



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

# WEATHER & CROPS



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**Week Ending: September 18, 2011**

**Number: 28**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 18, 2011

Cooler and drier temperatures prevailed across Virginia allowing fieldwork to resume. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.4. Corn harvest continued with good yields in most areas and corn silage harvest neared completion. Some cotton fields have begun to reach maturity. A few peanuts have begun to be dug. Dark tobacco harvest is almost complete with many fields still suffering from the effects of Hurricane Irene. Growers continue to monitor soybean fields for worms. Vegetable growers continue to harvest sweet potatoes, tomatoes and pumpkins. Some have begun to plant strawberries.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 21, 2011	17	31	50	2
August 28, 2011	19	28	45	8
September 4, 2011	8	24	63	5
September 11, 2011	1	13	67	19
September 18, 2011	1	15	71	13

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 21, 2011	18	36	45	1
August 28, 2011	22	32	45	1
September 4, 2011	10	27	59	4
September 11, 2011	8	14	66	12
September 18, 2011	7	17	68	8

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

Virginia Tech

Virginia State University

**Virginia Cooperative Extension**

A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

<b>CROP CONDITION PERCENT</b>					
<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Pasture	6	10	35	41	8
Livestock	3	8	26	54	9
Hay, Other	9	17	32	35	7
Hay, Alfalfa	2	9	25	54	10
Corn	6	11	30	45	8
Soybeans	1	4	16	63	16
Tobacco, Flue-cured	5	18	40	30	7
Tobacco, Burley	1	5	28	65	1
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	0	5	78	17	0
Peanuts	0	0	32	49	19
Cotton	0	15	52	32	1
Apples, All	0	0	71	26	3
Grapes	0	0	6	92	2

<b>CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS</b>				
<b>Crop</b>	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>5 Year Avg.</b>
Corn Dent	88	84	94	95
Corn Mature	76	71	79	80
Corn for Grain Harvested	43	33	61	31
Corn Silage Harvested	83	75	90	78
Soybeans Setting Pods	98	96	100	99
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	21	11	33	23
Winter Wheat Seeded	11	3	8	5
Barley Seeded	18	7	16	12
Oats for Grain Seeded	14	NA	18	4
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	56	41	54	58
Burley Tobacco Harvested	70	40	65	58
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Harvested	93	85	85	63
Peanuts Dug	4	NA	NA	3
Cotton Bolls Opening	55	40	57	68
Fall Apples Harvested	25	20	31	35

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 18, 2011**

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. 17	Mar. 1 to Sept.17 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	77	54	87	44	65	-3	3605	3335	0.00	2.36	0.28	26.01	-5.70
Norfolk	83	66	91	61	74	1	4259	3688	2.28	2.31	-0.04	40.62	6.20
Richmond	80	60	88	49	70	-1	4069	3600	0.04	6.10	3.90	35.68	3.25
Roanoke	76	56	86	46	66	-3	3772	NA	0.20	6.34	41.5	31.43	-0.31
Wash/Dulles	77	54	88	43	55	-3	3621	NA	0.03	6.91	4.71	32.27	1.83

\* 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 R. Smith)**

We received several showers this week. Storm on Wednesday night with heavy rainfall, high winds and hail. Pastures are recovering from the drought conditions. Producers are still feeding hay. Corn silage is being performed. Still in need of more moisture and some fall plantings have begun.

### CENTRAL

#### **AMELIA (Joan D Poore)**

Since the storms have passed, producers are anxious to get back into corn harvest. The moisture is running around 17 - 18 %. A cloudy and drizzle weekend will slow process. Overall crops are looking pretty good.

#### **APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)**

A lot of second cutting hay is taking place. Dark tobacco harvest should finish this week if the weather allows. Early planted soybean harvest started last week and will continue as the predicted rain showers allow.

#### **CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Grain farmers have resumed harvesting corn, and planting small grains in drier fields. Pumpkin harvest has begun in areas and fields that were not damaged by excess rain from Irene and Lee. Locally pumpkins look pretty good where fungicides were sprayed to reduce losses from mildew and rot. Strawberry producers have begun planting the new year's crop. Early maturing berries are in. Later maturing varieties will be planted starting mid-week, and continue until all varieties are planted.

### *(Central continued)*

#### **CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)**

Some areas are still too wet to try to combine corn. Some of the trees that fell during the storm fell in fields of soybeans, so farmers have to deal with that.

### EASTERN

#### **ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Producers continued harvesting the corn crop. The crop is yielding well, and growers are making decent progress. Harvest has been slowed down somewhat as growers contend with down corn in some fields and lines to get unloaded at local grain elevators. Farmers continued to chop corn stalks following harvest. Some cover crops were seeded.

#### **MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Corn harvest moves forward. This week has been a good week of harvest, with exception of late week showers. Soybeans still look very good to excellent with some late season leaf diseases. These diseases have little to no affect on yield. Sweet potatoes, tomatoes and pumpkins continue to be harvested. Temperature drops near weeks end will be a welcome relief to mid week heat and humidity. Late season haymaking has begun. Producers are trying to locate wheat and barley seed. Still interest in barley if price can be contracted over 4.00 per bushel. Soil sampling after corn crop continues and some lime spreading has begun. Stalk chopping. Flying on cover crops will begin in a few weeks.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Drier weather most of the week allowed corn silage harvest to progress very well as much of the corn quality is now on the decline. Cool nights and sunny days have greatly improved prospects for early fall pasture

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The past week's cooler weather really started the soybean leaves to start turning. Tobacco is really showing injury from Hurricane Irene. Debris is still being cleaned up as fall harvest is getting ready to go into high gear.

#### PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

More fieldwork was accomplished this week as fields dried out. Low areas and normal wet spots are still saturated. Corn harvest continued with good yields even with damage from Irene. Cotton defoliation has started with early planted fields reaching maturity. The first peanuts have been dug this week with good growing conditions pushing maturity ahead by 10-14 days over expected digging dates. Other activities include monitoring late double crop soybeans for worms and planning for wheat seeding.

*(Southeastern continued)*

#### SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Again we received significant rainfall in the past week. Corn harvest had suffered with recent rains. There is some sprouting of corn and fields have been difficult to get into. Farmers have had success in picking up corn that was blown down in the hurricane but if they cannot get into fields this may become more difficult.

#### SURRY (Glenn Slade)

September brought us more than enough rain, which has slowed corn harvest, cotton defoliation and peanut digging. We need some good drying days to get back in the fields. The rains helped improve soybean and peanut yields but the mosquitoes are really bad.

#### SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

More rain fell across the area on yesterday that put a stop to field activity and fall harvest season. Growers are applying fungicides to peanut by air and defoliant by air. As soon as fields dry out peanut digging and harvesting will begin.



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