



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: August 1, 2010

Number: 21

Released: August 2, 2010

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 1, 2010

Cooler temperatures and light rain showers near the end of the week provided relief for some producers and field workers but not as much help for crops. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.2. Corn and soybeans remain in mostly poor condition. Pastures and grazing resources are being depleted and livestock producers are cutting corn silage to supplement. Vegetable farmers have irrigated heavily and are harvesting watermelons, cantaloupes, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 4, 2010	47	36	17	0
July 11, 2010	55	35	10	0
July 18, 2010	52	35	13	0
July 25, 2010	50	38	12	0
August 1, 2010	48	35	17	0

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



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	43	30	17	10	0
Livestock	3	12	31	48	6
Hay, Other	37	24	24	14	1
Hay, Alfalfa	11	18	34	32	5
Corn	47	24	21	8	0
Soybeans	24	40	28	8	0
Tobacco, Flue-cured	34	27	24	13	2
Tobacco, Burley	5	10	10	70	5
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	18	39	40	3	0
Peanuts	0	22	46	32	0
Cotton	0	50	37	13	0
Apples, All	0	8	86	3	3
Peaches	4	13	37	39	7
Grapes	1	1	26	28	44

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	96	87	88	89
Corn Dough	73	41	64	51
Corn Dent	41	18	21	17
Corn Mature	6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Soybeans Blooming	62	38	49	51
Soybeans Setting Pods	20	7	16	15
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	10	7	N/A	N/A
Peanuts Pegged	60	53	84	85
Cotton Squaring	89	80	89	96
Cotton Setting Bolls	62	55	56	73
Summer Potatoes Harvested	94	90	78	78
Summer Apples Harvested	51	44	40	35
Peaches Harvested	51	46	43	44

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 1, 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 31	Mar. 1 to July 31 Normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	88	69	101	63	79	4	2623	2255	1.99	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Norfolk	91	72	105	68	82	3	2976	2472	4.66	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Richmond	94	71	105	65	83	5	2973	2454	0.19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roanoke	88	71	97	62	80	4	2752	NA	0.94	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wash/Dulles	90	67	98	62	78	2	2670	NA	1.01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

* 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 (Jacob Grove)

The extreme heat continues to cancel out the effects of the scattered showers we have received.

FAIRFAX (Adria Bordas)

There were strong storms on Thursday. Temperatures are finally cooling down.

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

Local Extension Agents sent a letter to each County, Frederick, Clarke, Warren and Shenandoah to ask the Board of Supervisors to get the counties declared disaster areas.

PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)

We are considering declaring a drought. Preliminary flash reports from FSA have corn and soybean yields possibly affected due to dry conditions in June and July. Pasture losses are expected.

CENTRAL

ALBEMARLE (Carrie Swanson)

Eighty-five to ninety percent of our local farmers will not get a second cutting of hay, even if we start to get rain.

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Corn is past silk and dough stages. Most of the corn does not have kernels on the cobs. Yields for corn intended for grain will be very low. Silage corn is of poor quality. Many soybeans have bloomed but during the excessive heat the blooms have been falling off. Tobacco that is able to be irrigated looks average and may not have potential weight. Hay and pastures are in poor condition due to the heat and lack of rainfall.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Much needed rainfall was received last week. Dairy farmers are cutting corn silage but are disappointed with the lack of grain. Some corn that normally would be harvested for grain is being chopped for silage. Hay outlook is marginal at the moment and much feeding is taking place. Tobacco farmers are having a difficult time with budworms.

CENTRAL (continued)

CAROLINE (Mac Saphir)

Livestock producers are cutting corn silage to supplement dwindling hay supplies and pasture. Moisture conditions continue to be very dry. Showers Saturday evening brought about 6/10 of an inch to some areas of the county. Overall soybean crop condition has improved slightly, but dry land corn is about 80% wiped out. Pastures and hayfields have not recovered; drought conditions persist. Fall crops are in and pumpkins are starting to vine out.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Soybeans are trying to bloom but the excessive heat and lack of rain have caused many of the blooms to drop off. Hay and pastures continue to be very dry. The scattered rains last week helped those who were fortunate to get it.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Hot and dry weather continued this past week. No appreciable general rainfall in the county. The leaves are turning brown in many of the corn fields and production will be lower than normal. Soybean growth has stagnated. Pastures and grazing resources are being depleted and farmers have to feed hay.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Corn, soybeans, pastures, and hay crops remain in poor condition for the most part. Crops are maturing earlier than normal due to the heat and dry conditions. It appears that corn earworm pressure in soybeans could be heavy and earlier than normal. The area did receive some rainfall during the week with amounts ranging from a few tenths to over an inch.

NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)

Corn and soybeans continued to suffer through the drought, though late-week rains across most of the area will help to improve the soybean crop. Producers have been treating many soybean fields for spider mites, and a large flight of corn earworm moths means treatments will likely be necessary in the soybean crop in the next 2 weeks. Aflatoxin producing mold has begun to develop in drought-stricken corn fields, though preliminary testing has revealed toxin levels remain below thresholds.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

The week started hot and dry but ended cool and wet. Everyone received some rain, though amounts vary greatly from over an inch to just a few tenths. More rainfall is needed soon to aid corn ear development. The second cutting of hay is in jeopardy if more rain does not arrive soon. Fruit tree crops doing fair but cool, damp conditions right now will pose a big disease problem for peach growers. Most vegetable growers are irrigating, so rains gave respite to that chore.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

The scattered thunderstorms have brought in enough rain to green up pastures and hayfields. There are still some farmers considering grazing hayfields, but it is on a week by week, rain by rain basis.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe)

Cooler temperatures and light rain showers near the end of the week.

SOUTHEASTERN

ISLE OF WIGHT (Janet Spencer)

The conditions for most of the week have remained excessively dry. The low soil moisture in combination with extremely high heat has adversely affected plant growth and development. Isle of Wight and Suffolk received scattered rain and storms on July 29. Some areas received up to 2 inches of rain while other locations received much less.

SOUTHEASTERN (continued)

MECKLENBURG (Taylor Clarke)

Unexpected rain early in the week brightened hopes and helped crop situations. However, follow up rain is needed to alleviate drought conditions and further improve the tobacco and soybean crops. The corn crop is mostly a complete loss including the few irrigated acres. The tobacco crop has a long way to go to rebound from dry hot conditions. Rainfall amounts on Monday were variable across county from several inches to only several tenths. Rain was very helpful but a long way from being a drought buster.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Spotty showers over the weekend helped some areas while others received hardly anything. Corn is being cut for silage by producers with cattle. We will seek drought declaration this week.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

We received 1 1/2 inches of rain Thursday which helped keep crops looking good here. Corn silage harvest was good on quantity, but not as much grain as normal. Still, corn crop looks to be average to good in many places, with isolated areas suffering more. Soybeans have good potential if rain continues. We hope the storm Thursday with cooler temperatures has broken our dry period, and better weather will come in August.



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