



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: December 2, 2012

Number: 39

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 2, 2012

The ongoing dry weather was beneficial to producers finishing up their soybean and cotton harvest. In most areas, however, the soil moisture continues to be depleted and will become problematic if some rainfall is not received soon. Days suitable for field work were 6.4. Most small grains are now in the field with the dry weather aiding in a good emergence. Producers have been able to make applications of fertilizer and herbicides where needed. Other activities included taking soil samples and applying lime for spring planted crops and getting a head start on winter maintenance projects.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
December 2, 2012	7	36	55	2
November 25, 2012	6	35	57	2
November 18, 2012	4	24	68	4
November 11, 2012	2	19	73	6
November 4, 2012	1	15	70	14

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
December 2, 2012	11	27	61	1
November 25, 2012	6	32	60	2
November 18, 2012	4	29	64	3
November 11, 2012	2	22	71	5
November 4, 2012	2	22	62	14

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**



Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension
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	4	14	28	49	5
Livestock	0	4	27	51	18
Winter Wheat	0	2	18	68	12
Barley	0	2	15	77	6

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Soybeans Harvested	91	83	93	87
Winter Wheat Seeded	96	90	96	93
Winter Wheat Emerged	87	77	70	78
Cotton Harvested	96	94	98	95

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VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING December 2, 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. 24 normal	Mar. 1 to Nov. 24 normal	Last Week	Since Dec. 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	54	26	61	17	40	-3	4280	3966	0.06	0.00	NA	27.17	-12.78
Norfolk	54	33	62	28	43	-6	5006	4480	0.07	0.00	NA	43.85	0.86
Richmond	54	30	63	25	42	-4	4856	4337	0.12	0.00	NA	33.70	-7.39
Roanoke	56	32	62	25	44	0	4491	NA	0.06	0.00	NA	30.33	-9.57
Wash/Dulles	48	27	55	23	37	-5	4346	NA	0.06	0.00	NA	32.75	-6.23

* 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.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Soil moisture levels are trending towards dry, but seasonal to mild temperatures and low humidity's have allowed corn for grain to dry-down in the field through the fall, reducing harvest and drying costs. Field work is current, forage supplies are good, and many farmers have made progress on fencing and other projects ahead of winter weather.

CENTRAL

AMELIA/CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

We have not had any rain in several weeks. Fall soil moisture is low for this time of year. Temperatures have been mostly normal.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Another week with no significant precipitation. There was less than 1.5 tenths, which had no impact at all. Several very cold days with lows in the twenties and then the weekend was nice and pleasant, if a bit blustery. The lack of rainfall is becoming problematic.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Ketih Balderson)

Dry conditions continued during the week, and soil moisture continues to be depleted. The dry conditions allowed farmers to apply fertilizer and herbicides to small grain fields. Farmers also continued to take soil samples and apply lime for spring planted crops. Other activities included attending seed meetings and securing inputs for 2013.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

It is a great soybean crop and producers are getting good prices. Most wheat is in and looks good after emergence. Fall fertilizer and insecticide applications are underway. Producers are making seed and supply purchases.

SOUTHEASTERN

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Good weather prevailed most of the week allowing farmers to almost finish soybean harvest and plant remaining acres of wheat. Soil moisture conditions were good and sunshine helped with wheat emergence.