



NATIONAL  
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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: July 4, 2010**

**Number: 17**

**Released: July 6, 2010**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 4, 2010

Across the Commonwealth hot and dry conditions continued. Days suitable for field work were 6.8. Although the weather has been clear, some farmers found conditions as unsuitable for working, with temperatures reaching triple digits. Producers are expecting their crop yields to be lower than average with some soybean fields emerging slowly and some corn not pollinating properly due to the lack of moisture. Pasture and hayfields are burning up and are starting to show signs of deterioration in some areas. Some producers are providing supplemental feed to livestock.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 6, 2010	2	15	75	8
June 13, 2010	2	27	66	5
June 20, 2010	6	36	56	2
June 27, 2010	29	46	25	0
July 4, 2010	47	36	17	0

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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	15	34	31	18	2
Livestock	2	7	22	53	16
Hay, Other	13	20	32	31	4
Hay, Alfalfa	5	12	25	43	15
Corn	20	33	28	18	1
Soybeans	14	27	40	17	2
Tobacco, Flue-cured	0	13	50	27	10
Tobacco, Burley	0	3	15	68	14
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	0	23	43	33	1
Peanuts	0	0	25	75	0
Cotton	0	0	41	59	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	25	75	0
Apples, All	5	5	68	17	5
Peaches	4	8	37	45	6
Grapes	0	0	46	44	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 Silked	58	42	29	29
Corn Dough	5	N/A	2	1
Soybeans Planted	91	86	89	86
Soybeans Emerged	75	71	79	74
Soybeans Blooming	2	N/A	3	1
Winter Wheat Harvested	92	79	84	75
Barley Harvested	97	92	94	96
Peanuts Pegged	27	4	28	30
Cotton Squaring	36	14	37	44
Cotton Setting Bolls	16	4	0	2
Summer Potatoes Harvested	20	10	18	15

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 4, 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 July 3	Mar. 1 to July 3 Normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	88	65	95	54	76	5	1883	1577	0.00	3.13	-1.04	22.85	0.67
Norfolk	89	72	99	60	80	6	2126	1724	0.01	3.76	-0.41	23.40	0.69
Richmond	93	69	102	60	81	7	2158	1734	0.43	0.82	-3.08	17.62	-4.13
Roanoke	89	67	97	56	78	6	1981	NA	0.00	1.28	-2.72	18.62	-3.54
Wash/Dulles	87	66	97	50	77	6	1893	NA	0.76	1.29	-3.15	17.91	-3.41

\* 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

#### **CLARKE (Jake Grove)**

Hot weather continues to bake pastures and crops.

#### **FAIRFAX( Adria Boras)**

Strong winds and thunderstorms a few days this week, otherwise hot and humid

#### **FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)**

Weather conditions are extremely dry. Pasture and hayfields are burning up. Temperatures have been in the high 90's.

#### **PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)**

Dry weather has been good for hay harvesting although we have had several red air quality days in a row, unsuitable for working outside. The extreme temperatures are back. Several farmers are irrigating vegetable crops to keep producing for market purposes.

#### **ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)**

Dry and hot weather persists. Some drier parts of the county have now seen in excess of 30 days without significant rainfall. Corn and pasture seem to be hardest hit. Many local producers are reporting that they are supplementing hay to cattle on pasture. Some corn fields are starting to have spots with no surviving stand.

### CENTRAL

#### **AMELIA (Joan D Poore)**

County wide it is very dry. Crop yields will be very low due to lack of moisture and the excessive heat with another week of dry and hot weather predicted this week.

#### **BEDFORD (Scott Baker)**

Lack of moisture and high temperatures has caused rapid deterioration in pasture conditions. Producers are reporting having to provide supplemental feed to livestock.

### CENTRAL (*continued*)

#### **CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Conditions are so dry there is a possibility we may lose a significant amount of the soybean crop in addition to the corn losses we have already sustained on non-irrigated land. Pastures and hay fields have gone dormant. Most of the soybean crop has been planted, but crop emergence has slowed, as has plant growth and canopy development. If we don't see significant rain soon soybeans may start to die in the fields. This has already happened to a large portion of the corn crop. Vegetable farmers are irrigating heavily, and harvesting tomatoes, corn, peppers, cantaloupes, watermelons and many other summer crops. Blueberries are tapering off after a good harvest, and blackberries are coming in.

