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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: September 23, 2012**

**Number: 29**

**Released: September 24, 2012**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 23, 2012

Moderate temperatures continued this week, as much of the Commonwealth got their first glimpse of fall weather. Many areas received a modest rainfall early in the week, which helped along crops and only delayed field work in a few areas. Some minor flooding was reported in the Southeastern portion of the State. Days suitable for field work were 5.5. As corn harvest continues in full force, combines can be found in fields everywhere. Tobacco harvest has also progressed and a final cutting of hay for the season is underway. Soybeans are looking good, with many turning color and some beginning to drop leaves. Other activities included field preparation for small grain planting and an initial planting of cover crops in some areas.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 23, 2012	2	19	74	5
September 16, 2012	4	28	64	4
September 9, 2012	2	18	73	7
September 2, 2012	2	23	66	9
August 26, 2012	3	27	64	6

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 23, 2012	4	23	70	3
September 16, 2012	6	32	60	2
September 9, 2012	4	26	63	7
September 2, 2012	5	28	61	6
August 26, 2012	5	35	55	5

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Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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Virginia State University



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	3	10	30	49	8
Livestock	1	5	21	55	18
Hay, Other	3	18	30	38	11
Hay, Alfalfa	2	8	18	46	26
Soybeans	0	4	24	53	19
Peanuts	0	0	12	75	13
Cotton	0	0	13	79	8
Apples, All	7	1	34	47	11
Grapes	0	1	6	92	1

<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 Dough	100	99	100	100
Corn Dent	95	92	90	97
Corn Mature	85	82	81	85
Corn Harvested	65	51	54	45
Corn Silage Harvested	84	74	84	85
Soybeans Setting Pods	99	96	99	100
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	20	10	31	33
Winter Wheat Seeded	5	0	22	10
Barley Seeded	15	0	27	21
Tobacco, Flue Harvested	67	51	67	65
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	83	54	74	74
Tobacco, Dark Fire Harvested	100	85	94	95
Peanuts Dug	8	0	4	8
Cotton Bolls Opening	75	59	70	73
Apples, Summer Harvested	100	99	100	100
Apples, Fall Harvested	80	69	36	43
Apples, Winter Harvested	44	35	0	15
Peaches Harvested	100	95	100	100
Oats for Grain Harvested	95	83	NA	NA

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 23, 2012**

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 Sep. 22	Mar. 1 to Sep. 22 normal	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	74	56	84	50	65	-1	3768	3438	1.20	2.34	-0.44	24.88	-7.43
Norfolk	78	63	87	57	71	-1	4374	3814	0.50	1.19	-1.78	33.87	-1.41
Richmond	79	58	85	51	68	-1	4234	3712	0.93	3.94	1.07	29.31	-3.62
Roanoke	74	58	83	53	66	-1	3967	NA	2.35	3.59	0.77	28.41	-3.87
Wash/Dulles	76	52	85	46	64	-3	3859	NA	1.46	2.06	-0.76	22.11	-9.03

\* 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 Smith)

The weather has been mild, with temperatures in the 50's - 70's range.

### CENTRAL

#### HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Fall hit with a vengeance here about a week early. After nice rain early in the week the temps dropped as well as the humidity. Mornings in the low fifties and day time highs in the upper seventies have been the norm for the last week. Lots of cover crop plots are being planted for our cover crop project and wheat broadcast onto pasture at my house is up and three inches tall as of Monday morning. Corn harvest is well underway with combines in the fields everywhere. Early beans are dropping leaves. Late beans are still chugging along well.

### EASTERN

#### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

The area received a good rainfall on Tuesday evening with amounts ranging from .75 to 1.5 inches. Some producers continued harvesting corn, and harvest is almost complete. Overall the crop was poor. Producers continued to make preparations for small grain planting, including soil sampling, chopping corn stalks, and applying fertilizer and lime. Barley planting will start next week. Some hay was also cut during the week.

#### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn harvest continues. Yields still remain average to below, although some yields are better than expected. Field prep for small grain planting is beginning. Some cover crops have been planted. Soybeans look good and are beginning to drop some leaves. Soil sampling, lime application, bush hogging and fall clean up are activities of the week. Sweet potato and pumpkin harvest continues, with some late peppers and tomatoes being harvested, as well.

### SOUTHERN

#### FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Last weeks' rain brought a lot to Franklin County, in one day Rocky Mount saw over an inch. Corn silage is still being cut and soybeans are looking good, leaves turning color and soon will be ready for harvest. Cool weather makes for happy cows! The hot days and nights really hurt the cows and a lot of farmers saw decreased milk production and reduced the number of cows being bred.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Tobacco is being harvested and fields are being prepared for small grains. The final cutting of hay for the season is well underway. There have been some showers that have caused some minor flooding. Fall calving has begun for some producers.

#### PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Corn harvest resumed late in the week after rainfall on Monday. Yields have a wide range from less than 10 bushels to 160+ bushels depending on when and where the rain fell. Peanut growers are assessing maturity and will likely start digging in the next 10 days. Some early soybean varieties have lost most of their leaves with harvest just around the corner. Some late hay is being made.

#### CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Good weather allowed corn harvest to come to almost completion. Farmers are doing field work in between corn and soybean harvest, mowing stalks, liming, ditch maintenance, equipment repairs. We are seeing some three-cornered alfalfa hopper damage to stems in soybeans. As harvest season approaches, we will see if lodging becomes a problem.

#### VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Good picking weather persists; the one rain we had last week was right on time for soybeans and only slowed corn harvest in a few locations. Strawberries are going in at a good pace and the majority of the acreage should be completed this coming week. No small grain is in ground at this point.



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