



NATIONAL  
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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: July 29, 2012**

**Number: 21**

**Released: July 30, 2012**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR JULY 29, 2012

Intermittent rain showers proceeded across the state this week, bringing days of milder temperatures. Heavy storms over the weekend added much needed moisture to many areas of the Commonwealth. Days suitable for field work were 5.7. With additional precipitation, pasturelands are beginning to replenish and the chance for a second cutting of hay has increased. Soybeans continue to do well with additional rain, although scouting for pests has been a predominant activity to monitor for insect outbreaks. Producers are also scouting for insects and disease in both cotton and peanut fields, as these crops are still looking very good. Other activities included cutting corn for silage, working on equipment for fall harvest, pricing inputs for next year and attending educational meetings and field days.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 29, 2012	19	32	48	1
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

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 29, 2012	17	41	40	2
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

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Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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Virginia Tech

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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	22	33	30	1
Livestock	2	6	26	52	14
Hay, Other	12	23	33	28	4
Hay, Alfalfa	2	10	29	54	5
Corn	16	27	30	21	6
Soybeans	4	17	36	36	7
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	9	13	54	18	6
Tobacco, Burley	3	12	35	38	12
Tobacco, Dark Fire	29	33	29	8	1
Peanuts	0	0	7	67	26
Cotton	0	0	13	58	29
Apples, All	17	1	28	53	1
Peaches	2	10	52	34	2
Grapes	0	0	25	74	1
Oats	0	0	44	51	5

<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	91	83	88	88
Corn Dough	49	40	44	51
Corn Dent	22	8	16	18
Corn Silage Harvested	30	0	0	1
Soybeans Blooming	38	18	48	42
Soybeans Setting Pods	16	4	18	11
Peanuts Pegged	85	80	76	77
Cotton Squaring	100	98	99	91
Cotton Setting Bolls	60	40	63	65
Potatoes, Summer Harvested	94	91	85	77
Apples, Summer Harvested	35	30	38	34
Peaches Harvested	44	36	39	45

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 29, 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 28	Mar. 1 to July 28 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	91	67	99	65	79	4	2523	2218	0.37	4.05	-3.73	19.45	-6.48
Norfolk	91	73	97	72	82	3	2891	2428	1.24	9.56	1.25	26.03	-0.80
Richmond	93	72	97	71	83	5	2824	2414	0.22	8.82	1.16	21.13	-4.32
Roanoke	90	71	98	68	81	4	2682	NA	0.91	5.80	-1.45	20.29	-5.07
Wash/Dulles	90	69	98	67	80	4	2535	NA	0.00	4.21	-3.04	17.02	-6.95

\* 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

### (Central continued)

#### FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

We received a few scattered thunderstorms off and on this past week. Temperatures were in the 80-90's.

grass in my lawn twice in the last ten days now.

Pastures and hay fields are beginning to rebound. Other than alfalfa, I have seen very little second cutting hay. Where there is Bermuda grass, it is doing well.

### WESTERN

Soybeans have a chance of making a decent crop if the rains continue. There are significant bare spots in fields from poor germination during the hot and dry weather.

#### ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Most of the Rockbridge area received about an inch of rain over the course of the week. Thunderstorm activity Tuesday and Friday helped corn and soybeans but more is needed to avoid yield loss. Due to delayed planting, most of the corn in this area is just now entering the critical pollination stage. Pasture conditions remain adequate.

### EASTERN

#### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Due to continued hot and dry conditions, the corn crop is drying down fast. Some producers will probably begin harvest next week. Soybeans are growing in areas that received good rains 2 weeks ago, while growth of the crop is at a standstill where no rain has fallen. Some hay was harvested during the week, and producers were working on equipment to get ready for the fall harvest.

### CENTRAL

#### AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Scattered showers have been helpful, but overall conditions remain dry and the 3 - 4 days of extreme heat absorbs the moisture quickly.

#### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Good rains last weekend and another shower this week has kept yield potential in soybeans at a very good level. Most corn cannot benefit from the showers, but there is some late planted full season corn that looks pretty good. Weekly rains will have to continue. Scouting for pests in soybeans seems to be the activity of the week. Some sources say small corn earworms have been found, as well as, some other larval pests. Some post application herbicides continue on soybeans. Producers are busy scouting, contracting grain, pricing inputs for next year and attending educational meetings and field days. Vegetables benefited from last week's rain, but also has benefited from recent drying conditions. Let's hope for some cooler temps too.

#### APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Conditions are dry. We need rain!!!

#### CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Scattered showers have been helpful, but the temperatures absorb the moisture quickly.

#### HANOVER (JIM TATE)

It was another hot week punctuated by scattered daily thunderstorms. These storms have not been horrendous in nature but neither have they provided a lot of moisture. The storms of the weekend of 7/21 and 7/22 brought significant rain and the subsequent showers have served as reinforcement. I have had to cut the

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Last week's spotty showers gave much needed rain to areas of the county along with some minor flooding, tree limbs downed and winds. Tobacco is being irrigated and harvested. Crops are being scouted and sprayed accordingly for insects and/or weeds.

#### SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Recent rains and higher commodity prices have growers holding their breath, with hopes of a good harvest. Peanuts, cotton and soybeans are being scouted closely to monitor disease and insect outbreaks.

#### SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Scattered showers have fallen over parts of our area giving us some much needed moisture last week. Cotton, soybean and peanut look very good. Peanut and cotton growers are scouting for insect and diseases at this time.

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

We continue to stay on the wet side, drying just enough for most farmers to catch up on replanting soybeans and weed control.

### 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

#### CHARLOTTE (Bob Jones)

We are in the process of seeking a drought/extreme heat designation for both Charlotte and Lunenburg county.

#### FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County - scattered showers are at 30% chance for most of the week. Hopefully this will help growing crops, corn and soybeans. Driving around last week, I saw some good and bad corn fields. Some farmers are already chopping corn silage because it is drying down fast. Remember cutting to early get tested for Nitrate levels before feeding out to cattle.

