



# Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia Tech  
Virginia State University  
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service  
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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**Agricultural News:** Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.3. To stay ahead of the hurricane weather conditions, many farmers concentrated on harvesting corn during the week. Farming activities for the week also included planting small grains, harvesting fruit, and preparing for heavy rains.

## SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 09/16/18

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	-	1	56	43
Subsoil	-	2	66	32

- Represents zero.

## CROP CONDITIONS for week ending 09/16/18

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Corn	1	7	24	62	6
Cotton	1	3	10	83	3
Hay, Alfalfa	-	8	35	51	6
Hay, Other	3	15	40	37	5
Peanuts	1	4	10	82	3
Soybeans	2	7	20	64	7
Pasture	4	14	32	40	10

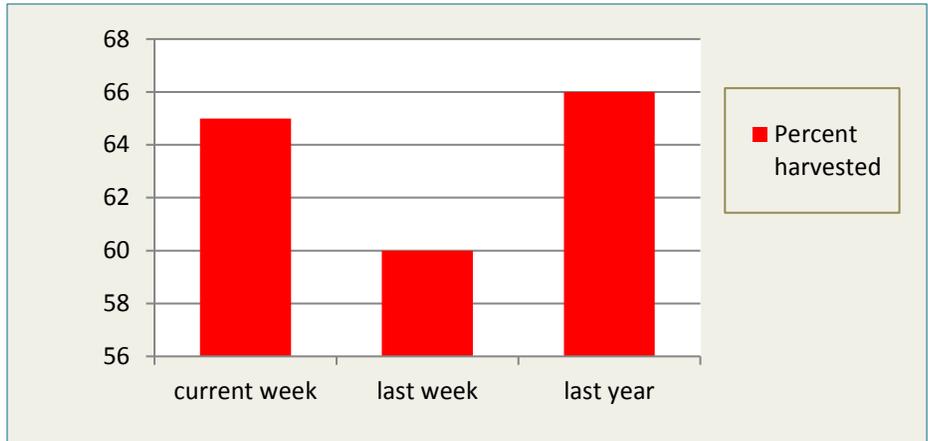
-Represents zero.

## CROP PROGRESS for week ending 09/16/18

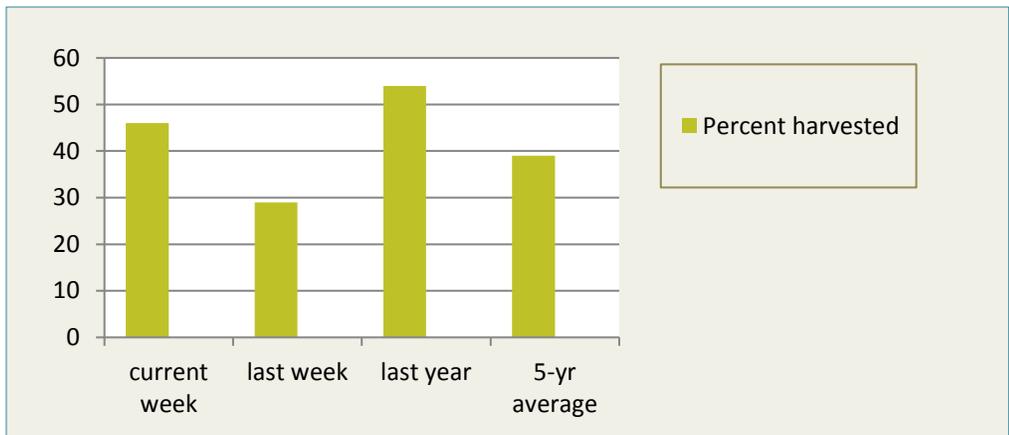
Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Apples harvested	65	60	66	-
Peaches harvested	97	94	-	-
Barley planted	2	-	-	-
Corn dented	95	91	-	-
Corn mature	82	73	88	76
Corn harvested for grain	46	29	54	39
Corn for silage harvested	85	71	92	78
Cotton bolls opening	43	37	39	43
Peanuts harvested	3	1	1	1
Soybeans setting pods	91	87	94	91
Soybeans dropping leaves	15	8	21	15
Tobacco, Flue-cured harvested	75	65	71	66
Winter Wheat planted	1	-	-	-

- Represents data not available or zero.

