



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS

Week Ending: May 16, 2010

Number: 10

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 16, 2010

Scattered amounts of rain across the Commonwealth offered some relief from last week dry conditions. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.5. Corn planted progress slowed due to the rainfall. In some areas of the state drought like conditions prevailed. Wheat and barley stands remained strong in spite of the dry weather conditions. There were no major signs of diseases but minor signs of drought stress on the crops. Hay cutting was in full progress with average to good yields.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 18, 2010	1	20	75	4
April 25, 2010	3	18	75	4
May 2, 2010	2	37	60	1
May 9, 2010	13	44	41	2
May 16, 2010	5	41	50	4

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	14	35	46	4
Livestock	1	4	32	52	11
Hay, Other	1	12	44	39	4
Hay, Alfalfa	1	2	33	50	14
Corn	0	0	29	61	10
Winter Wheat	1	5	39	52	3
Barley	1	4	42	50	3
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	38	40	22
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	76	17	7
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	25	75	0
Apples, All	0	0	60	32	8
Peaches	0	0	20	57	23
Grapes	0	1	20	59	20
Oats	0	0	62	38	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	86	82	78	82
Corn Emerged	70	65	60	61
Soybeans Planted	26	18	16	17
Soybeans Emerged	13	NA	7	2
Winter Wheat Headed	94	70	86	50
Flue Cured Tobacco Transplanted	74	57	57	67
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	21	13	9	10
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	35	17	26	28
Peanuts Planted	40	15	49	44
Cotton Planted	70	45	59	69
Oats Seeded	100	72	NA	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 16, 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 May 15	Mar. 1 to May 15 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	71	50	86	35	61	-1	792	619	0.90	9.04	-0.18	16.12	0.32
Norfolk	74	55	90	47	65	0	883	664	1.51	8.53	-0.64	16.55	0.00
Richmond	75	53	89	41	64	0	937	713	0.74	8.50	-0.54	14.92	-0.62
Roanoke	72	51	88	37	62	0	824	NA	0.53	5.91	-3.47	12.59	-3.14
Wash/Dulles	71	48	89	34	60	0	785	NA	0.21	5.42	-3.18	11.97	-2.45

* 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.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

It didn't take long for the topsoil to dry due to the windy conditions and just a couple of days of 20 degrees above normal temperatures. Temperatures have been up and down for the past 10 days. Producers have stopped their soybean planting until rainfall. A thunderstorm Wednesday evening gave the area scattered rainfall from .10 to .70 tenths.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Hay cutting is well under way. Farmers are disappointed with the yields of fescue, but seem to be happy regarding orchard grass. Dark tobacco farmers will start planting tobacco as soon as the soil dries following the weekend rainfall.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

More hay was cut and made this week, as dry weather predominated. Hay yields were generally average to good. Wheat and barley stands look good, in spite of very dry weather. Diseases and insects have not been a major problem, so far. Grain farmers are preparing to harvest barley, and planting some full season soybeans. We received about 0.3 inches of rain this past week, making planting conditions a little better.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Windy conditions have dried the topsoil considerably and taken away soil moisture. There has been good hay cutting and harvest weather. Wednesday evening thunderstorms only left a trace of rainfall in Chesterfield.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

The rain has been interfering with hay cutting.

ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)

Hay yields are around 50 percent. Some farmers are weaning calves early or selling calves due to poor pasture conditions and high feeder calf prices. Small grain chopping continue this past week and planting of double crop corn and beans will get going after the rain early the current week.

CENTRAL (continued)

POWHATAN (Eric Bowen)

Corn planting had ceased due to dry conditions but recent rainfalls have helped. Corn emergence has been good on planted fields. Hay harvest is well underway.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Most area farmers have started to plant soybeans. Much hay has been cut and harvested; reports indicate that yields are lower than normal. We had rain on Wednesday but not enough to offset the developing dry conditions.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Another dry week continued to deplete soil moisture. Corn growth slowed, wheat showed signs of dry weather stress, and many farmers stopped planting full season soybeans due to dry soils. White grub problems were reported in some corn fields and farmers are continuing to make hay.

MIDDLESEX (Moore)

Rain is greatly needed in this area. Barley and wheat are drying down. Barley looks okay but wheat is hurting especially in sandier soils and compacted areas. There is however, very little disease; test weight may not be a problem. Corn looks better since we had rain this week. There have been some problems with grubs and birds, but stands look good. Early bean planting continues for some and farmers are making plans for barley harvesting. Haymaking continues, with a good quality.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Beverly Cox)

Soil moisture is very short and is delaying further planting. There has been no significant rainfall for over 2 weeks now.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

NORTHERN

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Small amounts of rain came over the last few days offering a brief relief from our drought. National drought monitor map shows no drought conditions for Virginia (this should be updated.) Northern Piedmont data support drought conditions. Cumulative rainfall does not reflect our growing conditions.

LOUDOUN (Corey Childs)

Several grape producers experienced significant frost damage early in the week.

SOUTHEASTERN

MECKLENBURG(C Taylor Clark Jr)

There have been much needed rains in the area. Tobacco producers are using this time to replant tobacco fields that suffered stand loss due to dry conditions during and after transplanting. Tobacco transplants are in very short supply.

SOUTHAMPTON (John G Rudy)

We received much needed rain this past weekend. Field conditions have become much better and planting has resumed. Soybean, cotton, and peanut plantings are underway. There are also some beans and cotton up. Pastures are looking better and the recent rains will help. Some haymaking has started.

SOUTHEASTERN (continued)

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Recent showers got our planters back rolling, but we need more rain to get soil moisture levels back up and head off a drought. Hopefully we will get rain that is called for this week (May 17-20).

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Some much needed rain fell over the area giving us a little over a half inch of rain. The small grain crop really needed it. Growers can start back with peanut, cotton and soybean planting. So far plant stands look good even though we have had some dry weather early.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Much needed rain fell over the weekend. Corn, soybeans, and vegetable crops are responding after a couple of weeks of dry conditions. Strawberry growers enjoyed a second excellent sales weekend with lots of u-pickers harvesting the crop.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

A fairly dry but cooler week with some damaging frost to wine grapes and potatoes. The end of week brought much needed precipitation. Winter grains and some hay being harvested. Some corn planted and fruit crops are looking good.



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