



NATIONAL
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USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: October 4, 2009

Number: 30

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 4, 2009

Harvesting activities continued at a steady pace this week, as many grain farmers are preparing to switch their focus from corn to soybeans. If it remains dry, corn harvest will be complete in some areas within the next two weeks. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.7. Although a few soybean fields have already been harvested, the majority of the crop is nearing maturity and many are anticipating that harvest will begin shortly. Field preparations for small grain plantings continue, and some wheat and barley has already gone in behind the corn crop. Vegetable farmers are busy harvesting pumpkins, sweet potatoes and winter squash and tomato harvest is almost complete with many fields being cleaned up and prepared for winter cover crops.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 4, 2009	1	14	83	2
September 27, 2009	3	9	81	7
September 20, 2009	15	33	51	1
September 13, 2009	10	27	59	4
September 6, 2009	5	34	57	4



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	2	11	33	43	11
Livestock	0	2	15	70	13
Corn	2	6	21	48	23
Soybeans	0	4	18	49	29
Peanuts	0	0	9	70	21
Cotton	0	10	20	43	27
Apples, All	0	1	21	77	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Mature	94	90	94	96
Corn Harvested for Grain	45	33	47	55
Corn Harvested for Silage	90	84	89	94
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	53	36	47	59
Soybeans Harvested	3	1	1	5
Winter Wheat Seeded	12	8	11	11
Barley Seeded	28	19	38	36
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	82	80	60	84
Burley Tobacco Harvested	90	80	82	92
Peanuts Dug	19	9	8	32
Peanuts Combined	9	0	4	20
Cotton Bolls Opening	80	61	90	95
Cotton Harvested	7	2	9	14
Apples Fall Harvested	65	56	61	76
Apples Winter Harvested	37	20	32	28
Oats for Grain Seeded	27	7	25	N/A

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 4, 2009													
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 3	Mar 1 to Oct 3 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	73	46	81	37	59	-4	3600	3569	0.01	2.18	-2.09	28.76	-5.07
Norfolk	76	58	83	55	67	-1	4241	3981	0.45	7.78	3.36	44.69	8.06
Richmond	76	53	84	50	65	0	4142	3866	0.28	2.44	-1.91	26.94	-7.59
Roanoke	72	51	81	43	61	-2	3814	NA	0.00	3.15	-1.05	35.44	1.69
Wash/Dulles	73	50	80	41	61	-1	3750	NA	0.07	1.83	-2.32	33.26	0.97

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (500)); where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. * Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. NA = not available. T=trace. 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.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Farmers are continuing corn harvest and planting cover crops. Soybeans are nearing maturity; farmers are harvesting early beans and getting ready to switch from corn to soybean harvest. Vegetable farmers are harvesting pumpkins, sweet potatoes, and winter squash and cleaning up summer crop areas.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

We have experienced cool and dry weather since the rain on Saturday night.

SOUTHWESTERN

BLAND (Jim Atwell)

We have had patchy frost for a few mornings in the higher elevations. No real damage except some slight burn to the tops of corn still waiting to be harvested for silage.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Most corn silage has been harvested. Tobacco harvest is nearing completion. Vegetables are winding down, waiting on the first killing frost.

SOUTHERN

PATRICK (Travis Bunn)

There has been spotty patches of frost in low lying areas on the mountain. No real damage to crops has been noted.

SOUTHEASTERN

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Rain Monday night slowed corn and soybean harvests this week. Early soybeans are now being harvested. Strawberry growers are planting strawberry plants this week.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Corn harvest is almost complete. Yields are good to excellent. Strawberry planting has started about a week late.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Soybean harvest started this week. Initial yields are average or above. The crop is now rapidly advancing towards harvest. Almost all soybeans are now fully matured. No-till planting of wheat and barley are going in behind corn. Most of corn crop should be harvested in another week if it stays dry. Yields are average to above average. Tomato harvest is about over with many fields being cleaned up and preparations for cover crops being made. The fall snapbean crop is in good condition. So far, it has been a good fall for agriculture.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Corn harvest continued at a good pace, but storage space has become somewhat of an issue. Full-season soybean harvest has just started. Farmers continued field preparations for small grain planting and taking soil samples. Barley planting has started and will be in full swing next week.

KING GEORGE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are harvesting corn and planting cover crops. Soybean harvest should start in a week to ten days.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn harvest continues. Yields are good to very good. Soybeans still look good. Parts of the area need some rain. Barley planting is getting underway. Soil sampling and liming continue. Producers are working on their final cutting of hay.