**APPLES HARVESTED for week ending 09/16/18**



**CORN HARVESTED FOR GRAIN for week ending 09/16/18**



**Weather Summary- For the week ending September 16, 2018**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sep. 15	Mar. 1 to Sep. 15 norm	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	74	67	81	60	71	2	3621	3297	1.24	2.25	0.44	42.19	10.71
Norfolk	85	75	90	73	80	6	4199	3643	1.51	2.70	0.63	45.21	10.97
Richmond	83	71	89	67	77	5	3990	3559	1.04	2.17	0.24	47.63	15.67
Roanoke	77	67	85	60	72	2	3754	NA	3.07	3.40	1.47	40.89	9.44
Wash/Dulles	75	65	81	57	70	1	3499	NA	1.71	2.74	0.80	46.40	16.28

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. 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 remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

**NORTHERN**

**ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)**

Only modest rain fell during the week, but the lack of sunshine prevented much drying. Some farmers were forcing silage harvest on wet soils before the heavy rains forecast for the weekend. The first corn field was combined in an attempt to reduce field losses. Fields with mature corn are experiencing sprouting in ears and moldy ears. Residual rainfall from Hurricane Florence is hitting the area today, and causing some localized flooding already.

**LOUDOUN (Jim Hilleary)**

Soil is saturated, moderate to heavy rain expected for the 17th and 18th.

**WESTERN**

**ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas Stanley)**

Rockbridge was humid with scattered showers throughout the week, especially Thursday. Hay making activities were suspended, but corn silage harvest continued where field conditions permitted. There is a higher percentage of corn acres planted late this year that is still not ready for chopping. The week ended with remnants of Hurricane Florence moving into the area on Saturday night and bringing all field work to a halt.

**BATH/HIGHLAND (John Benner)**

Moisture at saturation levels. Hurricane remnants battering county as we speak. No progress made on harvest of 2nd-3rd hay cutting. Low fields are mud.

**CENTRAL****CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)**

Soil moisture is adequate as of now for fall small grain planting, but more rain from Florence may delay fall planting.

**CHESTERFIELD/GOOCHLAND (Charlotte Maxwell)**

We have had a very wet week, and it will continue to be wet as we see the effects of Hurricane Florence.

**EASTERN****KING GEORGE (Mike Broaddus)**

Soil moisture is adequate as of now for fall small grain planting, but more rain from Florence may delay fall planting.

**CHARLES CITY (Scott Reiter)**

Corn harvest was the main activity this week as growers pushed hard ahead of Florence. Rainfall was spotty Friday-Sunday with up to an inch received in some areas. Corn yields are average to good based on a limited sample to grower estimates.

**SOUTHWESTERN****GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

Much of the early corn for silage was harvested before Hurricane Florence impacts reached the area by late week. Rainfall amounts from Florence were less than predicted, but potential damage assessments were not available prior to this survey. Biggest concerns are for unharvested corn in low lying areas and tobacco. There may also be damage to timber due to strong wind gusts, but this impact appears to be minimal based on initial assessments.

**TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)**

Flash flooding prior to Hurricane Florence.

**SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Cooler temperatures have allowed most farmers to catch up ahead of Florence. We have received steady, light rainfall and moderate, non-damaging winds.

**SOUTHEASTERN****GREENSVILLE (Sara Rutherford)**

Corn harvest kicked into high gear Monday and Tuesday of this week in anticipation of rain and wind predictions. Spray applications were also made Monday and Tuesday to get ahead of the rain. A few peanut fields adjacent to the Meherrin River were dug and moved in hopes of preventing the crop from rotting in the fields, should flooding be prolonged. The forecast has eased up some for Virginia and growers and producers here are still taking precautions, but are relieved the threat has subsided somewhat at this time.

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

Farmers took advantage of the slowed hurricane approach to the coast and harvested a lot of corn this week. We moved the needle from 40% harvested to 70% harvested this week.

**BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)**

Hurricane Florence put some farm operations in high gear to get some things done before she made shore. The rain, wind, and minor flooding slowed down operations. Some cleaning up will begin when the rain finally ends.

**PRINCE GEORGE/SURRY/SUSSEX (Scott Reiter)**

Corn harvest was the main activity this week as growers pushed hard ahead of Florence. Rainfall was spotty Friday-Sunday with up to an inch received in some areas. Corn yields are average to good based on a limited sample to grower estimates.