



NATIONAL  
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# WEATHER & CROPS



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**Week Ending: August 31, 2014**

**Number: 25**

**Released: September 2, 2014**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 31, 2014

It was a hot and humid week for the Old Dominion. Daytime highs were in the 90s. Rain was sparse this week, with only a few areas experiencing light rain. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.4. The dry weather was favorable for harvesting corn for grain, harvesting tobacco, and cutting hay. Yields on the corn were reported better than first expected; corn growers were getting average to better than average yields. Farmers were monitoring soybeans for insect infestation and apply insecticides. Other farming activities included fall calving, harvesting and selling vegetables, fertilizing pastures, farmstead maintenance, and making preparations for the small grain crops.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 31, 2014	2	25	64	9
August 24, 2014	2	22	66	10
August 17, 2014	3	24	67	6
August 10, 2014	5	24	64	7

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 31, 2014	3	26	68	3
August 24, 2014	3	24	70	3
August 17, 2014	4	26	68	2
August 10, 2014	5	26	67	2

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Service**

**Virginia Tech**

**Virginia State University**

<b>CROP CONDITION PERCENT</b>					
<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Corn	0	7	20	57	16
Soybeans	0	4	20	64	12
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	3	4	32	34	27
Tobacco, Fire-Cured	1	3	21	65	10
Tobacco, Burley	1	1	29	61	8
Cotton	0	0	1	96	3
Peanuts	0	0	2	88	10
Livestock	1	4	20	59	16
Pasture and Range	2	12	33	46	7
Hay, Alfalfa	0	6	31	52	11
Hay, Other	3	13	37	42	5
Apples, All	0	2	38	54	6
Grapes, All	0	13	33	43	11

<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 Setting Bolls	100	97	100	98
Cotton Bolls Opening	10	6	15	19
Corn Dough	89	85	91	91
Corn Dented	64	59	77	75
Corn Mature	31	18	37	47
Corn for Grain Harvested	3	0	8	12
Corn for Silage Harvested	53	25	55	61
Soybeans Blooming	82	80	92	95
Soybeans Setting Pods	58	52	71	76
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	0	n/a	1	2
Flue-Cured Tobacco Harvested	45	26	47	40
Fire-Cured Tobacco Cut	32	18	61	59
Burley Tobacco Stripped	7	2	10	15
All Apples Harvested	33	31	n/a	n/a
Peaches Harvested	83	77	89	85

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING August 31, 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 Aug 30	Mar. 1 to Aug 30 Norm	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	81	61	86	53	71	-2	3062	2978	0.10	12.57	1.15	33.59	4.13
Norfolk	81	71	87	69	76	0	3471	3276	0.01	12.79	-0.81	32.42	0.33
Richmond	87	64	93	60	76	1	3488	3221	0.00	9.63	-2.55	25.67	-4.17
Roanoke	81	62	89	55	72	-1	3087	n/a	0.09	12.98	1.80	28.57	0.58
Wash/Dulles	81	59	87	53	70	-3	2826	n/a	0.01	11.42	0.23	35.76	7.83

\* 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)**

We have had a humid week. All crops are doing good at this time.

**CENTRAL**

**AMELIA (Joan Poore)**

Hot and dry. It sure doesn't take long to dry up when the showers stop coming and the temperatures start climbing into the 90's.

**HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Hot and humid seems to be the way we will end what has been a fairly temperate summer. It was sticky enough yesterday to make a fence post sweat. We could use some rain....producers have taken advantage of the dry weather to begin harvesting corn. I did not think it quite dry enough, but a good many fields have seen the combine already this year. The sound of driers fills the air; no reports on yields yet, but it does not look quite as bad as thought earlier. Most stalks appear to have a fair ear. Full season beans have begun to yellow either from maturity or from lack of rain. Some late beans are barely a foot tall. With all the signs of an early fall and the current run of dry weather, prospects for a good yield on them looks bleak. We approach fall calving season with calf loses due to predation already observed in at least one herd. Not sure of the predator yet.

**EASTERN**

**GLOUCESTER (David Moore)**

Soybean could use some rain. No real pests out there as yet. Some fungicides sprayed for frog eye leaf spot, but no real insect pressure. Some folks making applications anyway for protection and to get that chore out of way before corn harvest. Corn looks good. Harvest is starting and yields are average to above. Folks making hay and making plans for small grain planting. Summer vegetables about over.included attending field days and preparing for corn harvest. A few producers started harvesting corn.

**SOUTHERN**

**FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)**

Despite the rain and hot temperature, farmers are out chopping corn for silage. Soybeans looking good, and pasture quality is looking good compared to a month ago.

## **SOUTHEASTERN**

### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)**

The weeks temperatures climbed from 80's to 90's as the week progressed as did the humidity go up as well. Farm work has continued with producers scouting crops, harvesting crops, and working on fertility for pastures this past week.

### **CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)**

Some corn harvest underway but moisture still very high. Full season soybean crop is fully loaded with pods, no reported spraying for pests yet. Farmers mowing paths, harvesting hay and preparing for corn harvest. Bountiful vegetables for local markets.

### **PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

A dry week across the area. Soybeans are showing symptoms of water stress by mid-day. Activities for the week included cutting and baling hay, scouting soybeans, preparing for corn harvest, and some farmstead maintenance.

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

Light scattered showers past through our area last night. Crops are looking good at this point. Growers are applying fungicides to peanut and soybean. Growers are urged to scout soybeans for corn-earworm and some are getting ready for corn harvest.

### **VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)**

Worm pressure on soybeans has increased and much of our area crops could really use some rain.