



NATIONAL  
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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# WEATHER & CROPS



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**Week Ending: September 28, 2014**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

Most of the Old Dominion experienced scattered showers and cooler than normal temperatures this week. Rainfall varied from very light to over 2 inches. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.6. Showers contributed to delaying the corn harvest; the State is about one week behind normal for this time of year. Despite the recent rain showers, several counties reported dry conditions. Pasture and hay fields were in poorer condition when compared to a year ago. Livestock producers worry, if given a hard winter, there will be a shortage of feed available. Vegetable growers were winding down for the season; collards and late squash were still being harvested. Most of the sweet potatoes and pumpkins harvest is completed. Other farming activities for the week included fall calving, planting cover crops, and preparing for apple festivals.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 28, 2014	13	26	57	4
September 21, 2014	9	25	59	7
September 14, 2014	1	19	67	13
September 7, 2014	2	26	67	5
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 28, 2014	11	26	60	3
September 21, 2014	8	24	64	4
September 14, 2014	2	22	72	4
September 7, 2014	3	28	67	2

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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>
Corn	0	5	31	51	13
Soybeans	1	6	20	62	11
Cotton	0	0	5	84	11
Peanuts	0	0	7	78	15
Livestock	2	5	23	57	13
Pasture and Range	8	15	29	40	8
Hay, Alfalfa	3	9	31	47	10
Hay, Other	5	14	38	39	4
Apples, All	0	2	29	64	5
Grapes, All	1	8	25	56	10

<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	79	56	76	75
Cotton Harvested	0	0	0	3
Peanuts Dug	10	5	21	13
Peanuts Harvested	2	0	3	3
Corn Dented	94	91	99	98
Corn Mature	85	76	89	90
Corn for Grain Harvested	48	38	64	63
Corn for Silage Harvested	93	85	82	87
Soybeans Setting Pods	98	96	99	100
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	39	18	34	41
Soybeans Harvested	1	0	2	2
Winter Wheat Seeded	9	6	9	13
Barley Seeded	28	13	32	27
Flue-Cured Tobacco Harvested	70	68	82	76
Fire-Cured Tobacco Cut	93	83	99	98
Burley Tobacco Stripped	89	60	91	87
All Apples Harvested	42	40	n/a	n/a

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING September 28, 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 Sept 27	Mar. 1 to Sept 27 Norm	Last Week	Since Sept 1	Sept 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	72	53	83	50	63	-2	3577	3503	0.44	1.49	-1.89	35.48	2.33
Norfolk	74	65	81	59	70	0	4141	3895	2.09	9.15	5.49	41.57	5.74
Richmond	77	58	90	52	68	0	4121	3786	0.72	1.27	-2.25	26.79	-6.73
Roanoke	74	54	84	47	64	-1	3627	n/a	0.08	1.22	-2.26	29.79	-2.94
Wash/Dulles	74	51	84	42	62	-3	3340	n/a	0.66	0.88	-2.50	37.07	5.39

\* 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)**

I have heard from farmers that areas of Frederick are dry. Rainfall has been spotty in certain areas. Temperatures this week low 50's to low 80's.

Where pastures are not managed, the prayers are for a mild winter, because it has not been a good hay making year either; however, signs do not point to a mild winter. It has been cool all summer. I doubt we are going to have a warm winter.

### WESTERN

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

Dry conditions accelerated maturation of corn and soybeans, and its effects began to be seen in pasture and hayfields more broadly across Rockbridge. Many farmers have started feeding hay ahead of when they normally begin hay feeding. Corn silage harvest is finished, and corn for grain harvesting work is close on its heels.

#### **NELSON (Michael LaChance)**

Wine grape harvest continues with much of the 2014 crop undergoing initial fermentation. Peach harvest is nearly completed. Apple orchards being actively picked and outlets preparing for festivals. Late hay continues to be cut and rolled. Brown marmorated stink bugs and kudzu bugs moving towards buildings.

### EASTERN

### CENTRAL

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

Topsoil was getting dry until Wednesday, which brought steady showers all day and night. After that system passed, the weekend was dry and low 80's. This stopped any potential to harvest corn for a few days due to the moisture content. Some hay has been harvested, but a very low yield. A lot of tobacco remains to be harvested.

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

Reported rainfall amounts for the week were just under .5 inch up to an inch, but much of the drier areas were still on the low end of totals. Corn harvest continued at a good pace. Some cover crops were planted. Producers were also busy budgeting and trying to determine how much wheat to plant given the current low price for the crop.

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

No rain this past week. The soil is getting dryer.

#### **GLOUCESTER (David Moore)**

Corn harvest continues. Yields very good. Rain during the week helped late beans, and also made good seed bed for cover crop planting. Soybeans will increase leaf drop. Haymaking has been on a good roll and late cuttings have been very good. Most vegetable production is over. Some late squash and collards still growing. Sweet potato and pumpkin harvest about over. Plans being made for small grain and cover crop planting.

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

Rain at least in the western end of the county. It has not done much to alleviate the dry conditions, but the guys who are harvesting grain are happy as they are not tearing up fields with harvest equipment this year. Corn yields, while not great, have been better than was expected. We still have some grass where pastures are managed, but stockpiling fescue needs a little more moisture and not much forage has been built so far.

## **SOUTHEASTERN**

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

About an inch of rain this week (9/24-25) slowed field work, but we needed it to help fill peanuts and double crop soybeans.

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

Rainfall has fallen over most of our county and farm activities are put on hold. Corn harvest continues along with peanut digging and the crop look good. A few acres got harvested prior to the showers. Flue-cured tobacco harvest is coming to an end as growers move quickly to fill barns with ripe leaves.