



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: August 7, 2011

Number: 22

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 7, 2011

Cooler temperatures and thunderstorms have provided relief in some areas of the Commonwealth. Days suitable for field work were 6.3. Corn is drying down and losing moisture early this year. Herbicides are being applied to soybeans and cotton is being scouted for insects and pests. Vegetable growers are applying herbicides to pumpkin fields, harvesting sweet corn, hot and sweet peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, okra and melons. Activities for the week include attending field days, preparing for fall harvest, and ordering wheat seed for fall planting.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 10, 2011	10	18	68	4
July 17, 2011	9	31	59	1
July 24, 2011	10	43	45	2
July 31, 2011	18	36	43	3
August 7, 2011	20	38	41	1

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 10, 2011	9	24	64	3
July 17, 2011	8	34	57	1
July 24, 2011	11	38	50	1
July 31, 2011	14	39	46	1
August 7, 2011	16	43	40	1

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	9	24	33	31	3
Livestock	1	8	26	55	10
Hay, Other	9	18	39	31	3
Hay, Alfalfa	4	12	35	46	3
Corn	6	13	25	42	14
Soybeans	0	9	31	45	15
Tobacco, Flue-cured	0	2	35	40	23
Tobacco, Burley	0	3	24	57	16
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	0	3	72	25	0
Peanuts	0	0	29	47	24
Cotton	0	0	13	67	20
Summer Potatoes	5	9	27	50	9
Apples, All	0	1	25	50	24
Peaches	0	10	19	64	7
Grapes	0	3	13	83	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	91	90	97	94
Corn Dough	63	50	79	67
Corn Dent	40	20	53	35
Corn Mature	6	N/A	19	N/A
Corn Silage Harvested	17	N/A	N/A	N/A
Soybeans Blooming	65	51	73	68
Soybeans Setting Pods	39	21	26	31
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	15	11	16	18
Burley Tobacco Harvested	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dark fire-cured Tobacco Harvested	25	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peanuts Pegged	80	77	64	85
Cotton Setting Bolls	70	68	66	80
Cotton Bolls Opening	1	0	0	4
Summer Potatoes Harvested	92	89	98	92
Summer Apples Harvested	51	40	54	54
Peaches Harvested	57	40	55	60

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 7, 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 Aug. 7	Mar. 1 to Aug. 7 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	90	69	94	64	79	4	2673	2403	0.66	6.83	-2.04	21.62	-5.40
Norfolk	88	75	92	70	81	2	3107	2638	1.45	15.62	5.68	27.62	-0.85
Richmond	92	71	99	68	82	4	3003	2612	0.23	6.87	-2.29	22.69	-4.00
Roanoke	91	72	97	68	81	5	2796	NA	0.52	7.79	-0.58	24.16	-2.10
Wash/Dulles	91	70	99	66	81	5	2678	NA	0.72	4.70	-3.54	22.34	-2.76

* 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)

The 2nd cutting of alfalfa is short. Peaches were small in size due to dry weather. Apples will be small if they do not get rain. Pastures are dry. About 1/2 inch of rain on Saturday.

ROCKINGHAM (Matthew Yancey)

Cooler temperatures and thunderstorms have provided relief in some areas. It was too late for many corn fields as early silage harvest is beginning for some.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE(Tom Stanley)

Temperatures were moderated to more seasonal levels but still hot and the long period of higher than normal temperatures has contributed to a significant decline in row crops, hay, and pasture conditions. Spotty thunderstorm activity has helped some locations but most of Rockbridge is in need of rain.

CENTRAL

BEDFORD (Scott Baker)

Continued high temperatures and lack of precipitation are causing forage resources to diminish. A few producers have reported the need to begin some supplemental feeding.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

General county-wide rains have again assured the corn and soybean crops are on track for a good yield. We received a little over an inch in three separate storms this week. Early planted corn and soybeans are looking particularly good, with no major insect or disease problems reported. Vegetable growers are applying herbicides to pumpkin fields as they begin to run and vine out. Harvest of sweet corn, hot and sweet peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, okra and melons. Strawberry producers are soil testing and in the early stages of laying out fields for mid- to late-September planting.

CENTRAL (continued)

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

This summer continues to be so very different from last summer. Last year was hot and dry and awful....this year is hot with record breaking temperatures, and humid. The difference is that this year we are having rain. Western half of Hanover at least had thunderstorms Sunday evening and we had 1.2 inches of rain at my Western Hanover home. In central Hanover there is water in the ditches on Monday morning so they had rain as well. The corn crop is made and silage chopping will begin this week most likely. Early beans look from good to outstanding. Late beans are varied depending on the earliness of planting. Weekly rains are benefitting them greatly.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

With continued showers and thunderstorms over most of the area, soil moisture conditions remain pretty good. Activities for the week included attending field days, applying herbicides and fungicides to soybeans, preparing for fall harvest, and ordering wheat seed for fall planting.

KING GEORGE(John Howe)

Hot dry conditions remain and are hurting crops, forage and livestock.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

A little more rain this week has helped keep soybeans growing and on course for a good crop. Some corn is drying down fast and may be harvested by mid to late August. Some applications of post herbicides still going out on soybeans. Producers are scouting for insects in soybeans. Very few if any have been found. Cantaloupe, squash, sweet corn, pepper and tomato harvest continues. Quality is good. Producers are getting ready for harvest and making plans for fall small grain seeding. Field days galore! Pastures are still supplying enough feed right now. Some areas may feed hay soon if substantial rain does not come.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Rains have been very timely over the past 2 weeks. All crops are doing well due to the recent rains; although pastures are improving at a very slow rate. Peanuts are starting to peg and cotton is beginning to set bolls. Soybeans are looking very good. Herbicides are being applied to soybeans and cotton is being scouted for insects and pests. Overall crops look to be in excellent condition with more rains predicted this upcoming week.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

If we get a few more rains we will have the possibility of this being one of the better crop years. The corn crop is pretty much made, with cotton, peanuts, and soybeans in the reproductive stages. Fungicide sprays are going out with limited insect pressure so far.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Some small worms are showing up in soybean fields this week but they are too few and small to control. Just a couple farms sprayed last week. Farmers are scouting fields this week. Corn is drying and losing moisture early this year. Expect an early start to the harvest season. Farmers markets are doing well with abundant produce. Lightning has sparked a few forest fires this weekend with the dry conditions.



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