



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Week of: Oct 9-Oct 15, 2006

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 15, 2006

Weather conditions were cool and dry this week for most areas of the Commonwealth. Days suitable for field work were 5.2. Temperatures were cooler than normal this week, with many areas experiencing the first frost of the season. The average high temperature this week was 78 degrees, with low temperatures near freezing. Some areas, especially some Southeastern counties, welcomed the dry week as time to recover from excessive rains and flooding from the previous week. Farmers in drier areas were able to continue corn harvest and other field work. As corn harvest winds down, producers will direct their attention to harvesting soybeans in the coming weeks. While full-season beans are reported to be in fairly good condition, many double-crop beans are still showing the ill effects of the dry summer conditions. Pastures and hay fields continue to benefit from the improved growing conditions. Still, many producers fear hay will be in short supply throughout the winter months. Small grain planting continued, with good moisture conditions for planting. Some late vegetable harvest was completed this week. Other farm activities included planting cover crops, making field preparations, making hay, and planning fall and winter meetings.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 17, 2006	2	6	83	9
September 24, 2006	1	9	80	10
October 1, 2006	2	5	85	8
October 8, 2006	0	2	78	20
October 15, 2006	0	2	82	16

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 15, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	77	28	54	-4	0.01	-0.69	1
Warrenton	76	31	56	-2	0.25	-0.52	1
Winchester 7 SE	78	29	54	-2	0.00	-0.70	0
Dale Enterprises	75	27	51	-5	0.05	-0.66	2
WESTERN							
Glasgow	78	30	55	-3	0.12	-0.72	1
Roanoke AP	78	32	56	-2	0.01	-0.90	1
Waynesboro	76	30	53	-2	0.06	-0.78	1
Staunton AG	77	29	53	-2	0.21	-0.63	1
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	79	29	55	-5	0.18	-0.87	1
Piedmont Res ST	79	30	56	-2	0.08	-0.83	1
Bremo Bluff	83	31	57	0	0.06	-0.91	2
Richmond AP	82	37	61	2	0.00	-0.82	0
EASTERN							
Eastville	77	43	62	-2	0.19	-0.44	1
Wallops Island	75	36	58	-6	0.30	-0.27	1
Williamsburg	78	38	59	-3	0.00	-0.70	0
Keysville	79	32	56	-3	0.00	-0.91	0
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	77	26	51	-3	0.10	-0.74	2
Wytheville	76	25	49	-5	0.07	-0.70	2
Saltville	79	26	53	-3	0.24	-0.55	1
Richlands	77	24	51	2	0.50	-0.27	1
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	80	30	56	-2	0.38	-0.60	2
Danville AG	79	31	57	-4	0.15	-0.69	1
Chatham	77	27	53	-4	0.17	-0.72	2
Martinsville	77	27	54	-4	0.20	-0.71	1
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	76	41	62	0	0.00	-0.71	0
Oceana	78	39	63	-3	0.04	-0.67	1
Emporia	81	36	59	1	0.00	-0.77	0
Newport News	79	40	63	1	0.03	-0.68	3

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	1	8	35	45	11
Livestock	0	4	25	60	11
Other Hay	2	15	34	39	10
Alfalfa Hay	1	9	37	41	12
Soybeans	3	13	42	36	6
Peanuts	0	13	34	43	10
Cotton	0	13	32	30	25
All Apples	0	1	8	86	5

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Grain Harvested	72	69	69	70
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	85	67	93	83
Soybeans Harvested	8	5	22	15
Winter Wheat Seeded	24	14	18	20
Winter Wheat Emerged	6	3	0	5
Barley Seeded	66	49	49	53
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	93	90	98	96
Peanuts Dug	54	50	61	63
Peanuts Combined	39	35	47	46
Cotton Harvested	29	28	29	27
Fall Apples Harvested	90	88	82	83
Winter Apples Harvested	35	30	30	53

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Silage corn harvest continues. Yields are average to below average. Calf marketing continues with prices lower than previous months. Tree leaf color is peaking with wind and rain bringing them down.

CARROLL COUNTY (Wythe Morris):

First hard frost and some freezes appeared this past week. Most cropping and ground covers will be slowing through the next two weeks.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Farmers are finishing corn harvest, and changing over to soybeans. Pastures and hay land have recovered from summer drought. Due to earlier lack of rain, hay will probably be in short supply through the winter months. Corn yields were average to above average, and full-season soybean yields look good. Many double-crop soybean fields look stunted, due to mid-summer lack of rain.



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REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

Corn harvest is winding down and small grain planting has begun. We have had good moisture for planting. Many of the soybean fields have now dropped leaves and await harvest. Soybean harvest should get into full swing in the next 2 weeks. Some early full season beans have been harvested, producing decent yields but poor quality. Producers are making final small grain planting decisions. Field prep continues. Cover crop planting has also begun. Some hay is being made. Cooler temperatures are on tap for this weekend with possibilities of scattered frost.

RICHMOND COUNTY (Kelly J. Liddington):

The county experienced heavy frost Oct. 10th-14th and 15th.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

Corn harvest continued this week with dryer conditions. Small grain and cover crop planting also continued. Some late vegetable harvest also proceeded. We have not had very good drying conditions for late hay cuttings. Some soybean harvest should take place in a week or so.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Barry Robinson):

The recent heavy frosts have ended our growing season. Dry conditions this past week aided harvests but resumed the downward slide in needed precipitation.

SCOTT COUNTY (Scott Jerrell):

Heavy frosts last week put a close to most of this year's crops.

HALIFAX COUNTY (Traci Talley):

The county received frost on Friday and Saturday nights, some tobacco was lost to frost damage as there was still a portion of the crop out due to late growing season. Fall hay harvest is still under way and thrashing of corn and soybeans has started. What tobacco that can be saved will continue to be harvested.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY (Cynthia L. Gregg):

Rain last week set some things back, but we needed it. Folks have been finishing up tobacco. Fall and winter programs are being planned and ready to get going. Late hay harvesting is going on. Folks are getting ready for the first real frost as well.

SURRY COUNTY (Glenn Slade):

The county received from 10 to 18 inches of rain on Oct 6 and 7th. There was severe flooding in many areas, with several roads washed out and some still impassable. Fields are drying slowly with some field work beginning by weeks end. We are in process of monitoring yields to see how much excess moisture will compound problems from recent drought.