



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: July 24, 2011

Number: 20

Released: July 25, 2011

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 24, 2011

Dry weather stressed crops in many areas throughout the week but sporadic storms over the weekend in some areas of Virginia provided much needed moisture to the crops. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.5. Temperatures in some areas were around 100 degrees and there were some reports of livestock deaths as a result. Due to the extreme heat, the soybean crop had begun to wilt as topsoil moisture has been significantly depleted. Corn silage harvest has begun in some areas. Farmers continued to monitor cotton fields for insects and applied herbicides to soybean and fungicides to the peanut crop. Vegetable farmers continued to harvest tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn, and melons.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 26, 2011	5	27	66	2
July 3, 2011	12	29	55	4
July 10, 2011	10	18	68	4
July 17, 2011	9	31	59	1
July 24, 2011	10	43	45	2

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 26, 2011	4	35	60	1
July 3, 2011	11	31	57	1
July 10, 2011	9	24	64	3
July 17, 2011	8	34	57	1
July 24, 2011	11	38	50	1

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

Virginia Cooperative Extension

A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia Tech



Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	4	18	33	42	3
Livestock	1	7	22	53	17
Hay, Other	4	15	25	47	9
Hay, Alfalfa	0	7	19	62	12
Corn	1	6	25	53	15
Soybeans	0	11	23	57	9
Tobacco, Flue-cured	0	1	34	43	22
Tobacco, Burley	0	1	20	66	13
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	0	2	66	29	3
Peanuts	0	0	31	51	18
Cotton	0	0	13	66	21
Summer Potatoes	0	0	50	50	0
Apples, All	0	2	13	69	16
Peaches	0	9	23	60	8
Grapes	0	9	12	77	2
Oats	0	7	26	66	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	83	75	86	84
Corn Dough	30	27	39	40
Corn Dent	7	6	15	9
Soybeans Blooming	41	14	35	32
Soybeans Setting Pods	9	0	6	5
Peanuts Pegged	75	59	51	74
Cotton Squaring	95	91	79	88
Cotton Setting Bolls	50	10	54	56
Summer Potatoes Harvested	75	55	86	64
Summer Apples Harvested	33	20	40	28
Peaches Harvested	38	22	45	37
Oats for Grain Harvested	92	83	N/A	N/A

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 24, 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 Jul. 23	Mar. 1 to Jul. 23 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	93	69	100	63	81	6	2291	2069	0.05	6.15	-0.91	20.94	-4.28
Norfolk	95	76	103	70	85	5	2674	2265	1.09	9.45	2.01	21.45	-4.39
Richmond	96	73	102	68	84	6	2586	2256	0.03	6.22	-0.61	22.04	-2.44
Roanoke	93	73	99	68	83	6	2388	NA	0.12	6.36	-0.26	22.73	-1.97
Wash/Dulles	96	72	105	63	84	8	2275	NA	0.00	3.61	-3.07	21.25	-2.36

* 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)

Temperatures in the 90's plus. Heat index has been over 100. Pastures are starting to dry up. We are in need of rain. There was a storm Friday and hail with it.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Exceptionally hot weather this week caused crop and pasture conditions to deteriorate. Topsoil moisture has been significantly depleted.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D. Poore)

HOT - very hot! The heat wave in just a short period of time takes a toll on everything; crops, livestock, and the folks trying to preserve it. While our area only had a few days of this heat at a time, we are better off than other states that are starting in the 4th week. A relief to end this hot week, scattered thunderstorms came through Saturday and Sunday evening. This week is expected to be a few degrees cooler than last week, no triple digits. There is a chance of scattered showers.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

It seems every time we need rain we get a timely shower. The corn crop is looking very good. Soybean crop had started to wilt in the extreme heat, but another 1/2 inch of rain and moderating temperatures have eased the situation considerably. Vegetable farmers continue to harvest a bumper crop of tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn, and melons. Some southern blight has been seen in tomato fields. Grain and vegetable farmers are scouting fields for diseases and insects. No major problems have been seen.

CENTRAL (continued)

HANOVER (JIM TATE)

Extreme heat here like everywhere else. Temps bouncing around 100 degrees. Humidity almost intolerable. Have heard of a few livestock deaths. With past moisture we have some native Bermuda which has taken over fescue fields and is over knee high. Intermittent surface waters are drying up. The storm Saturday in the eastern half of the county. I have heard reports of significant rain in the eastern half of the county. At my western Hanover home we missed the storm but got less than 1/10 inch rain in my gauge.

PRINCE EDWARD (bowen@vt.edu)

Rain showers Sunday evening provided much needed moisture. Corn silage harvest has begun due to drought conditions.

SOUTHWESTERN

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Hot and humid conditions have been a burden to livestock without adequate water availability. Corn crop is shaping up to be one of the county's best in years.

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)

Storms with rain went through Sunday evening dropping .5 to about 2 inches which helped with watering. The crops were twisting last week every day. Little relief during the evening with temperatures still high as well as humidity.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Rains over the weekend have been much needed. This should give all crops the needed boost to continue for another short period. Watermelon harvest is continuing.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Triple digit temperatures are depleting soil moisture at a rapid rate, and causing some crop and livestock stress. Spotty showers on Sunday night ranged from 0 to 1.5 inches. Hopefully all areas will get some afternoon showers in the next few days to keep crops growing.

SOUTHEASTERN (continued)

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Some much needed rain fell over our area this weekend with a boost to our crops because cotton, tobacco, peanut and soybean had begun to show stress from hot dry conditions. Farmers continue to scout cotton for insects applying growth regulator to cotton, applying herbicides to soybean and fungicides to the peanut crop.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

We received about 1 to 2 inches of rain Thursday in most of Chesapeake. It improved our situation for a short period. Crops are all highly variable according to date planted, soil type and rain received, which is also variable. Overall Chesapeake crops are much better than Eastern North Carolina.



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