



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

WEATHER & CROPS



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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 16, 2011

Rainy weather put a halt to fall harvest in many areas of Virginia. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.2. Peanuts, cotton, and soybean yields are good. Some soybean fields are showing signs of mold in areas on the soybean pods. Corn harvest continued and a few growers are still trying to get in some late hay. Tobacco harvest has almost been completed. Vegetable farmers are busy cleaning their fields and preparing to plant cover crops. Pumpkins, winter squash and greens continued to be gathered for market.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 18, 2011	1	15	71	13
September 25, 2011	1	9	67	23
October 2, 2011	1	11	67	21
October 9, 2011	2	19	71	8
October 16, 2011	1	12	67	20

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 18, 2011	7	17	68	8
September 25, 2011	6	14	65	15
October 2, 2011	7	12	66	15
October 9, 2011	6	17	68	9
October 16, 2011	6	15	66	13

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

Virginia Tech

Virginia State University

Virginia Cooperative Extension

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	5	5	24	53	13
Livestock	0	4	23	54	19
Hay, Other	8	11	23	45	13
Hay, Alfalfa	0	2	23	53	22
Soybeans	0	2	18	60	20
Peanuts	0	2	41	42	15
Cotton	0	11	60	27	2
Apples, All	0	1	37	60	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn for Grain Harvested	84	77	91	77
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	64	56	91	82
Soybeans Harvested	9	5	25	15
Winter Wheat Seeded	36	32	26	21
Barley Seeded	60	53	71	65
Oats for Grain Seeded	66	52	59	NA
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	88	80	85	88
Peanuts Dug	45	28	44	62
Peanuts Combined	20	13	19	42
Cotton Bolls Opening	95	94	96	96
Cotton Harvested	29	23	42	32
Fall Apples Harvested	70	55	73	86
Winter Apples Harvested	60	25	69	53

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 16, 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 Oct. 15	Mar. 1 to Oct. 15 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	71	52	75	44	61	3	3991	3713	2.03	6.57	0.91	30.22	-4.91
Norfolk	75	60	82	52	68	5	4767	4151	0.17	7.65	1.86	45.96	7.98
Richmond	75	57	81	48	66	6	4538	4023	0.76	9.76	3.96	39.34	3.25
Roanoke	71	53	76	46	62	3	4161	NA	2.17	9.57	4.14	34.66	-0.35
Wash/Dulles	73	53	81	45	63	6	4028	NA	2.97	11.89	6.42	37.25	3.70

* 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

(Central continued.)

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

We had a wet spring, then extremely dry conditions during the summer and pasture was not producing. Producers were feeding and then we received rains in September and the pastures are producing again. Some apples were hit by hail in the spring and the quality of the apple has been affected. Hay crop was good this year. Right now, we are receiving rainfall and moisture levels are high. Farmers are waiting to harvest corn for grain. The apple season is getting ready to be wrapped up for this year and should finish by the end of month.

PRINCE WILLIAM

Surplus of moisture has made it difficult to do any work in the fields. With more on the way the extreme moisture will make any field work tough and muddy.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Wet weather has again impeded harvest and fall seeding. Most corn has been harvested but some still cannot be reached. Early bean harvest is well under way where they can be accessed. Double crop beans are still growing. Wet weather and harvest delay have inhibited fall planting somewhat. Many cover crops are going on by aerial seeding. We have had enough moisture that this should be a successful method this fall. As a test I broadcast some oats in late September and had pretty good germination even through a good stand of Bermuda grass. I am still making small broadcast applications of Vetch behind grazing.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Rockbridge County received between 1 and 2 inches of rain this week with some areas reporting more. Forage stands are in excellent shape and continue to grow vigorously since the area has yet to experience a frost. Field work and harvesting activities were interrupted by the rain mid-week.

EASTERN

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Rainy, damp conditions have slowed harvest. Still some corn out. Some soybeans harvested. Yields are very good and quality is good. Small grain planting are slowly beginning. Haymaking continues, quality is good but drying conditions are limited. Next week should be good. Field preparation continues for small grain planting.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Vegetable farmers are cleaning up fields used for summer vegetables and planting cover crops. Fall greens are still being harvested, as are peppers and the last of the late tomatoes. Corn harvest is winding down and producers are getting ready to harvest soybeans as fields dry down.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Tobacco harvest has finished, and curing conditions are optimal. Color is beginning to set, and looks fair to good. Vegetable harvests are winding down, and focus is shifting to GAPS audit preparation for next year. Cattle and sheep producers are still enjoying higher prices, but input costs are keeping profits marginal.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The rain this week has slowed some farm work. Leaves are dropping off the soybeans. Some fields are showing mold in areas on the soybean pods. Many producers are trying to get as much field work accomplished as possible with the start of deer season. Fall and winter meetings are being advertised for producers.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Fieldwork was accomplished early and late in the week. Peanut and cotton growers made a big push prior to the mid-week rains. Late week harvest was a challenge as normally wet spots in fields became impassable again. Corn harvest continued. A few more early soybeans were cut but lodged plants and green, wet stems made plants tough to harvest. A few folks are still trying to get in some late hay but drying conditions are very poor. Sweet potatoes and fall greens are showing up on farm stands around the county.

(Southeastern continued.)

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Harvest continues for Cotton and Peanuts. Yields vary from below average to some very good averages. Soybeans are drying down very nicely and yields are expected to be above average. Pastures are improving. The dry weather over the past week has been beneficial for harvest and field access.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Light showers have put a stop to fall harvest for a while. Yields of cotton, peanut and soybean are good. We hope mother nature will provide us with good weather to get it in. Soybean crop is good as well even the early maturing varieties.



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