



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE



WEATHER & CROPS



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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 19, 2014

It was a wet week for the Old Dominion. Rainfall varied based on location, but most areas received one inch up to 3 inches of rain. Temperatures were seasonable for this time of year, with some areas experiencing light frost. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.0. Harvesting was delayed due to the rain. Tobacco growers were anxious to complete the harvest before a damaging frost; only 10% of Flue-Cured tobacco remains to be harvest. Pastures benefited from the cool weather and recent rain, but hay making struggled; in some cases, cut hay was not salvageable due to the prolonged rain storms. Other farming activities for the week included harvesting late season vegetables, planting cover crops, and harvesting peanuts.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 19, 2014	3	19	65	13
October 12, 2014	7	28	56	9
October 5, 2014	9	32	55	4
September 28, 2014	13	26	57	4

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 19, 2014	6	23	66	5
October 12, 2014	9	28	59	4
October 5, 2014	11	29	57	3
September 28, 2014	11	26	60	3

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Virginia Cooperative Extension
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Virginia Tech

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Soybeans	0	5	21	63	11
Barley	0	0	19	70	11
Cotton	0	0	2	78	20
Peanuts	0	0	0	89	11
Livestock	2	6	26	54	12
Pasture and Range	9	19	28	36	8
Hay, Alfalfa	0	21	33	41	5
Hay, Other	3	26	36	32	3

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Cotton Bolls Opening	94	91	96	96
Cotton Harvested	10	3	10	30
Peanuts Dug	75	50	83	68
Peanuts Harvested	43	26	48	39
Corn Mature	99	93	97	99
Corn for Grain Harvested	71	66	81	85
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	83	65	77	82
Soybeans Harvested	16	8	11	17
Winter Wheat Seeded	27	19	19	29
Barley Seeded	69	50	67	73
Flue-Cured Tobacco Harvested	90	84	96	92
All Apples Harvested	62	50	N/A	N/A

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING October 19, 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 Oct. 18	Mar. 1 to Oct. 18 Norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	66	51	73	46	59	2	3823	3744	2.09	5.15	-0.83	39.14	3.56
Norfolk	76	60	83	55	68	6	4521	4191	0.58	10.07	3.93	42.49	4.22
Richmond	76	56	84	50	66	7	4462	4090	1.12	3.72	-2.48	29.39	-6.89
Roanoke	67	54	77	51	60	3	3897	n/a	1.91	4.65	-1.09	33.22	-1.74
Wash/Dulles	68	53	79	46	61	5	3584	n/a	1.49	3.33	-2.41	39.52	5.46

* 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)

Received some greatly needed rain this week. Weather is cooling off. Pastures are slightly short. More rain is needed.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

A series of rainfall events this week did much to correct the moisture deficit that had been experienced by most of Rockbridge during September. The northern end of Rockbridge and extending into Augusta are still below normal moisture, but the entire region received over 1/2 inch of precipitation this week. Much of the Rockbridge area received well over an inch of precipitation. Patchy frost occurred Sunday night over Monday morning to conclude the week, but most of Rockbridge has yet to experience a killing frost.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan Poore)

A significant rain fall over the entire county Tuesday night into Wednesday – receiving reports of 2.0 to 3.0 inches of rain. The ground is very soggy; corn harvest will halt until some drying. Some producers may have started soybean harvest or is very near.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Soybean harvest progressing well. Even with the rain recently, farm ponds are still down.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Recent good rains, in addition to shorter days and falling temps have made an improvement in pastures and thus livestock.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Nothing of note this week. Fall work continues at a steady pace. Cover crops and small grains that have been planted and emerged are looking good. In my neighborhood several new hay plantings look good as well. First noticeable frost on my vehicle this morning.

EASTERN

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

Corn harvest winding down. Yields held up throughout season and are very good to excellent. Soybean yields should be the same. Rains fell during the week that stopped farm activities for a day or so. Wheat planting should increase next week. Some haymaking continues. Field prep for small grain planting continues. Collards, peppers, broccoli and cabbage still being harvested.

SOUTHERN

HENRY (Melanie Barrow)

Rain, again, prevented producers from being able to mow, rack, tether and roll hay the first 4 days of the week. Hay that had been cut prior to the rain was left on the ground, where much was not able to be salvaged due to the amount and continuation of steady, heavy rains over a 72-hour period.

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

We had a big rain early in the week that has really slowed tobacco harvest, fall hay cutting, and general working and planting of fields. I am concerned about getting all of the tobacco in before frost. Soybeans are dropping leaves. Pastures should bounce back a bit from this rain, but are overall in fair condition. Cattle look good. Temperatures have really started to drop.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Last week's rain caused some minor flooding; including water standing in some fields and rows along with ditches. Harvesting and planting of fall crops were slowed and in most cases stopped due to standing water.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

Farmers have started planting some wheat with ideal soil moisture conditions. Corn harvest is completed with a bumper crop in 2014 averaging between 160-200 bushels on most farms. Soybean harvest underway with good yields thus far full season soybeans. U-pick strawberry plugs and sprigs planted and setting well with good weather and soil conditions. Many acres planted this year without fumigation due to wet September which prevented enough interval time post fumigation/safe plant date. Fall crops abundant at most vegetable stands.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Rainfall during mid-week hampered harvest for the second week in a row. Rain totals ranged from 0.5 to 2 inches across the county. By the weekend crops dried out and corn, soybeans, and peanuts were harvested. Winter wheat seeding got started as well.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

This week rain has put a stop to our harvest season. Peanut harvest is coming to an end and yields are reported as good to very good. Cotton harvest will be starting very soon and the crop look very good. Defoliation has begun and will continue as the weather improves. Small grain planting has started.