



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: July 15, 2012

Number: 19

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR JULY 15, 2012

Scattered thunderstorms throughout the week brought much needed moisture to the Commonwealth. These storms, along with a significant decrease in daily high temperatures, provided relief for many producers across the state. Days suitable for field work were 5.5. While the rainfall helped to improve overall soil moisture levels, much more rain will be needed to recover from the recent extreme conditions. While it may be too late for much of the corn crop to benefit from the recent rain, soybeans, tobacco and pastures in some areas have responded well. Activities this week included post-emergence herbicide applications for soybeans and a continued effort to clean up from past storms.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 15, 2012	18	46	34	2
July 8, 2012	29	48	23	0
July 1, 2012	26	36	38	0
June 24, 2012	6	37	56	1
June 17, 2012	2	42	55	1

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 15, 2012	16	56	28	0
July 8, 2012	19	51	30	0
July 1, 2012	14	43	43	0
June 24, 2012	5	32	62	1
June 17, 2012	3	27	69	1

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Virginia Cooperative Extension
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Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	13	30	39	17	1
Livestock	3	7	29	45	16
Hay, Other	12	23	30	27	8
Hay, Alfalfa	3	13	30	49	5
Corn	14	30	32	17	7
Soybeans	4	16	49	26	5
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	10	16	58	16	0
Tobacco, Burley	3	8	39	40	10
Tobacco, Dark Fire	28	36	32	4	0
Peanuts	0	2	28	70	0
Cotton	0	1	5	94	0
Apples, All	17	2	28	53	0
Peaches	2	9	46	39	4
Grapes	0	2	34	64	0
Oats	0	0	36	63	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	69	54	72	69
Corn Dough	11	6	22	16
Soybeans Emerged	98	89	96	91
Soybeans Blooming	9	1	12	10
Peanuts Pegged	65	40	51	53
Cotton Squaring	90	65	90	76
Cotton Setting Bolls	10	7	8	25
Potatoes, Summer Harvested	83	75	52	42
Apples, Summer Harvested	23	15	19	14
Peaches Harvested	25	18	18	24

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 15, 2012

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 July 14	Mar. 1 to July 14 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	86	67	101	64	77	2	2146	1861	0.61	3.66	-2.14	19.06	-4.76
Norfolk	86	74	102	69	80	1	2470	2040	2.12	7.39	1.44	23.86	-0.48
Richmond	89	71	103	66	80	2	2412	2038	2.78	7.05	1.55	19.36	-3.96
Roanoke	86	70	102	66	78	2	2280	NA	0.92	4.17	-1.31	18.66	-4.66
Wash/Dulles	89	69	101	63	79	3	2152	NA	0.34	2.36	-3.39	15.17	-7.47

* 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 Smith)

We have been receiving some thunderstorms, but we are still dry.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Temperatures near the summer average or even below the average brought relief to Rockbridge area farmers this week following last week's record heat. Recovery and repairs to fences caused by the June 29th wind storm dominated most farmers' work schedule. Scattered showers maintained soil moisture levels for some parts of the region but other areas have fields showing some drought stress.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Scattered showers throughout the county Sunday through Tuesday and again Friday and Saturday. Lots of hit and miss and ranging from a few tenths in one area up to 1 and 1/2 inch in others. The timing of the rain is too late for the 2012 corn crop, but will be beneficial to the soybeans, tobacco, and millet. More importantly - the temperatures dropped back to normal, 87 - 94 degrees, but it was quite humid all week.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Scattered rains throughout the county over the past week. It was much needed rain. Temperatures were back to normal 86 - 92 degrees. This is a plus for all crops and livestock, the excessive heat puts additional stress on everything. The humidity was high this past week, but overall a much better week than the one before with triple digit temperatures.

(Central continued)

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Intense heat and dry conditions have taken all wind out of the sails of corn growers and livestock/hay producers. Pastures and hay fields are suffering, weed pressure has worsened. Storms over the weekend provided some relief. Much more rain is needed to recover from the dry and intensely hot conditions we have experienced.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

We finally had some rain in western Hanover. Storms brought a total of 1.5 inches over the weekend. One inch of it came down in 13 minutes. Predictions are back to bone baking heat this week so it won't last long. Corn is generally toast. Some fields have some ears but some fields have none and some fields are half fried from the bottom. The rain will keep the corn alive but yields are done. Beans can do well if the rains continue. Pastures are starting to look rough and some people have begun feeding hay. Many fields have had no regrowth since the first grass hay cutting. The vegetable producers of Eastern Hanover were pretty well devastated by the storms of last weekend with the hail and high winds destroying most crops.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Scattered rain this past week provided limited relief from the hot, dry conditions.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Beneficial rains on Saturday and Sunday improved soil moisture to some degree. Pastures and soybeans will benefit from the rainfall. Some post-emergence herbicides were applied to soybeans during the week.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Some scattered showers have provided some relief to the dry field conditions, and crops have responded but more is needed. The corn crop has been affected the most from hot, dry conditions.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Well what can I say, the much needed rain arrived last week, buckets at a time. This will most certainly help all of the planted crops, with the exception being the many acres of soybeans that were flooded. Water went away fairly quick and temperatures stayed low enough that the seedlings were not cooked. Now there are many acres of soybeans in desperate need of an herbicide application, but most farms are too wet for field work.

SOUTHWESTERN

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

This week's welcome rains came just in time for our corn crop. Reports of corn doubling in height have been reported in test plots just to our west. Pastures are growing again, but farmers are being advised to rest grasslands to allow them to fully recover. Oats are ready to be harvested but the rains have postponed that activity for now.

(Southwestern Continued)

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

It is dry for mid-July.

WASHINGTON (Phil Blevins)

We had good rain last week and things look much better. Hopefully the rains will continue.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

The forecast is calling for isolated T-storms most of the week, but chances are low, mostly scattered. It is going to be another hot week, but if we get the needed rain, crops will continue to grow. Remember to rotate pastures; grass is getting low and cows are getting thin.