#### **CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)**

It has been very hot and dry throughout the county. The crops are suffering from the heat and the lack of moisture. Crop yield are expected to be lower than average.

#### **FLUVANNA (John Thompson)**

Continued hot, dry and windy conditions are causing pastures to disappear, and the opportunity for a decent second cutting of hay to look worse by the day.

#### **POWHATAN (Eric Bowen)**

Lack of rain is resulting in poor crop development and pasture failures. Livestock producers having started feeding hay due to poor pasture conditions. Corn and soybeans are suffering due to lack of rain, although corn has potential to make if we receive rain this week.

#### **SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)**

No appreciable rainfall in the last half of June, a critical period for the corn crop. Some corn has started to tassel but without good ear formation. Standing corn shows signs of heat and drought stress There were 20 plus days of over 90 F° in June. Rainfall for both May and June was less the half of the normal amount.

## 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)

Continued lack of rainfall caused crop conditions to continue to deteriorate. The corn crop has suffered significant losses. Pastures and hayfields are at a standstill and some beef producers are cutting corn silage to help cover feed needs. Thousands of acres of double-crop soybeans have not emerged due to dry soils. Producers with irrigation spent the week keeping systems running. Some producers applied post-emergence herbicides to the soybean crop.

#### KING GEORGE (John Howe)

No appreciable rainfall in the last half of June, a critical period for the corn crop. Some corn has started to tassel but without good ear formation. The corn crop is showing signs of heat and drought stress. There were 20 plus days of over 90 F° in June. Rainfall for both May and June was less the half of the normal amount.

#### WESTMORELAND (Sherina Logan )

Corn crop could improve with rain. Soybeans are in critical condition however rain will help. Double crop beans need rain to germinate. Grassland is dormant. It has been very little to no rain in the month of June. The temperatures have been above 90 degrees for most of the month of June. Crops are suffering from the heat.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### PULASKI (Jason Pratt)

In the north part in the county around the airport and Black Hollow area, farmers are facing dryer than normal conditions. This section of the county is becoming extremely dry and is in need of rain.

#### SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Weather conditions have not changed, and it is getting dry extremely quick. Pastures are beginning to show signs of heat stress.

### SOUTHERN

#### FRANKLIN (Beverly Cox)

Drought conditions continue to plague the county. Hay and pasture growth have stopped. Second cutting hay will be poor or nonexistent. Lack of moisture and heat is causing severe rolling of corn plants and leaf tips are beginning to brown. Bottom leaves are browning in some places. Fields are beginning to tassel; continued lack of rain in the next 1 - 2 weeks could lead to little to no ear fill.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

There was only a few sparse showers one night this week. Folks are irrigating gardens, tobacco and some other crops, if they have the water source and equipment. Corn and young soybeans are showing stress and need for rain. Some days of cooler temperatures helped a bit but rain is needed greatly.

#### SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

The county is in dire need of rain. Most corn is in a disaster status other than irrigated crops. Soybeans are showing severe drought stress and deer damage is increasing. Cotton is blooming out the tops and cutting out. Peanuts are doing OK but still in need of rain. Pastures are burned from the heat and producers are feeding hay and some cattle are being sold for lack of feed. The heat is affecting cantaloupes and watermelons.

#### SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Another dry week. Most of the early planted corn is dried up, with even irrigated corn struggling to make with temperatures in the triple digits. Double crop soybeans are not germinating in the dry soils.

#### SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

We need some much needed rainfall. High temperatures have cooked a lot of our corn and put a stop to soybean planting behind wheat. Cotton has started blooming which indicates the crop is off to a good start if rain comes soon. The rest of the crops are holding on and there has been little field work. Hopefully some showers will come soon to adjust attitudes of producers.

**Due to space considerations we were unable to print all comments. We thank all who submitted comments.**



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