

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

There was very spotty showers last week around the county. Tomatoes are showing some signs of blight. Some producers are irrigating tobacco and some other crops. Soybeans and corn are in need of rain. Some tobacco has started to bloom and topping will begin soon.

#### SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

County suffering from lack of rain and hurting corn silking stage and ear formation. Cotton is doing well with some pinhead squaring. Peanuts are doing okay. Mortality of soybeans on deep sand is increasing. Wheat harvest is complete and yields are poor.

#### SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Scattered showers fell over some areas this week that slowed down wheat harvest. Topdressing of cotton and tobacco, soybean planting, herbicide applications to cotton and soybean continues. Land plaster application and cultivation of peanuts are in full swing.

*Southeastern Continued.*

#### CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Several showers have kept fields in good condition for tillage, planting, and growing young crops. Summer vegetables are coming in season at local farmers' markets. Hay quality is improving with adequate rainfall for growth. Wheat yields are expectedly down this year. Good conditions for planting double-crop soybeans.

#### VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

There were rain showers early in the week and over the weekend. They were about 2 - 3 inches of rain to most of the growing areas. Soil moisture has been good most of the spring and early summer resulting in outstanding corn and soybean growth to date. Sweet corn, summer vegetables and blackberry harvest has started with good yields in all crops. Rain showers slowed wheat harvest and baling straw.



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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: June 20, 2010**

**Number: 15**

**Released: June 21, 2010**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 20, 2010

Despite scattered showers in some areas this week, most of Virginia continued to suffer from drought stress. The adequate moisture that was in the soil is quickly being absorbed by the heat. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.0. Some corn is suffering from the lack of moisture as tassling and silking begins. Grain farmers are taking advantage of the clear conditions to finish up wheat harvest and plant double crop soybeans. Some tomatoes are showing signs of blight, and double crop soybeans in some area are slowly germinating due to the lack of moisture.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 23, 2010	1	18	75	6
May 30, 2010	2	16	75	7
June 6, 2010	2	15	75	8
June 13, 2010	2	27	66	5
June 20, 2010	6	36	56	2



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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	9	35	48	7
Livestock	1	2	18	61	18
Hay, Other	2	12	34	46	6
Hay, Alfalfa	0	4	18	55	23
Corn	2	6	24	54	14
Winter Wheat	1	4	37	56	2
Barley	1	5	37	53	4
Tobacco, Flue-cured	0	2	51	38	9
Tobacco, Burley	0	2	5	78	15
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	0	1	39	53	7
Peanuts	0	0	5	95	0
Cotton	0	0	24	76	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	25	75	0
Apples, All	5	3	66	15	11
Peaches	4	2	30	53	11
Grapes	0	0	52	28	20
Oats	0	6	44	50	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	14	2	N/A	N/A
Soybeans Planted	74	70	61	65
Soybeans Emerged	59	57	48	54
Winter Wheat Harvested	43	20	16	25
Barley Harvested	82	49	50	59
Cotton Squaring	2	1	9	8

### REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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#### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 20, 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 June 19	Mar. 1 to June 19 Normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	88	65	90	62	77	6	1535	1268	2.10	3.13	0.83	22.85	2.45
Norfolk	87	72	92	68	79	5	1722	1376	1.54	2.05	-0.20	21.69	1.04
Richmond	92	70	97	64	81	8	1771	1400	0.06	0.39	-1.77	17.19	-2.79
Roanoke	89	69	94	63	79	7	1614	NA	0.83	1.14	-1.18	18.48	-1.82
Wash/Dulles	85	67	91	58	76	5	1542	NA	0.39	0.53	-2.12	17.15	-2.33

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

#### NORTHERN

##### CLARKE (Jacob Grove)

Scattered thunderstorms frustrate farmers' attempts to make hay. Soy planting continues, but is delayed behind stalls in small grain harvest.

##### FREDERICK (Jeanette R Smith)

Fruit growers are talking about fruit rotting from the seed out.

#### WESTERN

##### ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

The southern end of Rockbridge County is parched due to spotty showers. The first cutting of hay is ongoing as fast as possible. The quality continues to decrease tremendously on a daily basis. Pastures in the southern end are beginning to suffer as well. Corn and beans are looking good in the northern end of Rockbridge. The southern portion of county needs a huge drink of water. Degree days have increased tremendously with the recent heat and corn growth has slowed significantly due to lack of soil moisture.

##### ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

There was 0.67 of rainfall for the week. The night temperatures were higher than average.

#### CENTRAL

##### AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

The weather has become very hot, and no rainfall for the past two weeks. The adequate moisture that was there is quickly being absorbed by the heat. Corn and hay crops are showing signs of distress.

##### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are finishing up wheat harvesting and planting double crop soybeans after wheat has been harvested. Moisture conditions have deteriorated further from last week, even though we have had one good shower. Hot, dry conditions are making very stressful conditions for the corn crop. Pastures and hayfields are drying up as well. Vegetable farmers are picking tomatoes and squash. Small fruit producers are harvesting blueberries.

*Central Continued.*

##### CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

In just a short time the heat has quickly absorbed the moisture. While crops are still in fair to moderate condition, some rain is needed.

##### HANOVER (JIM TATE)

Temperatures have been hot and conditons dry.

##### NELSON (Michael Lachance)

There are still first cuttings of hay being done. Vineyards are being trained into the catch wires.

#### EASTERN

##### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

There has been scattered showers with rainfall amounts from .3 to 1 inch early in the week. By the end of the week, the corn crop (much of which is moving into the critical pollination period) was suffering from drought and heat stress. Yield losses will be significant in many fields without a general rainfall in the next week or so. Farmers spent the week harvesting wheat and planting double-crop soybeans.

##### MIDDLESEX (Moore)

Wheat harvesting, soybean planting, post application of soybean herbicides, pumpkin planting, vegetable harvesting, corn tassling, barley harvesting are all activities of the week.

#### SOUTHWESTERN

##### SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

High temperatures combined with few showers has allowed farmers to catch up on most activities; however crops are showing signs of water stress. Very little moisture is present below six inches from the surface, and the little amount of rainfall we are receiving is only keeping the top few inches hydrated. May have serious consequences if dry conditions set in for summer.