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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: June 27, 2010**

**Number: 16**

**Released: June 28, 2010**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 27, 2010

Another week of dry weather allowed producers to continue with their fieldwork. As dry weather persists, most crops across the Commonwealth are starting to show the signs of stress. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.5. The moisture conditions are past critical in many areas and the soil is drying out quickly. Pastures and hay crops have browned out leading some counties to consider seeking drought declarations from the Governor. Many corn fields are showing severe signs of drought stress and yields will be greatly depressed without substantial rainfall within the next week. Apple and pear trees have taken a heavy hit from fire blight in some places.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 30, 2010	2	16	75	7
June 6, 2010	2	15	75	8
June 13, 2010	2	27	66	5
June 20, 2010	6	36	56	2
June 27, 2010	29	46	25	0

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

<b>CROP CONDITION PERCENT</b>					
<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Pasture	8	22	41	27	2
Livestock	1	3	23	62	11
Hay, Other	7	20	35	35	3
Hay, Alfalfa	1	8	28	55	8
Corn	7	22	40	27	4
Soybeans	5	15	54	24	2
Winter Wheat	1	4	40	53	2
Tobacco, Flue-cured	1	24	36	29	10
Tobacco, Burley	0	3	12	80	5
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	0	19	44	33	4
Peanuts	0	0	33	67	0
Cotton	0	0	41	53	6
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	25	75	0
Apples, All	13	7	44	30	6
Peaches	3	2	30	53	12
Grapes	0	0	56	24	20
Oats	0	7	45	48	0

<b>CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS</b>				
<b>Crop</b>	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>5 Year Avg.</b>
Corn Silked	42	14	16	15
Soybeans Planted	86	74	80	77
Soybeans Emerged	71	59	68	66
Winter Wheat Harvested	79	43	59	54
Barley Harvested	92	82	81	87
Peanuts Pegged	4	2	15	17
Cotton Squaring	14	2	23	23
Cotton Setting Bolls	4	0	0	0
Summer Potatoes Harvested	10	N/A	4	9

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 27, 2010**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to June 26	Mar. 1 to June 26 Normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	91	67	95	62	79	7	1721	1427	0.00	3.13	-0.06	22.85	1.70
Norfolk	92	76	99	74	84	8	1939	1553	1.70	3.75	0.63	23.39	1.74
Richmond	97	73	102	70	85	10	1978	1571	0.00	0.39	-2.61	17.19	-3.52
Roanoke	92	68	94	64	80	7	1805	NA	0.14	1.28	-1.84	18.62	-2.53
Wash/Dulles	92	67	97	65	80	8	1731	NA	0.00	0.53	-3.00	17.15	-3.26

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

### NORTHERN

#### **CLARKE (Jacob Grove)**

Extreme heat and lack of showers have dried out crops and ground quickly. A late first cutting of hay is being made without rain damage. Corn leaves are starting to roll in drier sections of fields.

#### **FAIRFAX (Adria Bordas)**

It has been extremely hot and humid this week.

#### **PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)**

Extreme heat conditions; all week in the 90s.

#### **ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)**

Dry and hot weather continues to be the dominant concern of most farmers. Almost all farms that are able to irrigate have been doing so in earnest over the past several weeks. Folks have started feeding nominal amounts of hay to supplement short pasture inventories.

### WESTERN

#### **HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

The weather has been hot and dry with some spotty thundershowers.

### EASTERN

#### **ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Extreme heat and a lack of rain took a severe toll on corn, soybeans, pastures, and hay crops. The corn crop sustained heavy losses during the week. Many double crop soybean fields have been planted and not emerged due to a lack of moisture. Some farmers are feeding winter feed supplies as pasture growth is at a standstill. Farmers completed the wheat harvest with mostly disappointing results.

#### **MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

It is getting dry. The lack of moisture has taken a huge affect on corn. Wheat was hurt especially on droughty soils. Soybean planting continues. Sweet corn will be ready this weekend for some.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### **MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)**

The conditions have been hot and dry. All areas and crops need soaking rains soon. Most of the first cutting of hay is done, with average or better yields. Corn is looking very good right now. Some vegetable crops not getting pollinated due to high daytime heat and little change at night.

