

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)

A week of dry weather allowed many farmers to get started on the first cutting of hay. Three mornings of frost early in the week damaged some gardens, but did not affect major crops. Early corn plantings were not damaged.

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Hay harvest is in full swing, although we are encountering problems with afternoon storm showers. Corn planting continues in workable fields. Disease potential is increasing on vegetable and fruit crops.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Spring hay crops are looking good, with average to above average yields. Tobacco transplanting has been taking place as the ground dries. Vegetable crops are looking good, with excellent strawberry yields and 3-4 more weeks of harvestable fruit set. Zucchini and yellow squash are starting to set bloom buds.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Last week there was little rain and folks got quite a bit of hay rolled. Tobacco is almost all in the field and looks pretty good at this point.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Clear weather this week has put field work into high gear. Soybean planting is making good progress now. Many producers mowed hay in earnest with the first long sunny period in May. The hay crop looks good and is only slightly on the mature side at this point. Corn is making good growth at this time and growers are planning their sidedress strategies now. Barley is starting to mature and dry down.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

We are drying out from recent heavy rains and cool morning temperatures. Soybean and peanut planting continues along with scouting cotton for Thrips. Cool weather has slowed the growth of flue-cured tobacco and cotton. Spring hay cutting is underway and the hay crop looks good.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Farmers returned to planting soybeans these last few days, although some fields are still too wet. Warmer temperatures returned late this week giving new seedlings some growth opportunity. Wheat has had plenty of moisture and we have not seen many disease problems.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS 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: May 24, 2009

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 24, 2009

An almost full week of dry weather provided the opportunity for growers to make considerable progress on spring fieldwork activities. Across the Commonwealth, hay harvesting began and although some hay was reported to be a little mature, overall reports indicate the first-cutting looks very good. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.9. A few frosty nights were felt throughout some areas of the State, with varying effect on vegetables, grasses and home gardens. Planting for all crops continued and complimentary activities such as post herbicide treatments of corn, land preparation for soybeans, and scouting of cotton fields are taking place as well. Vegetable farmers are busy planting as well, with beans, tomatoes, squash, peppers, cucumbers and sweet corn being planted this week.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 24, 2009	1	10	80	9
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



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	2	20	63	14
Livestock	2	4	17	62	15
Hay, Other	0	2	25	60	13
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	19	64	16
Corn	0	1	23	66	10
Winter Wheat	1	4	25	58	12
Barley	0	3	33	54	10
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	2	10	84	4
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	7	33	60	0
Flue Cured Tobacco	0	4	38	55	3
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	15	50	35
Apples, All	0	4	44	52	0
Peaches	0	5	46	49	0
Grapes	0	2	26	68	4
Oats	0	1	12	87	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	86	80	89	92
Corn Emerged	71	63	77	75
Soybeans Planted	25	17	22	30
Soybeans Emerged	12	8	8	12
Winter Wheat Headed	97	90	100	57
Barley Harvested	1	0	6	5
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	88	62	86	91
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	33	10	40	32
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Transplanted	67	30	42	66
Peanuts Planted	61	54	69	80
Cotton Planted	85	62	89	93

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 24, 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 23	Mar. 1 to May 23 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	73	46	82	37	60	-4	774	755	0.20	12.52	2.26	16.79	-0.16
Norfolk	71	54	83	49	63	-4	890	810	1.21	11.88	1.73	14.96	-2.43
Richmond	76	49	85	41	63	-3	882	856	0.14	10.13	0.00	12.36	-4.34
Roanoke	74	47	82	37	61	-4	824	NA	0.10	11.06	0.53	15.01	-1.85
Wash/Dulles	76	48	86	38	62	-1	723	NA	0.01	11.04	1.36	14.06	-1.56

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°)); 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.

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NORTHERN

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Although spotty frost nipped back early beans, the lateral buds are producing new leaders, so no replanting is needed. Grape growers were forced to provide air circulation to stop frost damage. The first cutting hay is on the ground and most is now wrapped. Those who missed this window are now waiting for the next chance.

ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)

The last week saw excellent hay making weather. The first-cutting hay yields were good to excellent and quality was good, although a little mature.

SHENANDOAH (Bobby Clark)

We experienced a frost on Tuesday, May 19.

WESTERN

BATH (Rodney Leech)

A heavy rainstorm with 3+ inches in 30 minutes caused some flooding and washed out roads and fields. Frost and freeze in parts of the county curtailed grass growth.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Pastures and hayfields are looking good. Farmers have been cutting and baling hay all week. For most, this is the first cutting and it looks very good. Grain farmers are mowing field borders and getting ready to harvest barley and wheat. Some corn has been side-dressed with fertilizer. Vegetable farmers are still harvesting a bumper crop of strawberries and greens, and planting beans, tomatoes and squash.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Hay making is underway, having been previously delayed by rains. There has been strong activity at farmers' markets, with much bedding plants, leafy greens and strawberries being sold. Local asparagus is winding down.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

So far it has been a good spring. Potatoes and tomatoes are looking good. Tomatoes are staked and potatoes are blooming. Wheat is starting to turn color. Soybean planting is a little late due to more corn being planted and wet weather, but there is still plenty of time left. Moisture is good. Farmers are scouting corn, vegetable, potato and tomato crops and applying chemicals and fertilizers. Almost all soybeans and corn will be no-till this year.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Lots of hay was made this week - quality and quantity are good. Corn seems to be getting itself together after all the cool and damp weather. Lots of fields and areas are being replanted due to early season water and insect problems. Soybean planting is commencing well as full season beans go in. Activities include post herbicide treatments on corn, dribble of N on corn, soybean planting, scouting of wheat and corn, and haymaking. Wheat looks good with the occasional head scab problems on some varieties. All in all, it is a pretty good crop in the making. Vegetable planting continues with tomatoes, cantaloupes, peppers, cucumbers and sweet corn. Things have been slow due to the cool weather, but are looking better.

NEW KENT (Paul Davis)

Activities included: Side dressing of corn, spraying weed control over corn, planting full-season soybeans, cutting and baling hay, bush hogging around fields, working on combines and no-till drills, and spraying herbicides on soybean fields to be planted.