



NATIONAL  
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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# WEATHER & CROPS



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**Week Ending: October 12, 2014**

**Number: 31**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 12, 2014

Virginia experienced autumn temperatures and scattered showers this week. The lows ranged in the 40s to upper 50s, and highs were in the 70s to 80s. Most areas experienced about one inch of rain, but some parts of the State are suffering from dry conditions. The northern and western parts of the State reported dry conditions, with Highland County declaring a local drought disaster. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.6. Harvesting was delayed in some areas due to the wet weather, but the rain was welcomed by farmers as it benefited hayfields, pastures, small grains, and cover crops. The cotton harvest began this week; spraying defoliants continued as the harvest begins to ramp up. Some counties began in earnest to harvest soybeans; the initial yields look favorable. Other farming activities for the week included cutting late hay, wrapping up the pumpkin and sweet potato harvest, and planting small grains.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 12, 2014	7	28	56	9
October 5, 2014	9	32	55	4
September 28, 2014	13	26	57	4
September 21, 2014	9	25	59	7
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 12, 2014	9	28	59	4
October 5, 2014	11	29	57	3
September 28, 2014	11	26	60	3
September 21, 2014	8	24	64	4

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Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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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					
Soybeans	0	5	21	64	10
Cotton	0	0	2	70	28
Peanuts	0	0	0	89	11
Livestock	2	6	28	53	11
Pasture and Range	11	17	28	37	7
Hay, Alfalfa	0	21	33	41	5
Hay, Other	3	22	35	37	3
Apples, All	0	3	38	54	5

<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	91	88	N/A	92
Cotton Harvested	3	0	N/A	19
Peanuts Dug	50	24	N/A	47
Peanuts Harvested	26	12	N/A	22
Corn Mature	93	90	N/A	98
Corn for Grain Harvested	66	57	N/A	78
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	65	46	N/A	70
Soybeans Harvested	8	5	N/A	9
Winter Wheat Seeded	19	14	N/A	24
Barley Seeded	50	38	N/A	58
Flue-Cured Tobacco Harvested	84	80	N/A	88
Fire-Cured Tobacco Cut	98	95	N/A	100
Burley Tobacco Stripped	98	93	N/A	100
All Apples Harvested	50	47	N/A	N/A

Due to a lapse in federal funding in October 2013, the Crop Progress reports for the weeks ending October 6, 2013 and October 13, 2013 were canceled. Therefore, previous year estimates for the corresponding weeks will not be available. Five-year average estimates will reflect the years 2009-2013 using published estimates for 2009-2012 and imputed estimates for 2013.

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING October 12, 2014**\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

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. 11	Mar. 1 to Oct. 11 Norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	68	46	76	33	57	-3	3757	3665	1.13	3.06	-2.12	37.05	2.10
Norfolk	76	57	83	46	67	2	4390	4097	0.19	9.49	4.13	41.91	4.50
Richmond	74	51	82	40	63	1	4350	3971	1.07	2.60	-2.70	28.27	-7.06
Roanoke	70	49	79	38	59	-1	3822	n/a	1.25	2.74	-2.33	31.31	-3.09
Wash/Dulles	67	46	76	33	57	-2	3504	n/a	0.69	1.84	-3.13	38.03	4.68

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY**

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

**NORTHERN**

about over as well as pumpkins, squash and tomatoes. Peppers continue to come in. Some late hay harvest.

**FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)**

Southern end is still dry, received some rains and some feeding has started. It has been spotty.

**SOUTHERN****FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)**

Franklin county is very wet which slowed harvest of remaining crops and planting of winter crops. Pastures are extremely wet. Making hard for grazing and feeding hay.

**WESTERN****HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

Despite a few showers this week, ground water concern and pasture grazing are critical. Highland Board of Supervisors passed a resolution declaring a local drought disaster.

**HENRY (Melanie Barrow)**

Lost hay on the ground this week to rain...rain also caused hay rolls in the field to lose upper 5% exposed, but can still be fed to cattle. Rain has delayed cuttings.

**CENTRAL****HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

In two long gentle rain events we have received some much needed rain. The first left .65 inch over about thirty six hours and then again over the weekend we had another 7/10. While it hinders harvest activities it certainly helps the seeding and planting of fall crops and grasses.

**EASTERN****ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Rainfall on Friday and Saturday helped to restore topsoil moisture, which will help with germination of cover crops and small grain crops. Corn harvest is almost complete. Farmers were busy during the week applying lime, burndown herbicides, and fertilizer for the wheat crop. Wheat planting has begun and will be in full swing next week.

**GLOUCESTER (David Moore)**

Good corn harvesting weather this week. Some soybean harvest begins. Yields are very good to excellent. Field prep for small grain planting continues. Some barley, oats and cover crops being planted. Wheat planting will begin next week in some areas. Sweet potato harvest is

## **SOUTHEASTERN**

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

Rain on Friday and over the weekend slowed down some field work. Harvest is progressing. Some producers have cut a late cutting of hay this past week and some of it got rained on as well.

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

Farmers are mostly finished with corn harvest and starting with soybean harvest this week. Corn yields very good, mostly in the range of 175-200 bu/acre. Soybean crop looks very promising. Good weather has a lot of field work being done after a week of showers off and on. All strawberry plants have been set with much difficulty this year with weather.

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

Corn harvest winding down, with peanuts underway and cotton just beginning. Peanut yields and grades are the best in many years.

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

Nice weather has allowed growers to move rapidly with peanut digging and harvesting. Yields are reported to be good to very good in some places. Cotton defoliation has also begun as many fields are ready and bolls are open. Wheat planting will begin shortly.