#### **SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Strong, localized thunderstorms hit most afternoons this past week, with temperatures in the low to mid 90's. Most pastures are beginning to show signs of moisture stress with a yellowish, burned appearance. Alfalfa has come on strong and second cutting looks like yields will be good. Vegetable crops are still strong, with some peppers suffering aborted blooms from the heat. Cattle and sheep producers are still enjoying higher prices. Apple and pear trees have taken a heavy hit from fire blight.

### CENTRAL

#### **AMELIA (Joan D Poore)**

A very hot and dry week. The lack of rain for the past several weeks has been reducing production of spring planted crops, but with the very high temperatures this past week, production loss is certainly evident.

#### **CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Moisture conditions are past critical. There has been irrevocable damage to the corn crop due to the hot, dry weather. Severe stunting and premature tasseling is the norm. We have probably lost 50% of the dry land corn crop. Pastures and hay crops have "browned out". We will be seeking a drought declaration from the Governor. Irrigated crops are looking good. Blueberry season is winding down; the crop was a good one. Irrigated summer vegetables are looking good. Everything else is in severe need of water. Ponds and creeks are running low.

#### **CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)**

Even though some areas received 4 to 5 inches of rain just a couple of weeks ago, the heat has absorbed all of that and more. The spring planted crops have suffered from the extremely heat this past week, affecting potential production.

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## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

### CENTRAL (continued)

#### FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

The County is becoming extremely dry, extremely fast. Hay fields are averaging 50% yield 1st cutting compared to 2009. Without adequate rain, 2nd cutting is at risk. Pastures are suffering, and corn is rolling up due to current dry conditions.

#### HANOVER (Jim Tate)

It has been hot and dry over the last three weeks. Corn has gone from beautiful and promising to rolled and fired and suffering badly. Record heat with a hot breeze and no moisture has just about done in the corn crop. Tasseling is well under way and no moisture over a widespread area and corn looks pitiful. Pastures are dry. Rain is needed badly. This year is on pace to be worse than 2002 which was the worst in recent memory. Reports have been that the wheat yield was surprisingly near average. Most had expected it to be far below average due to poor stands coming out of the horrible wet winter and no opportunity for proper fertility management.

#### NELSON (Michael Lachance)

There is still some hay being made. No crop damage reported from scattered thunderstorms.

#### POWHATAN (Eric Bowen)

Several days this week reached over 100 degrees. High temperatures and a lack of rainfall are causing crop stress. Corn is tasseling. Fruits and grapes diseases are being reported such as downey mildew and black rot.

#### ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Scorching heat continues to draw any available moisture from the ground. One more week without rainfall and we will be in an extremely critical situation. All crops have stop growing and are in survival mode. This includes all row crops, alfalfa, and grass hay. Pastures are toast for the most part and livestock are beginning to feed on supplemental hay. This will make for a long winter, as we already are in short supplies of feed. Summer annuals that were planted two weeks ago to offset poor hay yields have not even germinated at this point. Those planted earlier have not grown to any degree. The first cutting hay harvest was off in yields by 20-60%. Those that chose not to fertilize in the spring have certainly suffered.

#### SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Hot dry conditions are hurting crop growth. Corn yield are in danger of being well below normal, if no rain occurs in the next week. The above normal temperatures are stressful to the livestock in the county.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Most of the small grains are in. Some had crops planted directly into poor stands. No rain this week has proven stressful for livestock, crops and producers. Irrigation is set up and going on tobacco and some vegetable and fruit operations. Cool season grass is now dormant and some warm season grass is in need of some rain.

#### PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

One week of hot and dry weather is taking a toll on crops especially corn. Corn is showing severe signs of drought stress with the worst fields twisting leaves by mid-morning. Corn yields will be greatly depressed without substantial rainfall within the next week. Pastures are starting to turn brown and growth has stopped. Wheat harvest finished quickly this week with the reduced acreage, lower yields, and dry conditions. The last double crop soybeans are being planted with marginal moisture for germination

#### SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Soil moisture is very low. Corn is suffering from lack of moisture. Some late beans are also beginning to suffer. Pastures are beginning to wear down and ranchers will be beginning to supplement feeding with hay. Lack of rain is beginning to affect cotton, lower leaves beginning to yellow. Peanuts are still holding Okay. The entire county is in severe need of rain.

#### SURRY (Glenn Slade)

The County needs rain bad. With days in triple digits soil moisture is once again getting short. Some of the earlier planted corn is really suffering and yields will be cut. Cotton and peanuts are holding up, but late planted soybeans need moisture for germination.



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