



NATIONAL  
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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: July 22, 2012**

**Number: 20**

**Released: July 23, 2012**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR JULY 23, 2012

Continued rain and lower temperatures throughout the week led to a replenishing of depleted soil moisture in Virginia. Crops and pastureland are beginning to respond positively to the change in weather, especially in areas where there was an accumulation of precipitation. Days suitable for field work were 5.4. Soybean and peanut conditions have increased with continued moderate weather, and in some areas soybeans are beginning to bloom. Continued cleanup from windstorm damage, replanting soybeans and spraying post-emergence herbicides dominated farmers work schedules this past week. Damage to fruit and vegetable from past storms is beginning to show in produce.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 22, 2012	14	35	48	3
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

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 22, 2012	15	42	40	3
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

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Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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Virginia State University



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	14	23	37	25	1
Livestock	3	7	29	49	12
Hay, Other	13	23	33	26	5
Hay, Alfalfa	4	10	31	51	4
Corn	13	21	38	21	7
Soybeans	4	9	41	37	9
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	7	9	45	28	11
Tobacco, Burley	3	13	35	38	11
Tobacco, Dark Fire	32	37	27	4	0
Peanuts	0	0	17	75	8
Cotton	0	0	25	66	9
Apples, All	17	1	27	54	1
Peaches	2	9	47	41	1
Grapes	0	2	26	72	0
Oats	0	0	56	44	0

<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	83	69	81	82
Corn Dough	40	11	29	33
Corn Dent	8	0	7	6
Soybeans Blooming	18	9	33	28
Soybeans Setting Pods	4	0	6	4
Peanuts Pegged	80	65	70	71
Cotton Squaring	98	90	94	85
Cotton Setting Bolls	40	10	39	48
Potatoes, Summer Harvested	91	83	69	64
Apples, Summer Harvested	30	23	29	26
Peaches Harvested	36	25	33	35

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 22, 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 21	Mar. 1 to July 21 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	91	68	97	65	79	4	2334	2039	0.02	3.68	-3.13	19.08	-5.69
Norfolk	92	75	96	71	84	4	2686	2234	0.93	8.32	1.21	24.79	-0.76
Richmond	91	73	97	72	82	4	2618	2226	1.55	8.60	2.04	20.91	-3.40
Roanoke	91	72	95	70	81	4	2482	NA	0.72	4.89	-1.46	19.38	-4.84
Wash/Dulles	91	70	101	65	80	4	2340	NA	1.85	4.21	-2.26	17.02	-6.29

\* 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 (Susan Unger)

For the past week, high temperatures and humidity has caused scattered thunderstorms.

#### ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)

Much of the county received some much needed moisture and cooler temperatures over the past week. Pastures have greened up but are still quite short. Row crops are no longer stressed but growth is shorter than average.

### WESTERN

#### ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

All of Rockbridge received an inch of rain or more this week with some areas measuring in excess of 2 inches between Thursday night and Friday night thanks to a cold front that brought a series of showers and thunderstorms. Clean-up and repairs from the wind storm of 6/29 continued this week while forage supplies remain adequate to abundant.

### CENTRAL

#### AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

We received scattered showers last week. Some areas of the county received their first rainfall in 6 to 7 weeks. The temperatures were average. Not enough rainfall to make a big difference, but every drop helps at this point.

#### CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Scattered showers occurred and were very helpful. Not all agricultural areas of the county received rain – it was hit and miss. Temperatures were average.

#### HANOVER (Jim Tate)

It is raining as I type. It started at 8:00 am and rained hard for a while, now just light rain. Last week was more moderate in temperatures but still in upper nineties several days. Lots of widely scattered thunderstorms

#### (Central Continued)

brought varying amounts of rain across the county. Pastures have begun a rebound. Soybeans looking better. Corn has recovered and is green and growing again but it is past pollination time and many stalks do not have ears. Those who have livestock are already chopping silage.

#### SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Heat and drought conditions have damaged the corn crop to the extent that we are recommending that the County Board of Supervisors seek a disaster designation due to excessive heat and drought conditions.

### EASTERN

#### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Recent rainfall has been spotty, and pastures and soybeans have benefitted in the areas where rain has fallen. Some double crop soybeans were replanted last week. Producers continued to apply post-emergence herbicides to soybeans.

#### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Much of the area had rain over the weekend. A storm stalled over the lower middle peninsula and dumped 5-7 inches of rain. Soybeans look very good and corn will at least make something. Most corn has done "its thing" and rain will not help much except in instances where full season corn was planted late. Soybeans look good. Some soybeans are beginning to bloom. Vegetable harvest continues with cantaloupes, tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn and squash. Late planting of vegetables continues also. The pumpkins and sweet potato situation has also improved since rain came. Hopefully, the recent rains can initiate some grass growth for hay cutting.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### **SOUTHAMPTON (Chris Drake)**

We received a good, widespread rainfall over the weekend and crop conditions are good overall.

#### **SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

The county got 2" to 6" of rain Thursday through Saturday, 7/19-21. This stopped field work but helped ease drought conditions. More showers are expected this week.

#### **SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)**

Good rains fell over most of our region providing good rains for our crops. Cotton, peanut and soybeans look good at this point. Hope the rains keep coming.

#### **CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

Farmers spent time this week spot-planting some soybeans behind wheat. There are problems with soybean stands due mainly to either wet field conditions or problems planting into wheat straw/stubble. The corn crop looks very good. Fruits and vegetables are in plentiful supply.

#### **VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)**

Heavy thunderstorms have continued to keep some areas over-saturated. Dry conditions for the next week would be ideal for completion of soybean replants and herbicide applications.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### **SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Rains have come frequently this week and the rainfall totals are nearing 12 inches for the month. Hoping this is enough to pull corn and hay around without significant losses.

### SOUTHERN

#### **FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)**

It is going to be another warm week with scattered chances of rain.

#### **PATRICK (Travis Bunn)**

Some communities within Patrick County are getting some evening showers. Others are in need of moisture. Damage from storms a few weeks ago is starting to show up in maturing fruit of apples and peaches. Several fences are still being repaired from downed trees as a result of high winds.