

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)

A few storms came through last week but did not cause quite as many problems as the week prior. The warmer weather of August is beginning to show on plants that are in need of water. Livestock is spending time in the shade. Many folks are getting ready for the State Fair.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Most of the county received very little rain over the past 10 days. Thunderstorms have occurred in the area, but just missed us. Corn looks to be about average for the season. Soybeans have responded well to the rainfall of over 2 weeks ago, however they could use some more water. Early maturity soybeans have pods near the top, while most double-crop soybeans are above the wheat straw now. Soybean growers will start scouting for corn earworm within the next week. Vegetable growers continue to harvest late summer crops and are getting ready to plant fall vegetables.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Recent rains have improved crop conditions and yield prospects. Early planted corn will see some yield losses, but cotton, peanut, and soybean crops look good. Growers are scouting crops and ready for insect and disease outbreaks.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Scattered heavy thunder storms moved through the area this week to end our dry spell. Our crops at this point look very good. Flue-cured tobacco harvest is underway and fungicide applications are being made on the peanut crop as diseases are showing up. Herbicide applications continue on soybeans and cotton. Growers are scouting cotton, peanut and soybeans for insect pests.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

We received roughly 2 inches of rain in most parts of Chesapeake this week. Soil moisture conditions are good. A few acres of soybeans have been sprayed for pests this week, but there have not been much insect problems thus far.

SOUTHERN

PATRICK (Travis Bunn)

Cherries are done. Most were knocked out by the rainy weather around harvest time. Many cherries split and/or rotted. Peaches have suffered some due to the weather. Apples for the most part have faired pretty well. Some natural thinning due to weather conditions occurred. I believe any apple thinning as a result of weather will actually play to the producers' advantage by having a larger, more marketable sized apple come harvest. There are several pockets in the county that are suffering from severe drought, where others have hit some showers throughout that have kept things in good to average conditions. This season so far has been sporadic at best. In some locations, only a couple of miles may differentiate between severe drought and good to average conditions. Most of the county's mountainous region has done well by capturing some much needed rain when we did get some weather. Grass and crops have both done well at those higher elevations where the rains seem to follow the edge of the mountain.



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P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: August 9, 2009

Number: 22

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 9, 2009

Rainfall across the Commonwealth continued to be sporadic, and while several areas received precipitation this week, others did not. In some counties the difference between drought conditions and good growing conditions is separated by a matter of miles. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.4. For several producers, early planted corn has suffered the most from dry weather and is expected to show some yield loss; however, the recent rain has been beneficial for soybeans, cotton and peanuts. Soybean scouting is the primary activity right now, as producers are on the lookout for corn earworms and other pests. Some fungicide applications have occurred. Vegetable growers continue to harvest late summer crops and are making preparations for fall plantings. The harvest of peaches, apples and potatoes continues, as well.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 9, 2009	2	17	74	7
August 2, 2009	3	15	69	13
July 26, 2009	2	25	67	6
July 19, 2009	5	38	55	2
July 12, 2009	3	34	60	3



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	6	24	59	10
Livestock	1	4	15	62	18
Hay, Other	1	9	24	56	10
Hay, Alfalfa	2	4	17	55	22
Corn	3	7	25	47	18
Soybeans	1	5	27	53	14
Flue Cured Tobacco	13	13	30	40	4
Burley Tobacco	0	1	6	82	11
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	0	0	23	71	6
Peanuts	0	2	8	81	9
Cotton	0	2	19	71	8
Apples, All	0	1	26	68	5
Peaches	0	6	26	63	5
Grapes	0	1	10	78	11
Oats	0	0	25	75	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	91	89	94	96
Corn Dough	75	66	72	69
Corn Dent	32	23	35	33
Corn Silage Harvested	11	7	11	8
Soybeans Blooming	71	51	63	74
Soybeans Setting Pods	38	18	27	45
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	27	16	17	18
Dark fire-cured Tobacco Harvested	4	0	8	11
Peanuts Pegged	89	85	98	94
Cotton Squaring	94	90	98	100
Cotton Setting Bolls	76	58	90	94
Cotton Bolls Opening	6	0	0	11
Summer Potatoes Harvested	90	79	99	90
Summer Apples Harvested	47	41	38	57
Peaches Harvested	64	44	57	64

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 9, 2009													
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 August 8	Mar 1 to August 8 normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	85	63	89	60	74	-1	2476	2453	0.72	7.53	-1.65	24.94	-2.16
Norfolk	86	71	92	69	79	0	2888	2693	5.57	13.85	3.60	29.26	0.58
Richmond	87	69	94	64	78	0	2852	2665	0.34	8.05	-1.31	20.80	-6.21
Roanoke	85	65	87	63	75	-1	2615	NA	0.68	11.06	2.42	28.55	1.87
Wash/Dulles	86	66	89	60	76	0	2536	NA	0.24	9.18	0.61	28.99	3.57

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (500)); where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. * Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. NA = not available. T=trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

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CENTRAL

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

We received 3 1/2 inches of rain across the county this week. Dairy farmers will begin cutting corn silage soon, and some hay farmers are getting ready to cut their 3rd cutting of hay, which is very unusual.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil conditions are becoming much drier. We have had one good rainfall event in the last month, and it did not cover the whole county. Pastures and hayfields are showing moisture stress. The corn crop is still looking very good, but late-planted soybeans planted after small grains have been stressed by the lack of rainfall. Farmers are attending production meetings and getting ready to, or are, harvesting corn silage. They are also scouting for insects and diseases in soybeans. Some are taking a vacation before the fall harvest season begins.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

It was fairly dry towards the week's end with increasing temperatures. Brambles and vegetables are the main crops being harvested. Disease pressure is still the biggest concern being addressed right now. Hay and pasture fields are doing okay, but need some moisture. Late corn plantings (due to rains) are obviously lagging behind, and other plantings are doing well.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Widespread rains alleviated drought concerns in almost all areas of the county. The rain came in time for late corn, but early corn could be off 35 percent or more in yield. The rains were very timely for the soybean crop, which should have very good pod set. Potato digging is almost finished and growers in some areas have 2 to 3 days left of digging. The fall tomato crop looks good with growers stringing tomatoes and scouting for pests. Planning of fall crops is underway, as well as, intensive scouting for worms and other pests in the soybean crop. A few farmers are taking a vacation and attending field days.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rainfall amounts varied greatly again this week across the area. Topsoil moisture is adequate in much of the county, but some areas remain dry. Farmers began scouting soybeans for corn earworms this week, but no infestations have been reported. Farmers attended field days and continued equipment preparation for the upcoming harvest season.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Frequent showers have perked up corn and made most soybeans look very good. Double crop soybeans look especially good and have not suffered for moisture since planting. Some corn is drying down and harvest is not far away. Early maturity corn was hurt in some areas by as much as 30-40%. Mid and full season hybrids look very good. Producers are beginning to scout soybeans for insects and any signs of problems. Corn earworm scouting has begun. Some producers are contemplating using a fungicide. Vegetables look good. Showers have affected tomato quality somewhat. Some haymaking has taken place and field days and producer meetings are abundant.

NEW KENT (Paul Davis)

Producers have been attending production field days, bushhogging around fields, getting combines ready for a good corn crop, and spraying full-season soybeans with fungicides.