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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: June 16, 2013**

**Number: 15**

**Released: June 17, 2013**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR JUNE 16, 2013

It was another wet week for the Old Dominion. Scattered showers and heavy storms brought excessive rainfall; some counties in the east and southeast claimed 10 inches of rain over the past two weeks. Winds associated with the storm downed trees and knocked out power lines. In some places, the wind laid down small grains, but overall the majority of small grains are in good condition. Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.8. The small grain harvest progresses slowly due to the wet weather. This in turn has delayed the double crop soybean plantings. Other farming activities for the week included side-dressing corn, preparing to top tobacco, tending to the vegetable crops, and operating Farmer's Markets.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 16, 2013	1	1	64	34
June 9, 2013	0	1	57	42
June 2, 2013	0	12	77	11
May 26, 2013	0	2	80	18
May 19, 2013	0	2	74	24

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 16, 2013	0	1	71	28
June 9, 2013	0	3	74	23
June 2, 2013	0	8	88	4
May 26, 2013	0	3	87	10
May 19, 2013	0	3	82	15

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<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	0	1	13	67	19
Livestock	1	1	14	63	22
Hay, Other	1	5	17	59	18
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	13	62	24
Corn	1	2	15	60	22
Soybeans	1	2	15	74	8
Winter Wheat	0	2	16	69	13
Oats	0	0	8	84	8
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	0	0	19	61	20
Tobacco, Burley	0	1	16	59	24
Tobacco, Dark Fire Cured	0	0	17	77	6
Peanuts	5	9	17	66	3
Cotton	0	14	16	67	3
Apples, All	0	0	18	79	3
Peaches	0	0	8	87	5
Grapes	0	6	0	92	2
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	5	93	2

<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 Emerged	97	92	97	98
Corn Silked	0	0	2	6
Winter Wheat Harvested	10	7	53	32
Soybean Planted	59	54	75	65
Soybean Emerged	49	38	58	51
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	71	67	97	95
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	100	93	100	100
Cotton Squaring	0	0	33	13
Potatoes, Summer Harvested	0	0	18	4

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 16, 2013**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to June 15	Mar. 1 to June 15 Norm	Last Week	Since June. 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	85	62	91	53	74	4	1,214	1,186	1.04	5.13	3.32	25.57	5.75
Norfolk	85	67	96	61	76	3	1,346	1,284	1.11	1.93	0.16	19.35	-0.80
Richmond	87	66	95	59	77	5	1,374	1,313	0.96	4.39	2.65	23.27	3.72
Roanoke	85	63	91	57	74	3	1,214	na	1.14	4.04	2.19	24.58	4.76
Wash/Dulles	83	64	89	57	73	4	1,145	na	1.47	3.87	1.75	17.86	-1.14

\* 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

##### **CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)**

Heavy rains cause flooding, damage crops, cut barley and wheat quality and yield.

##### **FAIRFAX**

Extreme storms and excessive moisture in soil and plant materials.

##### **FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)**

Frederick has had over 3 inches of rain this week. We had high winds yesterday and thunderstorms. Ground is wet and may have some replanting of corn and beans. Quality of hay may be affected.

crop could be delayed due to late harvest of wheat. Ground moisture has not been this good in years.

##### **HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Weather and plenty of it. We have ranged from hot and muggy, to stormy to cool, and comfy this week with lots of rain and wind. Big storms in the middle of the week that dropped 1.2 inches of rain in less than 20 minutes at my house. Also dropped trees on my fence that I am still dealing with. Lots of wind. Corn is making good progress in catching up. You can almost see it growing. The storms lodged a lot of wheat, but wheat harvest has begun. I have not gotten any reports of yields yet.

#### CENTRAL

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

Monday evening storms (6-10-13) brought rain, but no damaging winds. Rain fall ranged from zero to .8 tenths for the county. Hot and humid Tues - Thurs, highs in 90's. Thursday pm, thunderstorms with very high winds on already soggy ground and more rain. Fallen trees and scattered leaves/branches, no reported damage of farm buildings or livestock. Lots of power outages. Wind blew some of the corn - to lean - but not blown over. Wheat and barley remains a concern with now more blown down. Barley and wheat is ripening stages for harvest, but much is still not quite ready. This will cause double crop soybeans to be behind schedule if small grain harvest is delayed.

