



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 6.9. Weather conditions continue to be hot and dry with limited precipitation recorded during the week; D1 (moderate drought) conditions have increased. The lack of rain is preventing crops from being planted. Farming activities for the week included feeding hay, harvesting peanuts, and monitoring crops.

SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 09/29/19

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	52	36	12	-
Subsoil	44	36	20	-
Hay & Roughage	15	37	47	1

- Represents zero.

CROP CONDITIONS for week ending 09/29/19

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Cotton	-	9	21	69	1
Hay, Alfalfa	28	33	22	17	-
Hay, Other	34	24	21	20	1
Peanuts	-	7	14	77	2
Soybeans	3	25	37	30	5
Pasture	40	34	18	8	-

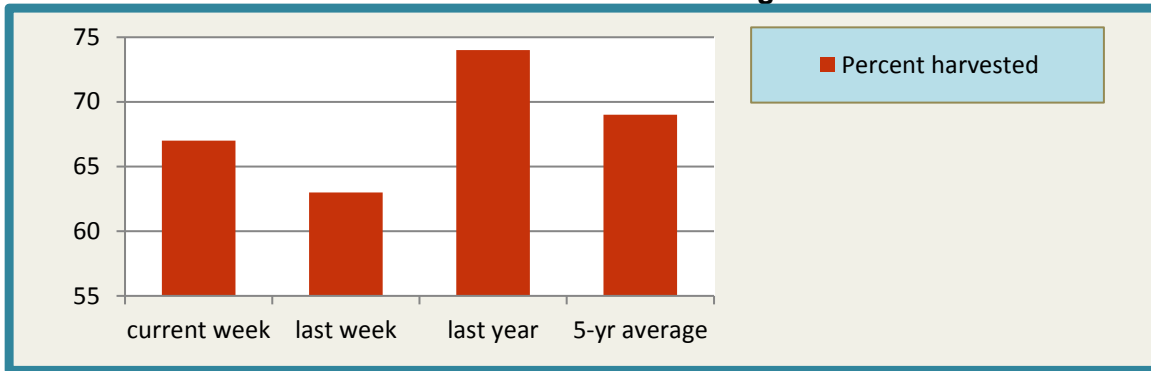
-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 09/29/19

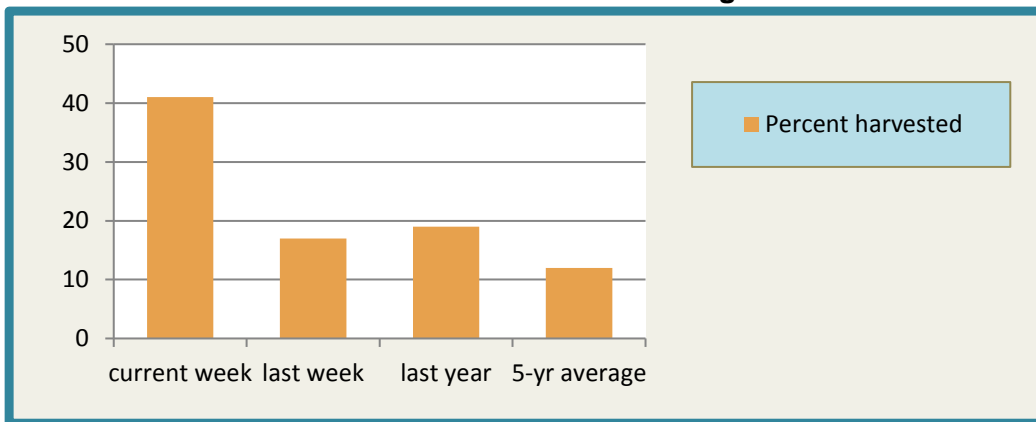
Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Apples harvested	67	63	74	69
Barley planted	25	15	17	20
Corn mature	96	92	94	91
Corn for grain harvested	87	76	67	62
Corn for silage harvested	96	93	92	93
Cotton bolls opening	89	74	70	72
Cotton harvested	10	-	-	-
Peanuts harvested	41	17	19	12
Soybeans dropping leaves	51	29	34	39
Soybeans harvested	3	-	-	-
Tobacco, Flue-cured harvested	95	92	90	81
Winter Wheat planted	23	15	8	8

-Represents data not available.

