



NATIONAL  
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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



**Week Ending: July 14, 2013**

**Number: 19**

**Released: July 15, 2013**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR July 14, 2013

It was another wet week as heavy thunderstorms moved across the Old Dominion. Some areas experienced high winds and flooding. The wheat harvest was nearing completion, although well behind schedule. Days suitable for field work were 3.5. The constant rainfall was beneficial to early planted crops; however, in some low lying fields, crops were flooded. Farmers struggled to make timely applications of herbicides, fungicides, and fertilizers. Disease pressure, due to the excessive moisture, was present in the vegetable crop. Making hay was also difficult; the optimal time for a second cutting was quickly passing. Other farming activities include moving calves home to wean, topping tobacco, planting double crop soybeans, and harvesting peaches.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 14, 2013	0	0	57	43
July 7, 2013	1	1	65	33
June 30, 2013	1	2	68	29
June 23, 2013	0	3	68	29
June 16, 2013	1	1	64	34

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 14, 2013	0	1	63	36
July 7, 2013	0	5	68	27
June 30, 2013	0	2	78	20
June 23, 2013	0	3	75	22
June 16, 2013	0	1	71	28

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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	14	58	27
Livestock	0	1	10	57	32
Hay, Other	3	9	16	51	21
Hay, Alfalfa	1	6	18	53	22
Corn	1	2	10	51	36
Soybeans	0	1	17	66	16
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	0	0	10	65	25
Tobacco, Burley	1	2	37	57	3
Tobacco, Dark Fire Cured	0	0	9	86	5
Peanuts	0	3	20	75	2
Cotton	0	3	23	63	11
Apples, All	0	0	4	94	2
Peaches	0	4	13	73	10
Grapes	0	10	11	76	3

<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	69	49	67	67
Corn Dough	9	3	10	14
Winter Wheat Harvested	89	81	100	99
Soybean Planted	92	83	100	98
Soybean Emerged	84	77	97	92
Soybean Blooming	7	3	8	8
Cotton Squaring	80	60	86	76
Cotton Setting Bolls	0	0	10	19
Peanuts Pegged	41	21	61	55
Apples, Summer Harvested	2	1	22	16
Peaches Harvested	20	10	24	20
Potatoes, Summer Harvested	72	62	82	52

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 13, 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 July13	Mar. 1 to July 13 Norm	Last Week	Since June. 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	84	69	88	67	77	2	1916	1815	1.05	9.52	3.89	29.96	6.37
Norfolk	88	74	92	72	81	2	2142	1987	1.82	6.39	0.64	23.81	-0.48
Richmond	87	72	91	70	80	2	2149	1987	2.76	9.90	4.58	28.79	5.76
Roanoke	84	69	90	67	77	1	1925	na	4.65	17.33	12.02	37.87	14.50
Wash/Dulles	85	70	90	67	78	3	1875	na	5.05	10.42	4.85	24.41	2.02

\* 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.

**WESTERN**

**BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)**

TOO MUCH RAIN! Ground is saturated so any rain leads to flooding. Too wet to work in fields. Too wet to make hay that is over mature.

**CENTRAL**

**APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)**

Wheat harvest continuing at a slow pace. Fields becoming weedy with some sprouting. This will be a busy week with the drier forecast. Dark tobacco being topped.

**CAMPBELL**

Do to the weather pattern and plentiful rain, cattle farmers are smiling while crop farmers are struggling. Fields are too soft to get equipment in. Wheat is sprouting in the fields and high humidity and rains has made it difficult to harvest. I would say 30% of the soybeans have not been planted due to the weather. Double croppers are struggling to get them in the ground.

**CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)**

Ground still very wet from rains. Wheat is not 100% complete with harvest. Soybeans that are planted look good for most places, however in some are under water. They may come out when it dries up but will have to wait and see. An unusual July to be this wet in this area.

**HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Summer in Hawaii continues here in Hanover. The almost daily showers and the warm temperatures have everything growing. The everlasting wheat harvest is pretty much finished and most of the double crop beans are finally in the ground. Corn is beginning to tassel well; everywhere another indicator of how late the crops are

this year. Four inches of rain at the end of the week at my western Hanover home. It is now mid July and the June bugs are out in force at my house as well.

**PRINCE EDWARD (Jimmy Gantt)**

Frequent and heavy rainfall has prevented a small percentage of the wheat acreage from being harvested and double crop soybeans from being planted. Later planted corn, tobacco and soybeans have suffered spotty damage from excess moisture but over all these crops are still tracking above average.

**EASTERN**

**ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Widespread rainfall kept soil moisture in good shape. The corn crop looks very good, while much of the double crop soybean is behind in development due to delayed plantings. Activities for the week included applying fungicides to corn and applying herbicides to soybeans. Wet and humid conditions have increased disease pressure in vegetable crops.

**MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Rain halts wheat harvest and soybean planting again. Wheat quality is still falling. Folks are making planting decisions for wheat for fall 2013. Prices and aggravation of harvest may limit some acres. Corn looks good but spotty in fields. Yields will be very good to excellent in spots in fields, but some spots have been hurt due to rain and early cool conditions. Probably needs more nitrogen. Many are contemplating fungicide treatments on corn, but time is getting away from them. Some soybean emergence issues with excess moisture. Post application of herbicides on beans delayed. Producers push to get beans in to avoid crop insurance penalties. Moisture good, so taking the chances on the late planted beans. Vegetables do really not like the wet weather, but growing well. Pumpkins being planted. Sweet potatoes are spreading.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Second week of regular rain and flash flooding. Field work has stopped for 2 weeks now. Many have not been able to finish first cutting hay. Tobacco and corn look very good on upland sites, but terrible in lowland areas. Bringing calves home to wean has even been a challenge with such wet conditions.

### SOUTHERN

#### FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County is wet like many other counties in Virginia. A lot of farmers have yet to get wheat or triticale off the fields. Fields are wet making it hard to get in and plant anything behind the small grains. Several farmers still trying to finish planting corn and soybeans. Hay fields for the most part are looking good, a lot of growth, but farmers having a hard time getting on fields to cut hay and pick up, allowing for a lot of rot.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The rain has slowed small grain harvest. This prevented some double cropped soybeans plantings. The full season beans are growing and being scouted for kudzu bugs. We are also experiencing a millipede migration. Hay needs a second cutting or it will over mature in the field.

#### MECKLENBURG

Extremely wet conditions continue. Tobacco producers are topping with a few being to harvest. Wet conditions backing applying sucker control challenging. Areas had tobacco blown down in recent rains. Wheat harvest is creeping to conclusion with reports of some sprouting and low test weight. Wet conditions have reduced stands of soybeans planted behind wheat.

#### PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Growers made a big push to finish wheat harvest early in the week. Most growers have finished but several wetter fields are still left. Dockage for low test weight and sprouted kernels are normal now with the damp conditions. Some soybeans were planted when labor was available after finishing wheat harvest. Other activities have been limited by weather conditions. Some herbicide applications to soybeans and cotton have been made.

#### SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

The rain just keeps coming and there are a few acres of wheat still out, and soybean left to plant as well. Extra nitrogen is needed on cotton, and weed control in needed cotton and soybean fields. Sunny days will be a welcome sight.

### NORTHERN

#### FAUQUIER (Tim Mize)

Heavy Thunderstorms; local flooding with damage to fences and bottomland crops.

#### FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

We have had high humidity, temperatures in the 80-90's. Early peaches are out. Thunderstorms this week and some high winds.

#### ROCKINGHAM (Matthew Yancey)

Excessive heavy rains up to 7" in part of the county washed out some corn and soybean fields and have further delayed wheat and rye harvests and subsequent soybean planting. Mature corn and soybean looks very good thanks to the rains.