



NATIONAL
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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: September 20, 2009

Number: 28

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

Clear, dry weather allowed producers throughout the State to make significant progress on the harvest of corn and tobacco, as well as, begin the planting of small grains. Corn yield reports have been good to very good. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.3. Although harvest conditions were ideal this week, late planted soybeans are in need of additional moisture. Producers continued scouting for insects and disease, and there have been a few reports of acreage being treated for soybean aphids. For many, additional rainfall will be necessary before small grain planting can begin. Strawberry farmers began fumigating their land and laying plastic, and in some areas, a few acres have already been planted.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 20, 2009	15	33	51	1
September 13, 2009	10	27	59	4
September 6, 2009	5	34	57	4
August 30, 2009	3	21	71	5
August 23, 2009	4	15	73	8



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IN THIS REPORT:

Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3



CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	3	14	36	38	9
Livestock	1	3	18	65	13
Hay, Other	5	12	36	40	7
Hay, Alfalfa	3	8	26	51	12
Corn	2	8	21	49	20
Soybeans	0	6	20	52	22
Burley Tobacco	0	4	7	71	18
Peanuts	0	0	12	76	12
Cotton	0	3	23	63	11
Apples, All	0	0	21	77	2
Grapes	0	1	12	86	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	96	93	95	95
Corn Mature	78	73	80	83
Corn Harvested for Grain	18	8	27	30
Corn Silage Harvested	72	61	73	81
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	24	11	22	27
Winter Wheat Seeded	7	0	7	5
Barley Seeded	12	0	15	15
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	75	66	44	66
Burley Tobacco Harvested	71	40	48	68
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Harvested	95	90	93	56
Cotton Bolls Opening	47	40	74	83
Apples Fall Harvested	37	19	28	50

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 20, 2009													
City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar 1 to Sept. 19	Mar 1 to Sept. 19 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	79	58	85	51	68	0	3395	3372	0.09	0.10	-2.40	26.69	-5.46
Norfolk	78	65	84	62	71	-2	3956	3732	0.00	6.29	3.67	43.20	8.37
Richmond	80	61	86	57	71	0	3895	3641	0.00	0.83	-1.61	25.33	-7.14
Roanoke	81	61	86	56	71	3	3598	NA	0.01	0.53	-1.87	32.83	0.96
Wash/Dulles	79	59	87	51	69	1	3522	NA	0.18	0.56	-1.87	31.99	1.24

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (500)); where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. * Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. NA = not available. T=trace. 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.

WESTERN

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Rainfall for the week was 0.03 inches. Seasonal day temperatures have been accompanied by warmer than average night time temperatures.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Corn harvest has started in earnest. Dry weather has been good for harvesting corn, but late soybeans and grain crops need more moisture. Farmers are picking corn, getting livestock ready for fall sales and scouting soybeans. Vegetable farmers are planting strawberries and harvesting fall crops, like winter squash and pumpkins.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Another mostly dry week with last weeks rain being contained to the east of our county. Some producers are awaiting rain before planting small grains and cover crops. Most corn has been harvested.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Corn harvest continued during the week with good to very good yields for the most part. A few acres of late soybeans were treated for soybean aphids.

KING GEORGE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are harvesting corn, and scouting soybeans for insects and diseases. Moisture conditions are very dry. More rain is needed for late soybeans and planting small grains.

SOUTHEASTERN

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Corn harvest is well underway with yields from 100 to 200 bushels per acre. Peanut digging and cotton defoliation will probably start the last of this week.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Light scattered showers fell over most of the area giving us relief from the dry field conditions. Corn harvest is in full swing, as producers are cutting and disking corn stalks. Flue-cured tobacco harvest is also in full swing. Soybeans, cotton and peanuts are in good shape and yields are reported as good.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

No rain this week, so farmers were able to harvest a lot of corn. Yields are very good due to summer rains. Strawberry farmers were able to fumigate land and lay plastic. Planting will be 1 to 2 weeks late. Farmers participated in the VDACS pesticide disposal program and plastic pesticide container recycling program.