



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE



WEATHER & CROPS



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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR JULY 27, 2014

Virginia experienced diverse weather conditions this week. Most of the Commonwealth received one to two inches of rain; however, some areas received no rain this week and continued to suffer from drought-like conditions. Temperatures were seasonable for this time of year, with the average in the mid to upper 70s. Northampton County reported a tornado that significantly damaged over 2,200 acres of crops. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.4. Crop conditions varied depending on the location and timing of rain. The majority of Virginia's corn was in good to excellent condition, but is in poorer condition when compared to last year. The majority of Virginia's soybeans was in good to excellent condition, but is also in poorer condition when compared to last year. Farming activities for the week included scouting for insects, harvesting and selling vegetables, applying post-emergency herbicides and micronutrients, and beginning the flue-cured tobacco harvest.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 27, 2014	8	25	62	5
July 20, 2014	11	33	55	1
July 13, 2014	13	31	53	3
July 6, 2014	13	31	53	3

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 27, 2014	6	33	60	1
July 20, 2014	13	33	51	3
July 13, 2014	9	30	59	2
July 6, 2014	11	25	60	4

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Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service

Virginia Tech

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	1	8	23	57	11
Soybeans	0	3	24	66	7
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	3	9	38	31	19
Tobacco, Fire-Cured	2	9	45	37	7
Tobacco, Burley	1	3	29	59	8
Cotton	0	0	1	96	3
Peanuts	0	0	2	90	8
Livestock	1	4	23	56	16
Pasture and Range	8	15	35	38	4
Hay, Alfalfa	1	7	36	50	6
Hay, Other	3	19	35	39	4
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	0	99	1
Apples, All	0	1	38	60	1
Grapes, All	1	9	42	41	7
Peaches	15	17	29	38	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Cotton Squaring	91	86	85	90
Cotton Setting Bolls	50	24	29	49
Peanuts Pegging	77	51	70	73
Corn Silking	85	75	84	87
Corn Dough	54	26	44	46
Corn Dented	17	6	6	14
Soybeans Emerged	96	92	96	99
Soybeans Blooming	40	23	33	38
Soybeans Setting Pods	16	5	6	10
Flue-Cured Tobacco Cut	2	n/a	7	n/a
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	92	97	n/a
Potatoes Summer Harvested	75	50	88	86
All Apples Harvested	15	2	n/a	n/a
Peaches Harvested	38	27	44	42

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING July 27, 2014

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar 1. To July 26	Mar. 1 to July 25 Norm	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	85	66	94	65	75	0	2315	2145	3.89	8.01	0.53	29.03	3.57
Norfolk	84	71	91	67	78	-1	2535	2347	2.39	9.78	1.83	29.41	2.92
Richmond	88	69	97	66	79	1	2588	2336	2.09	5.81	-1.54	21.85	-3.26
Roanoke	84	67	92	63	76	-1	2334	n/a	1.40	6.25	-0.77	21.83	-3.26
Wash/Dulles	84	65	93	56	75	-1	2080	n/a	0.06	6.64	-0.42	30.98	7.15

* 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)

Parts of Botetourt were sustaining off passing showers over the past few weeks. Other parts of the county were not getting showers and had already been very dry. Very little of the county experienced any rain this week and the majority of the county is very dry. Forecast does not look promising for next 5 days.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

Thunderstorms, most significantly on Wednesday, helped maintain topsoil moisture across most of Rockbridge. Most corn is pollinating now and moderate temperatures combined with adequate soil moisture are providing near ideal conditions for corn pollination. Pasture conditions remain good and most hayfields are looking promising for a second or third cutting.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan Poore)

Thursday evening, we had a widespread thunderstorm that covered the county and surrounding counties. Reports of 1/2 inch to over 3 inches in some areas. Much needed rain. Some wind, but not damaging. Temperatures have not been soaring so that has been beneficial to the crops and livestock.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Farmers were happy to get rain last week. Hopefully it will continue to come. The double crop soybeans are really showing the impact of the dry weather. Early corn is very short in height.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Crops remain unchanged in condition; several small rains (<.2 inch apiece) have kept the crops at status quo, but Caroline/King George County is still basically dry from past 2 months.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

We finally had a little rain with a better late than never caveat. It was also widely variable in amount; at my western Hanover home, we had nearly a half inch. Seemed like less rain at the courthouse area. I have not heard any reports about the eastern part of the county, but the Airport in nearby Henrico reported .99 inch. The rain did at least jump start pasture growth. I can tell because I spent the weekend mowing the lawn again. Also moved some of the neighbors cows on horseback and the cattle had good grass, both fescue and Bermuda were still green and growing and providing good forage. These well managed, dry, fall calving cows were fat and sassy.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rainfall during the week helped to restore topsoil moisture, but amounts were still fairly light in some parts of the county. The corn crop is maturing fast with much of the crop now dented. Soybeans will benefit from the rainfall. Activities included scouting crops for insects and diseases and other potential problems. We continue to receive a few reports of nematode problems in soybeans.

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

Much needed rains fell at week's end. Will help fill out corn and keeping soybeans thriving. We have been very lucky in the area. Enough rain to have at least an average crop. Prices could be better. Folks are finishing up with post emergent herbicides and many are including some micronutrients. Early soybeans beginning to bloom and make a few pods. Double crop soybeans beginning to rise out of straw. Corn earworm survey is completed. Not a lot found in this area, but producers should begin scouting early soybeans now for signs of small corn earworm larvae. Black light traps

(Continued – GLOUCESTER)

numbers have also been low. Corn producers are watching the crop to see if late season foliar diseases kick in. Soybeans overall, look good. Some folks getting a second cutting of hay. Vegetable harvest continues. Squash is abundant, and so are tomatoes. Cantaloupe harvest continues and quality seems good. Sweet potatoes vines are running and pumpkins are beginning to spread.

NORTHAMPTON (H.L. Kellam Jr.)

A tornado struck the cherrystone area in lower part of the county on July 24 causing significant damage to crops in the area due to wind and hail. 1125 acres of soybeans, 756 acres of corn, 350 acres of cotton, and 53 acres of grain sorghum were damaged.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

It is still very dry.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Damaging winds and hail came through portions of the county last night, with minor damages.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

The past week we had some showers that helped the crops. The corn is in tassel and silk, with hopefully good pollination, depending upon the weather. Double cropped soybeans are germinating as well. Folks are scouting crops. We have been getting calls about millipedes and pond weeds as well.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Recent showers have all major crops growing well. We just need a few more rains to make it through the summer.