APPLES HARVESTED for week ending 09/29/19



PEANUTS HARVESTED for week ending 09/29/19



Weather Summary- For the week ending September 29, 2019

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. 28	Mar. 1 to Sep. 28 Norm	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	89	59	93	50	74	9	3984	3517	0.00	0.06	-2.94	28.73	-4.29
Norfolk	86	68	91	62	77	7	4638	3914	0.00	2.96	-0.83	38.58	2.53
Richmond	91	64	95	57	77	10	4413	3802	0.03	0.42	-3.39	34.45	0.68
Roanoke	88	62	93	53	75	10	4167	NA	0.51	1.31	-2.23	32.80	-0.33
Wash/Dulles	86	57	94	49	72	7	3869	NA	0.01	0.34	-3.06	30.18	-1.58

* 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

LOUDOUN (Jim Hilleary)

Continuing dry weather. The extent of Jointhead Arthraxon grass' significant spread across the county becomes more evident as other grasses die and cool season grasses growth is slowed by very warm, dry days. If Jointhead's presence as seen now is the basis for next year's Jointhead growth start point, grazers and hay producers will see pasture and hay quality plummet.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas Stanley)

A few scattered thunderstorms in Rockbridge did nothing to alleviate drought conditions. Some corn was harvested for grain this week and corn in the field is rapidly drying down. Total precipitation for September was only 17% of normal, and average daily high temperatures were 6.4 degrees above long-term average for September in Rockbridge.

BATH/HIGHLAND (Jennifer Matosky)

Getting dry, not much rain has fallen.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Laura Siegle)

We remain very dry.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Extremely dry soil still continues to be a large problem. All soybeans, as of now, will not be improved by rain, and now lack of rain is preventing small grains and cover crops from being planted.

BUCKINGHAM (Jennifer Ligon)

Severe drought conditions.

FLUVANNA (Enrique Hernandez)

No significant rainfall.

EASTERN

KING GEORGE (Mike Broaddus)

Extremely dry soil still continues to be a large problem. All soybeans, as of now, will not be improved by rain, and now lack of rain is preventing small grains and cover crops from being planted.

CHARLES CITY (Scott Reiter)

Another hot and dry week. Corn harvest continued and is nearing completion. Peanut and cotton harvest started at a fast pace. Soybean maturity continues to advance as more fields are yellowing and dropping leaves. Double crop soybean yields will be reduced as many growers are commenting on the flat pods (aborted seed) being found.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Weather conditions remain much drier than normal.

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Grayson County instituted a local burning ban this week due to dry conditions. Some beef producers have started feeding hay, or have considered reducing animal numbers due to short standing forage supply. Pumpkin harvest has remained strong.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Supplementation of lost pasture has escalated greatly this past week. Minimal rainfall and continued 90 degree weather has pushed almost all pasture and hay crops into terribly short supplies. Even if rainfall begins again in copious amounts, the lost time for fall grass to recover has been shortened to the point where no one will not be affected.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Feeding out hay. Driest it has been in 20 years.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Extreme heat and drought continues, and pastures are beginning to suffer greatly. Some producers are beginning to feed hay. Without significant rainfall, a drought declaration will be forthcoming.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County still has seen very little to no rain. Ground is cracking and fields are brown. If farmers are haying, they are not getting much off the fields. Franklin County is in a county wide no open burning ban. Any rain that may have happened last week did not amount to anything significant. Still in the 90+ degrees during the week. Drought stress is taking its toll already on winter hay in storage. Soybeans are dropping leaves, but plant height is concerning since hardly any rain has fallen after planting. Yields will be down.

SOUTHEASTERN

GREENSVILLE (Sara Rutherford)

Drought conditions continue to plague the area. Peanut harvest is complete; cotton harvest has begun. Soybeans have started dropping leaves.

MECKLENBURG (Taylor Clarke)

It is dry and hot!

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

Good weather for harvesting hay the past two weeks, but pastures and hay fields need rain. Late soybeans also need rain.

DINWIDDIE (Mike Parrish)

Very dry, no rain for more than 6 weeks in 60% of the county and the remainder has had 1.5 inches of rain in the same 6 weeks.

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Rain is much needed. Late hay cutting is still going on and yields are low. Tobacco in bales is being delivered to pick up points. Cotton is coming along with bolls opening.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Another hot and dry week. Corn harvest continued and is nearing completion. Peanut and cotton harvest started at a fast pace. Soybean maturity continues to advance as more fields are yellowing and dropping leaves. Double crop soybean yields will be reduced as many growers are commenting on the flat pods (aborted seed) being found.