



South Carolina

Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report

Cooperating with Clemson University

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SC State Climatology Office
Farm Service Agency

GENERAL

Although soil moisture is currently adequate for planting in most areas, South Carolina is starting another crop year with below normal precipitation. Cool weather has slowed planting for some crops. Soil moisture was 3% very short, 17% short, 78% adequate, and 2% surplus. There were 5.9 days suitable for field work.

FIELD CROPS

CORN was 30% planted, and 6% emerged. Planting in the Upstate should pick up in the next few days. **TOBACCO** transplanting has begun, and should be well under way this week. **WINTER WHEAT** has just begun to head, and is in mostly good condition.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions were 4% poor, 41% fair, 52% good, and 3% excellent. Cattle are suffering from lack of forage, and adequate good hay. Many **FRUIT** trees have already budded. The extent of damage from frosts this past week is still unknown for most growers, although there may have been some loss in low lying areas around Monetta. **PASTURE** conditions are mostly fair, but range from poor to good. Pastures are greening-up, but there is no volume of forage growth yet. **VEGETABLE** planting is under way with conditions that range from fair to mostly good.

Crop Progress for Week Ending March 30, 2008

Crop and Stage	2008	2007	5-Yr Avg	Crop and Stage	2008	2007	5-Yr Avg
	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent
Cantaloup, Planted	7	21	19	Tobacco, Transplanted	4	2	2
Corn, Planted	30	39	26	Tomatoes, Fresh, Planted	20	24	27
Corn, Emerged	6	23	9	Watermelons, Planted	30	29	21
Cucumbers, Fresh, Planted	18	4	18	Winter Wheat, Headed	2	1	2
Snapbeans, Fresh, Planted	16	26	22				

Condition for Week Ending March 30, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Cantaloup	0	0	40	60	0	Pasture	0	15	59	24	2
Corn	0	0	58	42	0	Snapbeans	0	0	0	100	0
Cucumbers	0	0	50	50	0	Tomatoes	0	0	0	100	0
Livestock	0	4	41	52	3	Watermelons	0	0	40	60	0
Oats	0	5	38	50	7	Winter Wheat	0	0	37	52	11

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending March 30, 2008

Snow flurries were observed Monday evening at both Sandy Springs and Table Rock as modified Arctic air entered the state. On Tuesday morning, freezing temperatures and patchy frost were reported for many inland sites with the exception of the most southern counties. Barnwell measured an open pan evaporation water loss of 0.30 inches from the dry air. Warming, 80-degree weather, returned midweek through Friday. A southward moving cold front began advancing into the state early Saturday morning with clouds and rainshowers. The heaviest amounts fell over the west central counties with little or no rain falling over the Lowcountry. Sunday's weather was unseasonably cold with afternoon temperatures in the upper 40's and chilling northeast winds. The state average temperature for the period was four degrees below normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 83 degrees at Chesterfield, Cheraw, and Jamestown on March 28 and at Pritchardville on March 29. The lowest official temperature reported was 20 degrees at Lake Bowen on March 25. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 1.40 inches at Barnwell ending at 7:00 a.m. on March 30. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.3 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth average soil temperature: Columbia 60 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near to below normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 59 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Weekly Total	Jan 1 Total	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.40	10.45	-3.4
Columbia	0.06	9.89	-3.1
Orangeburg	0.62	9.71	-3.3
Charlotte, NC	0.01	9.10	-2.7
Augusta, GA	1.54	12.23	-0.9
Florence	0.20	9.24	-1.8
N Myrtle Beach	0.40	9.93	-1.0
Charleston	0.00	8.17	-2.9
Savannah, GA	0.00	8.84	-1.6

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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