

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

MECKLENBURG (Taylor Clark)

Eastern side of county suffering tremendously with the rest of the county catching up rapidly. Tobacco harvest is progressing but behind normal schedule.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

The light rain over the weekend (0.2 inches) did little to improve crop conditions. Soybeans and peanuts are showing drought stress with severe wilting and dying plants. Soybean pest pressure has subsided with worm counts being low. Some cotton has been defoliated this week as fields have turned white over the last 10 days. Water levels in ponds and streams have diminished greatly over the past two weeks.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Rain over this weekend has helped. But soil moisture content is very low. Some cotton harvest has started. Pastures are still not coming back fast enough to support livestock.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

A lot of late season spraying for soybean loopers kept farmers busy this week. Corn harvest is average to above average locally. Some 150-185 bu. of corn harvested already. Soybean crop is promising but need another good rain to finish.



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USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week Ending: September 12, 2010

Number: 27

Released: September 13, 2010

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

Dry weather continued to dominate the Commonwealth and crops continued to suffer from the lack of moisture. Days suitable for field work were 6.6. Pastures dried up in some areas. Grain farmers continued to harvest corn and plant cover crops and small grains. Soybeans took a beating from the dry windy conditions as producers continued to watch the fields for corn earworm and soybean loopers. Peanuts and soybeans showed drought stress with severe wilting and dying plants. Cotton harvest has begun. Tobacco harvest progressed behind normal schedule in some areas. Peppers, tomatoes, squash, sweet potatoes and pumpkins continued to be harvested.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 15, 2010	35	37	28	0
August 22, 2010	19	29	49	3
August 29, 2010	24	36	39	1
September 5, 2010	31	42	27	0
September 12, 2010	38	43	19	0



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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	27	33	30	10	0
Livestock	2	11	32	44	11
Hay, Other	23	30	36	10	1
Hay, Alfalfa	7	19	43	25	6
Corn	30	23	34	11	2
Soybeans	14	24	50	10	2
Tobacco, Flue-cured	12	24	30	26	8
Tobacco, Burley	5	15	16	47	17
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	2	26	55	17	0
Peanuts	27	30	31	12	0
Cotton	9	27	47	17	0
Apples, All	0	10	72	16	2
Grapes	0	0	29	46	25

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	87	83	91	90
Corn Mature	65	64	70	71
Corn Harvested for Grain	44	39	8	15
Corn Silage Harvested	84	79	60	67
Soybeans Setting Pods	97	92	96	94
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	17	9	10	14
Winter Wheat Seeded	5	1	N/A	N/A
Barley Seeded	7	5	N/A	N/A
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	50	44	65	52
Burley Tobacco Harvested	40	32	39	41
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Harvested	73	48	88	50
Cotton Bolls Opening	40	12	39	63
Cotton Harvested	1	0	N/A	N/A
Fall Apples Harvested	30	25	19	33
Winter Apples Harvested	20	2	N/A	N/A
Peaches Harvested	95	90	96	99
Oats for Grain Seeded	6	N/A	N/A	N/A

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

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 11	Mar. 1 to Sep 11 Normal	Last Week	Since Sept 1	Sept 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	81	51	89	47	66	-4	3584	3222	0.04	0.04	-1.29	32.31	1.25
Norfolk	83	66	91	64	75	0	4152	3555	0.00	0.21	-1.29	33.04	-0.67
Richmond	86	58	92	53	72	-1	4090	3480	0.04	0.05	-1.20	22.77	-8.85
Roanoke	82	57	90	51	69	-2	3786	NA	0.30	0.33	-1.10	29.68	-1.23
Wash/Dulles	83	56	93	47	70	-1	3708	NA	0.01	0.01	-0.99	26.51	-3.27

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

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NORTHERN

FAIRFAX (Adria Bordas)

After weeks of dry weather, on Sunday we finally received about an inch of rain.

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

We are still in need of moisture in Frederick County. Pastures are dried up; we are in a D2 drought monitor. Things are still looking bad and no rain in site.

PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)

Deficit of 6" of rain for the year, tops of corn are turning brown; working on drought declaration for Prince William County

WESTERN

AUGUSTA (Tom Stanley)

Dry conditions persist in Augusta County. Due to the poor re-growth being observed on some hay meadows, it appears the last hay of the season was likely made this week.

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

No rain this week combined with unusually warm temperatures worsened pasture and hay conditions.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Another dry week - with windy conditions. No rainfall in the forecast to speak of. Sunday morning the area had 0 to .20 tenths of light rainfall with cloudy conditions.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are harvesting corn, planting cover crops, and small grain crops. Soybean producers are scouting for insects and evaluating their fields for yield potential. Lack of moisture has severely impacted flowering and pod set in many areas. Vegetable producers are harvesting winter squash and pumpkins. Fall greens are nearing harvest.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Another week of dry conditions, has been breezy most days, no rainfall in the forecast that would significantly change the crop conditions.

EASTERN

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Continued dry weather for most of the area. Showers fell over weekend about .2-.5 inches. Need moisture to do field work prior to small grain planting. Corn harvest is rolling along, many folks 50% done and some are actually finished. Yields have been from single digits to around 100 depending on soil types and corn maturity. Soybeans are taking a beating with the dry windy conditions this week. Producers are still watching fields for worm outbreaks. Corn earworm and soybean loopers are the main problems. Vegetable harvest continues. Peppers, tomatoes, squash sweet potatoes and pumpkins are being harvested and look pretty good. Some fall haymaking begins. Need some rain to make hay in some places.

SOUTHWESTERN

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Only enough rain to settle the dust. Average September weather.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts, Jamie Stowe)

Recent rains brought about growth in the pastures, unfortunately it was mostly weed growth and still seeing little growth of desirable cool-season forages. Producers still feeding hay and culling cattle.