



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



Week Ending: August 18, 2013

Number: 24

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 18, 2013

For most of Virginia, it was a cool week; temperatures were about 1 to 4 degrees below normal with the nighttime lows in the 50s. The State experienced scattered showers with most areas receiving ½ to 1 inch of rain. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.2. The cool and wet weather was favorable for hay growth, but made harvesting difficult. The summer vegetable crop was winding down. Excessive rainfall contributed to a delayed vegetable harvest and missed markets; disease was noticeably higher and more vegetables than normal rotted in the fields. Vegetable growers were making decisions for a fall crop. The majority of soybeans were in good to excellent condition; growers applied fungicides to the crop. Tobacco was slowly maturing. Some growers worried that the frost will damage the tobacco before the harvest can be completed. Other farming activities for the week included planning out small grain crops, attending Ag meetings, and preparing for the corn for grain harvest.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 18, 2013	1	13	70	16
August 11, 2013	0	10	69	21
August 4, 2013	0	11	73	16
July 28, 2013	0	12	65	23
July 21, 2013	0	4	63	33

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 18, 2013	0	10	71	19
August 11, 2013	1	9	69	21
August 4, 2013	0	9	71	20
July 28, 2013	1	10	73	16
July 21, 2013	0	4	70	26

IN THIS REPORT:

Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3,4

Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	3	17	63	17
Livestock	0	1	8	62	29
Hay, Other	0	10	23	54	13
Hay, Alfalfa	0	4	19	51	26
Corn	1	2	9	49	39
Soybeans	1	2	16	59	22
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	0	5	27	39	29
Tobacco, Burley	1	8	30	49	12
Tobacco, Dark Fire Cured	0	5	24	57	14
Peanuts	0	3	12	61	24
Cotton	3	3	11	61	22
Apples, All	0	0	5	95	0
Grapes	0	14	16	69	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	96	93	99	99
Corn Dough	75	70	89	84
Corn Dent	46	32	61	60
Corn Mature	10	1	21	23
Corn Silage Harvested	18	8	59	41
Soybeans Blooming	78	69	84	82
Soybeans Setting Pods	50	34	45	50
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	28	25	22	26
Tobacco, Burley	5	3	5	8
Tobacco, Dark Fired Cured	17	15	8	27
Cotton Setting Bolls	98	89	99	90
Cotton Bolls Opening	2	1	5	8
Peanuts Pegged	95	93	99	92
Apples, Summer Harvested	70	52	53	60
Peaches Harvested	79	72	74	72

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 18, 2013

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Aug. 17	Mar. 1 to Aug. 17 Norm	Last Week	Since June. 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	80	61	90	52	70	-4	2771	2671	0.95	11.67	1.61	32.11	3.95
Norfolk	82	72	90	68	77	-1	3126	2936	1.07	14.56	2.92	31.97	1.81
Richmond	83	66	91	58	74	-3	3105	2899	0.40	15.39	4.78	34.27	5.95
Roanoke	81	61	90	52	71	-4	2807	na	0.84	20.48	10.82	41.02	13.31
Wash/Dulles	81	60	89	53	71	-4	2751	na	0.77	13.06	3.46	27.05	0.54

* 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)

We have received scattered thunderstorms. The temperatures have been in the low 50's and low 80's.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

An unusually cool - below average temperatures, Wednesday thru Sunday. A steady light rain since Saturday night into Sunday evening.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

The monsoon season continues.... two rain events this week at my western Hanover home. The first was 9/10 inch and yesterday we had another 1.4 inches for a total of 2.3 inches in the third week of August without a hurricane. I have broken and repaired my lawnmower twice this summer just from the volume of grass mowed. I mow grass just about every afternoon that it is not raining; cutting wet grass is hard on the mower, but mowing hay with a riding lawn mower is harder. Some corn silage is being harvested. How they are keeping the equipment from sinking in the mud is beyond me. My pastures are all soggy. Vegetable producers have had an awful year- delays in maturity, markets missed, and produce rotting in the wet fields. The nice thing about the last week's weather has been the cool temperatures and good sleeping weather. Now the forecast for the coming week is to return to a heat and humidity festival.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

We experienced an unbelievably cool weather for the mid and latter part of the week. Rainfall on Sunday was beneficial to the soybean crop as topsoil conditions in some areas had become short. Activities for the week included attending field days, scouting soybeans for insects and diseases, and getting ready for corn harvest, which will probably start next week. Producers continued to apply fungicides to some soybean fields. Frogeye leaf spot has been reported in some fields and a complexity of insect pests are present in many fields, but no particular insect has become troublesome.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Fall was in the air this week. Rain at week's end keeps soybeans progressing nicely, also keeps corn earworms from flying. Corn continues to dry down. May be some harvest by end of next week. A little concerned about corn running out of N and also what effects spring cool and damp conditions will have on some fields. All in all though, a good crop ahead. Folks are thinking ahead to fall small grains, they are doing a lot of scouting in beans to see what can be found as far as insects and disease. Vegetable harvest winding down and fall vegetable planting considerations ahead. Sweet potatoes and pumpkins look good. So do watermelons.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Remarkably cool temperatures and rain at the end of the week made hay making impossible and slowed corn development but crop conditions remain very good. Pasture forage is abundant in very good shape for this time of year.

SOUTHWEST

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

First and second cut hay was all harvested at the same time for many. This has been one of the most difficult years to get hay cured properly and baled dry. There have been reports of losses up to 80% of cabbage crop, and tobacco is very late maturing. If conditions don't improve, most of the burley will not be mature by frost. This week also had unseasonably cool temperatures.

SOUTHERN

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

Need a little rain. It's been overcast and has pretended to rain but nothing of any amount. Soybeans: A fair amount of potash deficiencies in the beans. Pods are setting. Scouting has not revealed any major problems. The kudzu bugs are not yet the problem we thought they may be. Hay: We have really grown some hay this year, but I'm not sure we've made the quality we grew. The rain has made it hard to get up. Most folks are working on second cutting. Pastures: Still look pretty good. Livestock: Most are fat and happy. Tobacco: Folks are pulling flue on the eastern side of the county. The dark and burley are about ready. Grapes: Disease has been rampant this year.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Cooler weather at the end of the week was enjoyed by producers and livestock. Showers have been spotty in the county. Tobacco harvest is in full swing. Other crops are being scouted for insects, disease, etc. I have heard several people make the comment "It is unusual for it to be this green in August".