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

Monday evening thunderstorms, rain, no wind. Hot & humid Tues - Thurs, evening thunderstorm Thursday with a lot of wind and rain. Fallen tree limbs and debris, no known livestock or crop damage. Soybean planting delayed due to the soggy ground and now further delayed. Concerns now is the wheat blowing down from the storms and with wet ground, could start to sprout. Double crop soybeans normally planted behind wheat

#### EASTERN

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

Two rain events during the week kept topsoil moisture in good shape. Some wind damage from the Thursday storms resulted in downed trees in some parts of the county, and some farmers were busy Friday cleaning up debris. No crop damage was reported. Farmers also continued harvesting barley and planting double crop soybeans, and a few started wheat harvest during the latter part of the week, but the crop has been slow to dry down.

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

Barley and wheat harvest are underway. Yields are about average with test weights at about average to slightly less. Heavy rains saturated ground over last weekend. More than 10 inches fell on some local areas leaving some small grains down and some corn and beans in standing water. Most haymaking is over for the first cutting. Soybean planting continues, as does side-dressing of corn. Folks might want to consider upping the rate a little on corn not yet side-dressed. Corn seems to have gone from knee high to chest high overnight. Vegetables look good but do not like the recent heavy rains. Things are growing pretty well especially corn due to recent humidity and warm nighttime temperatures.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Still getting rain making it difficult to dry first cutting hay. Plants are growing well. Most hay is getting over ripe.

### SOUTHERN

#### HENRY

Most farmers got their hay off the ground before rain hit. However, many had to leave some and then tether several days in order rot bail. The rest was left on the ground due to too much rain. The derecho on Thursday left trees down and caused delays in work.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Last week's weather lodged some small grains on the ground and will slow the combines in the fields as harvest progresses. Hay was being cut, raked and baled last week. Farmers Markets in the area have opened for business.

#### MECKLENBURG

Tobacco recovering from excessive rain from tropical storm and thunderstorms. Topping may begin in Brunswick by the end of week. Wheat harvest is beginning, with good weather will be under way in earnest by weekend. Kudzu bugs are widespread in soybeans, however most still below thresholds.

#### PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Rain showers lingered through early week and delayed field activities. Some areas of the county have received 10-14 inches of rain over the past 3 weeks. Combines moved across wheat fields where the soil was not too wet late in the week. Wheat moisture was high and yields were about average. More dry weather is needed now that wheat has mostly reached maturity for all but the latest varieties. Some late side-dress nitrogen to corn was finished. Herbicides were applied to soybeans as soil conditions allowed. Growers are still assessing soybean stand counts and making replant decisions. A few growers will need to touch up small areas with a 3rd planting.

### SOUTHAMPTON

More wet weather in the beginning of the week delayed field operations and wheat harvest

#### SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Rain, rain, rain go away. Growers are on the nervous seat as they watch a wheat crop sitting in the field and hope for no more rain any time soon. Some areas have received over 10 inches this past week and growers are concern about nitrogen losses to corn from soggy field conditions. Growers are ready to harvest wheat and double-crop soybeans.

#### VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

The rainfall we had did not hold up field work and the drying weather after enabled wheat harvest to get off to a good start. Most operations should be picking after this next rainy spell.

### WESTERN

#### BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)

Extremely wet conditions are making barley harvest nearly impossible. Heavy storms have laid down a lot of the standing barley and wheat. Pasture and hay is growing great but second cutting hay will be difficult to harvest if conditions continue to stay this wet.

#### HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Mostly good soaking rains over the past week with 3+ inches in all location. Some minimum wind damage from storms, mostly down trees.

#### ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Showers and thunderstorms Monday and then again on Thursday slowed field work but by now, most corn has been planted. All of Rockbridge received at least an inch of rain for the week, which benefitted established crops, hayfields that have already been harvested once, and pastures.