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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: May 15, 2011**

**Number: 10**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 15, 2011

Showers and thunderstorms rolled through Virginia delaying critical field work but assisting with the much needed increase in soil moisture. Days suitable for field work were 4.7. In some areas of the state the weather was dry and breezy which was ideal for cutting hay. As pastures continue to green up livestock are benefiting greatly from the improvement. Some wheat and barley have been harvested for hay and haylage. Overall small grains continue to look good and the corn crop is off to a good start. Grubs, wireworms and some early diseases are evident in some fields and some corn has been replanted. In some areas cool conditions have slowed the planting of soybeans and rain has delayed tobacco planting in some areas. Cotton planting is almost complete and peanuts planting progressed. Vegetable growers continue to plant summer crops and harvesting of greens and strawberries is well underway. The barley crop has experienced some lodging but nothing above average.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 17, 2011	1	2	73	24
April 24, 2011	2	6	75	17
May 1, 2011	2	8	73	17
May 8, 2011	0	4	80	16
May 15, 2011	2	9	73	16

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 17, 2011	3	10	80	7
April 24, 2011	2	11	79	8
May 1, 2011	2	11	77	10
May 8, 2011	0	11	81	8
May 15, 2011	2	13	74	11

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Service**



**Virginia Tech**

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**Virginia State University**



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

<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	1	3	17	63	16
Livestock	1	4	17	58	20
Hay, Other	1	4	22	56	17
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	13	64	22
Corn	0	1	15	72	12
Winter Wheat	0	1	12	68	19
Barley	0	1	12	71	16
Oats	0	0	4	96	0
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	29	46	25
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	9	91	0
Summer Potatoes	0	0	50	50	0
Apples, All	0	0	32	68	0
Peaches	0	0	19	78	3
Grapes	0	0	22	68	10

<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 Planted	79	74	85	82
Corn Emerged	60	40	69	62
Flue Cured Tobacco Transplanted	50	20	72	62
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	11	8	20	11
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	30	18	32	23
Soybeans Planted	25	8	25	17
Soybeans Emerged	5	0	11	3
Winter Wheat Headed	92	64	91	54
Peanuts Planted	43	18	36	39
Oats for grain Seeded	77	57	96	N/A
Cotton Planted	75	46	66	65

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 15, 2011**

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 14	Mar. 1 to May 14 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	71	55	78	50	63	2	679	604	0.50	9.65	0.55	13.06	-2.67
Norfolk	72	54	81	50	63	-1	756	648	0.06	4.53	-4.53	10.41	-5.85
Richmond	74	54	78	50	64	0	773	697	1.80	10.01	1.08	14.57	-0.93
Roanoke	73	57	80	50	65	3	699	NA	1.21	11.76	2.43	14.78	-0.77
Wash/Dulles	72	52	76	43	62	2	582	NA	0.46	11.37	2.89	15.45	1.15

\* 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.

### NORTHERN

#### FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

We have had rainy days and temperatures in the 50's - 80's. This has been a mild growing season.

### WESTERN

#### ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Weekly precipitation =1.03". Seasonable temperatures. Daily rains are keeping grasses green and soils wet.

#### ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Another week of showers and thunderstorms further delayed critical field work, particularly which related to corn planting. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from .6 to 1.2 inches with most of it falling as rain showers scattered across mid-week.

### CENTRAL

#### AMELIA (Joan D. Poore)

A dry and breezy week which was good hay cutting weather. Soil moisture is becoming dry as of Friday May 13th. Most areas received much needed rain Saturday evening, May 14, and showers May 15. We continue to be below average for the time of year. Nothing critical yet. Rain over the weekend was welcome.

#### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Moisture conditions are very good to excess. Pastures and hayfields are looking very good. Some first cutting hay has been rained on. Livestock are benefiting greatly from improved pastures. Small grain crops are looking very good. Some wheat and barley have been harvested for hay and baleage to make up for hay shortages still lingering from last year's dry weather. Vegetable farmers are still planting summer crops, harvesting greens and strawberries, and scouting for insects

### CENTRAL (continued)

#### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir) (continued)

and diseases. Cucumber beetles have been a problem in young squash and cucumber plants.

#### CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Continues to be a dry week - no concerns at this time. Scattered thunderstorm and rains on Saturday May 14, but not everyone received rain in the county.

#### HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Wet weather pattern with afternoon and evening thunderstorms almost daily for the later part of the week and the weekend. Lots of hay was mown this week with a good bit getting rained on. Showers Saturday and Sunday at my western Hanover county home brought me a bit over 1.3 inches of rain. Thunderstorms were spotty and widespread.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### RUSSELL (Scott Jessee)

Continued wet conditions. Storms last week caused damage to trees and fences.

#### SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Early seed head appearance in hay and cool wet weather in forecast will probably result in a substantial decline in hay condition/quality for next week.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

### EASTERN

#### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rain over the weekend helped to keep soil moisture conditions good for now. Overall small grains continue to look good, and the corn crop is off to a good start. Activities for the week included planting full-season soybeans, making hay, and side dressing corn with nitrogen. Vegetable producers continued to harvest strawberries, asparagus, and greens.

#### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Conditions are getting dry again and small grains are drying down faster than normal. It is suspected that sandier soils have wheat without adequate root development partially due to cooler than normal winter and spring. Have observed several fields in the area that are drying down fast. Most wheat looks good but some areas, due to soils, are going to experience some potential yield decreases. Wheat is free of most disease due to the cool and dry April and May. Many fungicide applications were not needed, but producers were interested in protecting the good yield and price potential. Corn is off to a pretty good start. Grubs, wireworms and some early diseases are evident in some fields and some corn has been replanted. Seems like corn is experiencing these problems even in the presence of expensive seed treatments. Soybean planting is slow due to cool and dry conditions. Majority of soybeans will be after barley and wheat. Activities include making hay, planting soybeans, fungicide applications, some corn side dressing and herbicide applications, corn replanting field prep for soybeans, field prep for vegetable planting and veggie planting.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Rains have been spotty across the county. Recently planted crops are in need of a good soaking rain. Cotton planting is pretty much complete. Peanuts and soybean planting is now the order. Pastures are improving.

#### SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Planters are running full speed. Corn all planted, with cotton, peanuts, and full season soybeans going in. Showers are helping maintain topsoil moisture, and get crops up and growing.

#### SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)

Scattered showers fell over most of our area over the weekend giving us some much needed soil moisture to our dry field conditions. Peanut, cotton and soybean planting continue and the wheat crop looks very good at this point.

#### CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Corn planting season was very difficult with frequent rain slowing the process. Corn planting is complete now with very small acreage needing replanting. Soil moisture has now flipped to very dry. Soybean planting is ahead of schedule because of dry field conditions last week. Many farmers have stopped planting soybeans waiting on rain this weekend to insure quick emergence. Winter wheat is fully headed now and needs one good rain for grain fill. U-Pick Strawberry season has started and all fields are open now.



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