	0.44	NA	NA	12.12	-5.96
Wash/Dulles	82	55	85	43	69	3	732	NA	0.58	NA	NA	21.75	4.89

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (500)); where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. * Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. NA = not available. T=trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

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EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Potato crop could be one of the best we have had in recent years. Wheat crop starting to turn color. Look's very good. Corn crop off to a good start but needs some warm weather. Nights have been very cool and it has been wet resulting in some yellowing, purple coloring and a little bite of stunting. Soybean planting will pick up dramatically this coming week if weather forecast for good weather holds up. Growers stringing tomatoes, applying potash for soybeans and some side dressing of corn with nitrogen. Growers also attended Sall Grain Field day at Research Station At Painter this past week.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn is yellow and stunted, but will get better with side dress nitrogen and warmer weather. Some slug and grub damage around. Some replanting continues and even some first planting of corn still going on. Soybean planting is in full swing. Barley and wheat are drying down quickly and barley harvest will begin next week. Haymaking is great and first cutting harvest is about over. Watermelon and cantaloupe planting began this week. Sweet potatoes will be set out soon.

NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)

Weekend rains brought needed relief to dry corn fields, but the 1.5 to 4 or more inches of rain lodged a significant portion of the wheat crop. This will likely slow wheat harvest when it begins, and possibly reduce grain quality. Farmers last week were busy side dressing corn and preparing combines for small grain harvest. Many were also planting full-season soybeans. Most replanting of slug-damaged corn has been accomplished

WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

Dryer during week which allowed some more soybeans to be planted and some more hay to be cut and baled. Corn side dressing progressed. Violent storms on Saturday and Sunday lodged more of the barley and wheat crops which will make harvest difficult. Vegetable planting and harvest of early crops continue. There are a few strawberries left. Corn is looking a little better with the warmer temperatures.

WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

Showers came early in the week but field work resumed as drying conditions took hold mid week on. Corn sidedressing was done on some fields. Corn growth is slow and plants are yellow due to cold temps. Some fields are being damaged by slugs and are being treated, and in some cases, being replanted due to slug damage. Soybeans are going in the ground. Lots of hay cut mid week as it looked like dry conditions would hold through the weekend. Vegetable planting and harvest of early crops continue.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Hay making started. Corn ground finally suitable to plant. Light frost on Thursday morning appeared not to have damaged any plants other than slowing growth.

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Cool temperatures have slowed corn growth. Rain would be nice as soil moisture is continuing to decrease. Pasture quality has decreased as grasses reach maturity. Hay production is moving along well. Grasses are losing quality every day. Most small grain harvested for forage is complete.

SOUTHERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Lack of rain and cooler than normal temperatures seems to have slowed pasture and meadow growth substantially. This past week, two days of rain equaling almost 3/4 of an inch of precipitation, may give some temporary relief. Hay yields are still suffering from last year, with most farmers reporting shortages in the 1/4 to 1/3 range. Vegetable crops continue on strong, with some micronutrient deficiencies showing up in early planted half runner beans.

NORTHERN

ROCKINGHAM (Amber D. Vallotton)

Slug pressure continues to be a major challenge in no-till fields with heavy residue. In a plot in the northern part of the county, slug numbers were between 10 to 30 slugs captured using baited attractant traps. Newly emerged corn showed excessive rasping damage in these plots. Plants can often outgrow some slug feeding, but with high slug numbers such as described above during the vulnerable new seedling stage, molluscicides such as metaldehyde should be used for controlling. Application timing and environmental conditions are crucial to understand when applying in order to get the best control. Local extension can be contacted for further details