



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: October 20, 2013

Number: 31

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 20, 2013

Overall, it was a slightly warmer than normal week for Virginia. Most areas experienced highs in 70's and lows in the 40s to 50s. Scattered rain showers were prevalent for the week. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.4. Although the weekly accumulated rainfall for most of the Commonwealth was less than one half of an inch, it was enough in combination with rain from the previous week to delay fieldwork. Corn harvest was slightly behind normal. The soybean harvest was about one week behind normal; in addition to the wet weather, a late spring planting contributed to the delay. Soybean growers were concerned about the yield potential for late season soybeans; a dry period in September lowered the expected yield. Small grain crops were being planted behind harvested fields. Other farming activities for the week included tending to fall calving, harvesting apples, and wrapping up the pumpkin, sweet potato, and cucumber harvest.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 20, 2013	0	7	89	4
September 29, 2013	11	30	58	1
September 22, 2013	3	26	68	3
September 15, 2013	3	27	68	2
September 8, 2013	0	17	78	5

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 20, 2013	0	11	84	5
September 29, 2013	4	33	59	4
September 22, 2013	2	30	66	2
September 15, 2013	2	20	74	4
September 8, 2013	0	13	84	3

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

Virginia Tech

Virginia State University

Virginia Cooperative Extension

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	7	27	58	8
Livestock	0	1	10	66	23
Hay, Other	2	5	27	58	8
Hay, Alfalfa	0	8	33	48	11
Soybeans	0	4	24	61	11
Winter Wheat	0	0	25	75	0
Barley	0	0	32	64	4
Peanuts	0	0	22	58	20
Cotton	2	3	15	67	13
Apples, All	0	2	5	91	2
Grapes	4	10	23	59	4

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Grain Harvested	82	n/a	93	85
Corn Silage Harvested	94	n/a	98	100
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	79	n/a	90	84
Soybean Harvested	11	n/a	19	19
Barley Seeded	69	n/a	83	78
Winter Wheat Seeded	19	n/a	31	31
Winter Wheat Emerged	7	n/a	11	10
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	97	n/a	94	89
Cotton Bolls Opening	97	n/a	100	97
Cotton Harvested	10	n/a	24	36
Apples, Fall Harvested	82	n/a	99	88
Apples, Winter harvested	49	n/a	85	70
Peanuts Dug	86	n/a	73	67
Peanuts Combined	50	n/a	41	41

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20, 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 Oct. 19	Mar. 1 to Oct. 19 Norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	67	51	71	41	59	2	3867	3753	032	2.20	-3.91	35.92	0.36
Norfolk	71	61	79	57	66	4	4471	4202	0.06	5.06	-1.18	38.32	0.00
Richmond	72	57	77	52	64	5	4379	4069	0.29	5.62	-0.62	44.53	8.03
Roanoke	67	52	71	47	60	3	3944	na	0.26	3.28	-2.57	45.59	10.25
Wash/Dulles	69	52	76	43	60	4	3868	na	0.20	9.09	3.19	36.94	2.74

* 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)

Farmers are finishing up the harvest of apples and will begin harvest of their corn and soybeans. Pastures are good. Weather has been cool in evenings and highs some days in the 60-70's. The leaves are falling.

WESTERN

BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)

Expecting an earlier than normal frost this week. Any warm season crops will be killed. Harvest proving to be later than normal due to late planting dates in the spring. Hay crop was not good this year; most was made too late causing quality to drop. What was made on time was more than likely rained on. Grass is and has been good so livestock should go into winter in good condition, hay will be hard to find and low quality this winter.

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Seasonal temperatures and dry weather allowed corn to dry-down and fall field work to progress rapidly. The first frost Sunday night over to Monday morning brought the week and the summer growing season to a close.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Week of October 1 - 6 unseasonably hot and dry all week. Week of October 7 - 13 cloudy and drizzle, seasonal temperatures. After a week of drizzle and clouds, Tuesday - Friday was sunny with normal temps. Corn and soybean harvest has stopped due to the moisture.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Week of Oct 1-6 - above average hot and dry. Week of Oct 7-13 - cloudy, drizzle, light rain all week. No crops harvested since Oct 7 due to moisture in field and crops.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

After last week's soggy conditions this week started out a little damp. Harvest and field activities were delayed early week. Fair weather and better conditions had producers back in action by mid week. I would say that most corn has been harvested. Early bean harvest is under way. Double crop beans are still green and growing. The forecast calls for that to end this week with frost overnight predicted.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Damp conditions limited field work until late in the week when farmers were able to plant small grains and harvest soybeans. Both activities are behind schedule and some dry days are needed to help catch up. Some of the full-season soybeans have yielded pretty well, but double-crop plantings are not expected to yield as well due to dry conditions in September.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Wet weather slowed things down last week. Corn harvest was put on hold as was the beginning of wheat planting. Should continue next week. Some soybeans ready for harvest, just waiting for some sun and clear weather. Double crop soybeans have been hurt by the dry September and yields will be average to below in many fields. Full season soybean yields, for the most, should be average to above. Corn harvest continues, but most are finished and ready to begin wheat planting. Field conditions are very good right now for planting. Producers should watch seed size as they calculate the amount of seed to plant per acre. They are encouraged to plant seeds per row foot and not pounds per acre. Producers are busy getting ready to plant wheat, planting cover crops, field prep, and some scattered hay is being made. Most veggies are gone, but some sweet potatoes, pumpkins and cucumbers remain to be harvested.

SOUTHERN

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

The rain was much needed, and hopefully it was not too late. Temperatures are dropping. We may see our first frosts this coming week.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Rain this week slowed down some field work but as it ended some producers were able to get some field preparation done. Tobacco is pretty much harvested and is being cured along with producers taking it to the buying stations. Corn is being harvested and full season soybeans are drying down pretty well. Some grain sorghum has been harvested. Small grains are fields are being prepared for planting. Fall calving is well underway.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

After a rainy week (10, 11-19) crop harvest is getting back underway. Corn is about complete. 70% of the peanuts dug but only about 30% harvested. Cotton defoliation just beginning. We need some good dry days to get caught up.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Farmers are starting to return to picking soybeans after a week of rain which ended this week. Most corn is harvested with good yields. Wheat planting not yet underway.