



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: November 4, 2012

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2012

The majority of producers throughout the Commonwealth breathed a sigh of relief this week as Hurricane Sandy made its way through the state, bringing much needed rain without a tremendous amount of damage. Days suitable for field work were 3.6. Overall, the damage from Hurricane Sandy appears to be minimal and localized for most. There are a few reports of wind damage to operations with corn and soybeans remaining to be harvested, as well as, some areas which were affected by flooded fields. The rainfall associated with the weather event seems to be more beneficial than harmful by replenishing topsoil and subsoil moisture levels. Although fieldwork was delayed due to wet fields, harvest activities and small grain seeding resumed late in the week and into the weekend. Other activities included assessing storm damage, recordkeeping, and ordering seed for 2013.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 4, 2012	1	15	70	14
October 28, 2012	2	30	62	6
October 21, 2012	2	24	73	1
October 14, 2012	1	21	74	4
October 7, 2012	1	14	74	11

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 4, 2012	2	22	62	14
October 28, 2012	3	32	60	5
October 21, 2012	2	25	71	2
October 14, 2012	2	25	70	3
October 7, 2012	2	24	72	2

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Virginia Cooperative Extension
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Virginia Tech

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A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	10	28	57	4
Livestock	0	3	21	57	19
Soybeans	1	2	21	68	8
Barley	0	1	13	82	4

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested	97	95	90	93
Corn Silage Harvested	100	99	100	100
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	96	94	98	99
Soybeans Harvested	47	36	38	45
Winter Wheat Seeded	57	48	56	57
Winter Wheat Emerged	28	20	24	31
Barley Seeded	94	89	91	94
Tobacco, Flue Harvested	100	95	99	99
Peanuts Dug	100	84	91	97
Peanuts Combined	80	54	75	87
Cotton Harvested	49	45	74	73
Apples, Fall Harvested	100	99	99	98
Apples, Winter Harvested	95	90	83	87
Oats Seeded	78	70	85	70

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING November 4, 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 Nov. 3 normal	Mar. 1 to Nov. 3 normal	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	53	39	64	32	46	-5	4196	3863	0.52	4.09	-3.48	26.63	-10.35
Norfolk	56	44	63	40	50	-7	4933	4347	5.81	9.83	1.97	42.51	2.41
Richmond	56	40	61	31	48	-5	4759	4206	2.66	8.05	0.16	33.43	-4.55
Roanoke	52	41	64	37	47	-5	4406	NA	0.18	5.00	-2.35	29.82	-6.99
Wash/Dulles	51	40	59	35	46	-4	4284	NA	5.65	11.61	4.12	31.67	-3.91

* 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)

CLARKE (Jacob Grove)

We received minimal storm damage associated with Hurricane Sandy. Heavy rains have delayed harvest in some less than well drained fields.

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

Damage from Hurricane Sandy: There are reports of minor damage to mature apple trees (some completely broken off or uprooted and blown over as well as broken scaffolds). There are also reports of many younger trees leaning that will require labor to straighten and possibly stake/guy upright. Approximately half of our corn and 30% of our soybeans were still in the field when this storm hit. There is at least 40 acres of corn that suffered 90% loss (severe wind damage). Some of the remaining corn and soybean crop likely suffered some (approximating 15-25%) loss but it is not fully viewed from the road (we need to get in the fields to see). Losses on corn will likely be higher once farmers get out in their fields and because of harvest delays and problems with excessive moisture on the corn. At least 10 farm structures with minor damage. There are reports of significant localized flooding along streams and tributaries. Countywide reports of about 50 stream crossing fences (called flood gates) that were washed away. There is likely a few miles of fence near streams that needs to be replaced.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Hurricane Sandy brought cold temperatures and some rain/snow mix but overall had little impact on the Rockbridge area. Available forage for livestock grazing is excellent and stored feed inventories are very good going into the winter months.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

While there was no crop damage from the Tropical Storm Sandy, the rainfall Monday and Tuesday ranged from 1 to 2 inches throughout the county. Breezy Monday thru Wednesday, with cooler temperatures; harvesting of soybeans started back Thursday with lots of sunshine.

CUMBERLAND (David Smith)

Hurricane Sandy brought much needed rain to the area – around 1.5 - 2.0 inches.

POWHATAN (Rachel Grosse)

Hurricane Sandy came through Virginia Monday through Tuesday. Minimal agricultural damage was recorded in Powhatan and Goochland counties, mostly small flooded areas of crop fields.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Hurricane Sandy brought us much needed rain without tremendous damage. For some reason the winds in our area were a lot and we were spared widespread damage and even power outages. The rain at my western Hanover county home came down delightfully over about a 48 hour period and totaled 3.45 inches. My supervisor lives in New Kent county and the rain began there about a day and a half before it started at my house and they had about twice as much. I deduce that Hanover had from 3.45 inches to a little over 7 inches from west to east. However the rain came down nicely and had a chance to soak in and relieve the dry conditions. Naturally we have a little grouching that field work is being delayed. Weeks end did see machinery back in the fields particularly harvest machines. The temps have dropped off dramatically. I had to fire up the wood stove over the weekend.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Reported rain from Sandy ranged from 2 1/2 to 5 plus inches.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (HL Kellam)

Hurricane Sandy resulted in approx 9 inches of rain along with tidal flooding.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Six plus inches of rainfall from Hurricane Sandy helped to replenish topsoil and subsoil moisture while wind and storm surge damage from the storm were minimal. Field activity picked up over the weekend as farmers returned to the fields to continue soybean harvest. Activities earlier in the week included assessing storm damage, recordkeeping, and ordering seed for 2013. There are reports that seed for some corn hybrids could be short next year.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Hurricane Sandy didn't leave us any property or structural damage, but 4-6 inches of rain. Fields were soaked but are drying out and peanut, cotton, and soybean harvest have started again. Small grains are being seeded.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Hurricane Sandy left us over saturated and waiting to see if wheat plantings would emerge or if they would need to be replanted. Soybean harvest barely got started again after Sandy and we ran into non-picking weather. The first good frost for our area hit 11/3/2012.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Highest elevations about 4,000 feet received up to 10 inches of snowfall from Hurricane Sandy. Most of the county had minor to no accumulation. Wind damage was minor. Pastures continue to dry up due to cold winds and limited precipitation.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Colder temperatures and snowfall were seen in higher elevations as Hurricane Sandy made its way through. No major damages or concerns were noticed. Killing frosts have farmers holding cattle out of fields with standing Johnson grass. Vegetable season has completed with a slightly better than average year. Cattle association producers are gearing up for the annual premium assured heifer sale.

