



NATIONAL  
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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# WEATHER & CROPS



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**Week Ending: October 26, 2014**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 26, 2014

Virginia experienced seasonable temperatures and scattered rain showers this week. Northern Virginia received most of the rain which totaled over 0.5 inches. Southwestern Virginia was much drier with little to no rain. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.9. The dry weather contributed to good progress made on the corn and soybean harvest; however, small grains need more rain to improve germination. Flue-cured tobacco growers hurried to complete the harvest before frost damages the crop; 7 percent of the tobacco remains to be harvested. Other farming activities for the week included feeding livestock, applying lime and fertilizer, and harvesting apples.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 26, 2014	2	19	73	6
October 19, 2014	3	19	65	13
October 12, 2014	7	28	56	9
October 5, 2014	9	32	55	4
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 26, 2014	6	22	69	3
October 19, 2014	6	23	66	5
October 12, 2014	9	28	59	4
October 5, 2014	11	29	57	3

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Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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Virginia Tech

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<b>CROP CONDITION PERCENT</b>					
<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Soybeans	0	5	22	62	11
Barley	0	0	19	72	9
Cotton	0	0	1	79	20
Livestock	1	6	26	55	12
Pasture and Range	6	16	32	37	9
Hay, Alfalfa	0	20	34	41	5
Hay, Other	3	20	33	41	3

<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>
Cotton Bolls Opening	96	94	100	99
Cotton Harvested	23	10	26	48
Peanuts Dug	95	75	97	86
Peanuts Harvested	72	43	66	61
Corn for Grain Harvested	82	71	87	89
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	93	83	87	92
Soybeans Harvested	33	16	22	29
Winter Wheat Seeded	35	27	31	42
Barley Seeded	76	69	81	86
Flue-Cured Tobacco Harvested	93	90	100	95
All Apples Harvested	81	62	N/A	N/A

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING October 26, 2014**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 To Oct. 25	Mar. 1 to Oct. 25 Norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	66	38	70	33	52	-3	3882	3806	0.03	5.18	-1.46	39.17	2.91
Norfolk	67	50	74	43	58	-1	4590	4266	0.34	10.41	3.52	42.83	3.90
Richmond	68	46	75	39	57	0	4530	4131	0.25	3.97	-2.99	29.64	-7.41
Roanoke	66	43	74	39	55	0	3956	n/a	0.00	4.65	-1.71	33.22	-2.50
Wash/Dulles	64	42	72	35	53	0	3635	n/a	0.57	3.90	-3.90	40.09	5.23

\* 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 Smith)**

Harvesting has been delayed to wet weather.

#### WESTERN

##### **ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)**

A dry week allowed harvesting activities to progress rapidly but soil moisture levels dropped. Seedling small grains could use some rain. Forage supplies are generally adequate except hay feeding has started earlier than usual due to a very dry September. Conditions are driest in northern Rockbridge.

#### CENTRAL

##### **AMELIA (Joan Poore)**

A very dry week, a little shower Wednesday pm, then back to dry and breezy conditions. This has been good to get harvesting done, but the small grains need some moisture. Hay cutting is over for the season.

##### **CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)**

Recent rains have recharged the soil, but have not hindered planting to any degree.

##### **HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

We had one rainy day this week that yielded 4/10 of an inch at my western Hanover home. We are getting enough to germinate fall plantings which pretty much look good, but we are still dry. Temperatures have been moderate so far and while we have had some frost, we still have not yet had a killing frost. It is now predicted for the coming weekend.

#### EASTERN

##### **ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Light rainfall amounts of .1-.3 inches slowed field work on Wednesday and Thursday, but farmers made good progress planting the wheat crop and harvesting soybeans. There is a wide range in soybean yields, but overall yield will probably be about average.

#### SOUTHERN

##### **FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)**

Franklin County was dry and windy which allowed for soybeans to dry down and drop all leaves. Farmers still chopping corn and working into soybeans. Cattle look good and some producers are working on a late hay crop because of the rain two weeks ago and the warmer temperatures.

##### **LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)**

We're still cutting it close on the tobacco. Soybeans are dropping leaves. The cold weather is coming though.

## **SOUTHEASTERN**

### **SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Harvest season in full swing, with good yields and crop quality.

### **SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)**

Peanut harvest is complete and some peanut vines are being baled for winter cattle feed. Cotton harvest and defoliation continues. The crop appears to be a very good one facing low market prices. Small grain planting has picked up along with lime and fertilizer applications. Soybean harvest of early maturing varieties has begun as the crop is rapidly dropping leaves.