



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
P.O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
Phone (804) 771-2493  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

# WEATHER & CROPS



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



**Week of: June 26 –July 2, 2006**

**Number: 17**

**Released: July 3, 2006**

## CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 2, 2006

Rain was welcomed across the Commonwealth this week, allowing for significant growth in most row crops, pastures, and hay fields. Days suitable for field work were 2.9. Average rainfall across the state was above normal at 3.56 inches. The average temperature was 74 degrees, which is normal for this time of year. Soil moisture levels are improving due to this week's rainfall. Heavy rains caused concern in some areas, flooding some fields and increasing disease pressure for many crops. Pastures are slowly recovering from previous dry conditions, and a second cutting of hay is showing more promise due to better moisture conditions. Corn fields are also showing signs of recovery. The tobacco crop responded well to the increase in moisture. Small grain harvest is almost complete with exceptional wheat yields and test weights reported by producers. Wheat and barley that remain in the field continue to suffer in quality due to the rain. Sweet corn harvest is underway, tomato producers are preparing for harvest, and potato producers began harvesting earlier than usual this year. Good potato yields have been reported. Other activities this week included scouting fields for weeds and insect damage, repairing equipment, and completing paperwork when the rain prevented field work.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 4, 2006	9	40	51	0
June 11, 2006	14	45	41	0
June 18, 2006	17	35	46	2
June 25, 2006	9	25	56	10
July 2, 2006	1	15	66	18

#### IN THIS REPORT:

AWIS Weather Table	pg 2
Crop Condition Percent	pg 3
Crop Progress Percent, with comparisons	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3,4

## WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 2, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from	TOTAL	Departure from	Days
<b>NORTHERN</b>							
Woodstock	84	56	71	-3	4.73	3.94	5
Warrenton	86	59	73	0	5.33	4.49	5
Winchester 7 SE	85	56	73	0	5.17	4.26	4
Dale Enterprises	84	55	70	-4	4.37	3.66	4
<b>WESTERN</b>							
Glasgow	87	56	74	0	4.92	4.15	4
Roanoke AP	87	60	74	-1	6.7	5.93	4
Waynesboro	85	55	72	1	4.15	3.5	5
Staunton AG	83	56	71	-2	5.74	5.09	4
<b>CENTRAL</b>							
Charlottesville	86	58	74	-2	3.59	2.69	4
Piedmont Res ST	86	60	74	0	2.41	1.57	4
Bremo Bluff	91	54	75	1	3.18	2.41	4
Richmond AP	90	64	78	2	4.25	3.29	4
<b>EASTERN</b>							
Eastville	86	63	76	0	2.6	1.83	4
Wallops Island	86	65	76	0	2.71	2.03	3
Williamsburg	93	63	78	3	1.79	0.79	3
Keysville	93	59	78	4	1.3	0.46	3
<b>SOUTHWESTERN</b>							
Blacksburg AG	83	53	69	0	5.14	4.3	3
Wytheville	82	51	68	-2	3.6	2.8	3
Saltville	86	55	70	0	1	0.02	4
Richlands	84	54	69	4	1.12	0.14	4
<b>SOUTHERN</b>							
Stuart	87	59	74	2	4.02	2.94	4
Danville AG	91	60	76	-1	2.11	1.2	4
Chatham	86	55	73	-1	2.92	2.04	5
Martinsville	86	56	72	-2	6.12	5.12	4
<b>SOUTHEASTERN</b>							
Norfolk VA	87	66	77	2	3.43	2.43	4
Oceana	88	64	78	2	4.4	3.5	4
Emporia	89	64	77	4	0.8	-0.11	3
Newport News	89	63	79	3	2.14	1.14	3

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

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

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	5	13	36	40	6
Livestock	2	7	25	55	11
Other Hay	10	20	38	28	4
Alfalfa Hay	6	16	29	41	8
Corn	1	5	24	48	22
Soybeans	0	4	22	58	16
Winter Wheat	0	7	27	43	23
Flue-cured Tobacco	2	9	29	55	5
Burley Tobacco	1	1	12	54	32
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	3	13	46	37	1
Peanuts	0	0	20	80	0
Cotton	0	16	26	51	7
All Apples	0	0	69	31	0
Peaches	0	11	40	48	1
Grapes	0	1	12	85	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	35	13	15	23
Soybeans Planted	78	72	84	81
Soybeans Emerged	69	59	74	71
Winter Wheat Harvested	54	44	61	66
Barley Harvested	93	87	92	93
Peanuts Pegged	20	10	20	22
Cotton Squaring	55	35	26	56
Summer Potatoes Harvested	15	5	3	19

### REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

#### CULPEPER COUNTY (Carl Stafford):

We experienced a wide variation in rainfall amounts over the last week to 10 days ranging from 3 to 6 inches. The county saw significant growth response in all living plants, row crops in particular followed by pastures. Remaining barley and wheat quality continues to suffer due to rain.

#### RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY (Kenner Love):

Producers in the county are harvesting peaches and cherries.

#### MADISON COUNTY (Brad Jarvis):

Madison farmers reported between 4" - 6" of rain over the past week. Some reported slight flooding on crop fields in bottomland, but water receded quickly with some field pooling and little long term crop damage.

#### CUMBERLAND COUNTY (David Smith):

Hay changes are a direct result of the recent rains; however, past yields were only 50% of what they ordinarily have been. All crops benefited greatly from the almost 2 inches of rain received this past week.

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, *cont.***

**ROCKINGHAM COUNTY (John Welsh):**

Rainfall this week ranged from 5 to 15 inches. Heavy rainfall did cause moderate lodging in un-harvested small grains. Crops in flooded areas are showing some water damage. Vegetable growers are reporting some plant attrition from saturated top soils. Pastures are slow recovering as many of them were overgrazed in previous weeks.

**ORANGE COUNTY (Steve Hopkins):**

3 to 5 inches of rain with no flooding improved crop and pasture conditions. Barley yields were better than expected, but straw yields were very low.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):**

Ample rain this week kept combines and soybean planters idle for most of the week. Harvest and double crop bean planting picked back up at the week's end. Wheat harvest has been exceptional, but rain will decrease test weight and quality. Producers are scouting fields for weeds, insect damage, or diseases in soybeans and corn. Some soybean problems recently have included stem cankers due to the wet weather, thrips and leafhopper damage, and nematodes. Much of the corn is tasselling and some is silking. Pollination will begin soon. One or two more timely rains will make for an excellent corn crop. Sweet corn looks very good with excellent chances for a good crop. Excess rainfall adversely affected many of the vegetables due to increased disease pressures.

**BLAND COUNTY (Jim Atwell):**

Most areas received between 3-5 inches of rain last week. Much of this rain ran off, but topsoil moisture levels are up.

**WYTHE COUNTY (Joseph W. Massey):**

Locally, heavy downpours on multiple days has brought relief from drought conditions, along with some localized small stream flooding. Reported damage was minimal. Some crop

fields did wash to some extent, but major damage was not reported. Some areas received rainfall in excess of 4 inches over the past several days. Pastures and hay fields, along with corn fields are already showing signs of recovery.

**HALIFAX COUNTY (Traci Talley):**

On Monday and Tuesday of this week the county received much needed rains. The amounts did vary greatly throughout the county. Some areas received as much as 6 inches over the two day span while other areas only received as little as 2 tenths over two days. The majority of the county is faring much better with the rain and cooler temperatures. The tobacco crops have really flourished. Most of the crop will be in top by mid next week. Pastures and hay fields are showing a tremendous green-up.

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence, Jr.):**

1/2 to 3 inches of rain this week has saturated fields already retaining moisture from tropical storm Alberto. Fields are now soggy, but there is no standing water in most places. Ditches are full, and the ground is fully charged with water. Corn is unaffected, perhaps a bumper crop in the making. There has been very little replanting of soybeans yet, mostly spot replanting. Most of wheat crop is in with exceptional yields and test weight this year. Still 500-800 acres remain to be harvested. Most field work has come to a halt till field conditions dry. Many acres of double crop soybeans are to be planted and sprayed. 200 acres of white potatoes may be lost if not dug next week. Another 200 acres will be ready the following week. Hot temperatures next week and wet fields will promote quick rotting of the crop. Sweet corn harvest is underway and spraying for corn-earworms in later planted sweet corn is also a priority now.