

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

**SOUTHERN**

**PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe, Stephen Barts)**

Wet conditions have delayed tobacco transplanting. The quality of greenhouse transplants is quickly declining and they need to be set. Extra transplants are scarce. There has been a cutworm outbreak that has caused a lot of damage on new transplants. Corn planting is moving along. Winter wheat looks excellent. Hay and pasture land that was fertilized is in good condition, but rainy conditions have prevented much of the hay being harvested in a timely manner.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)**

Planting is in full gear, especially for soybeans, cotton and peanuts. Seed quality is good because germination is very good. Soil moisture has been good also and the wheat crop looks good with no diseases or insects.

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

Heavy rains halted field work on Friday. Ample soil moisture will aid corn that has already been planted as soon as skies clear. Additional rain would be a hindrance.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week Ending: May 17, 2009**

**Number: 10**

**Released: May 18, 2009**

**WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 17, 2009**

Planting operations resumed this week, as producers strived to complete corn planting and make headway with soybean, cotton and peanut plantings as well. Fieldwork was delayed in a few isolated areas due to persistent rain showers throughout the week. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.4. Grain producers have continued to scout fields. With increasing reports of powdery mildew in wheat and barley, chemical applications are on the rise. Wet conditions have delayed tobacco transplanting in some areas and the quality of greenhouse transplants are declining. Hay and pastureland still remain in good condition, although recent rainfall has prevented a timely hay harvest. As soon as fields are dry, harvest will get underway.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 17, 2009	0	1	74	25
May 10, 2009	0	0	64	36
May 3, 2009	1	11	75	13
April 26, 2009	0	6	86	8
April 19, 2009	0	6	84	10



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	2	18	59	21
Livestock	1	3	13	73	10
Hay, Other	0	2	27	55	16
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	23	60	16
Corn	0	0	28	64	8
Winter Wheat	1	5	22	59	13
Barley	0	0	14	74	12
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	20	77	3
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	7	40	53	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	20	50	30
Apples, All	0	0	40	54	6
Peaches	0	2	42	53	3
Grapes	0	1	14	83	2
Oats	0	1	12	86	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	80	65	83	84
Corn Emerged	63	45	68	62
Soybeans Planted	17	10	14	19
Soybeans Emerged	8	0	1	3
Winter Wheat Headed	90	63	98	52
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	62	25	62	74
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	10	1	20	14
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Transplanted	30	1	9	38
Peanuts Planted	54	22	23	49
Cotton Planted	62	40	49	77

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 17, 2009													
City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to May 16	Mar. 1 to May 16 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	74	53	82	41	63	1	685	635	3.32	12.32	2.99	16.59	0.64
Norfolk	74	57	80	48	66	1	798	681	0.67	10.67	1.32	13.75	-2.81
Richmond	76	55	85	46	66	2	778	730	0.04	9.99	0.83	12.22	-3.44
Roanoke	74	54	83	45	64	1	732	NA	1.41	10.96	1.35	14.91	-0.95
Wash/Dulles	75	54	83	41	64	3	620	NA	1.50	11.03	2.28	14.05	-0.58

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (500)); where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. \* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. NA = not available. T=trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

### REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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#### CENTRAL

##### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Pastures and hayfields are looking very good. As soon as we get some dry weather hay making will begin in earnest. Grain producers have been scouting for insects and disease. A lot of wheat and some barley have been sprayed for powdery mildew. Cereal leaf beetles and other insects have not been seen in threatening numbers in small grains. Full-season soybeans are being planted and farmers are preparing their equipment to harvest small grains. Vegetable farmers continue to plant tomatoes and other summer crops. Strawberry harvest has been good.

hard to find time between rains to make hay. Powdery mildew caused some problems for wheat and barley and many fields have been treated. Wheat and barley crop as a whole look good. Barley is beginning to turn color.

##### NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)

The cool, wet weather has led to increased disease pressure in small grain and slug feeding in corn. Growers spent much of the week applying fungicides to wheat and barley, and some began applications to control slugs in the corn crop.

#### SOUTHWESTERN

##### GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

A second week of daily showers and wet weather has postponed much field work. Corn planted before rains has emerged, while pasture and hay growth have slowed.

##### MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

After nearly 3 inches of rain in the past 3 weeks, some areas received more heavy rain, of 2 inches or more, early Friday morning causing localized flooding and erosion. Some fields still have small areas of standing water or are extremely muddy and unworkable. There has been minor lodging of winter grains, but the hay crop seems okay. There are some concerns over the prolonged extreme soil moisture for potato crops.

##### SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Rains have slacked and allowed some field cultivation, tobacco transplanting, and hay mowing.

##### TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

We have had a surplus of rain and some borderline flooding.

#### EASTERN

##### ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Continued rainfall has delayed field work. Tomatoes are staked and field preparation for the fall tomato crop is underway. There has been some cereal leaf beetle in wheat but not enough to spray for. Corn and soybean planting is underway. Snapbeans are planted and up. Farmers and custom applicators are applying herbicides, fertilizers and other types of chemicals based on scouting.

##### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn planting is finishing up. Lots of problems with soil insects and wet fields have caused some replanting. Field prep for soybeans continues. Soybean planting has been very slow getting started due to weather. Hay looks good, but it is still