



South Carolina Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report

Cooperating with Clemson University
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Cooperating Agencies:
Clemson University
SC State Climatology Office
Farm Service Agency

GENERAL

Most of South Carolina received rainfall this past week. The only problem is that areas that had a lot of rain from Fay and Hanna in previous weeks got even more to the point of being too wet for field work. However, the northernmost counties in the Upstate were dry again. This part of the state has not had much more rain this year than last year which was one of the driest on record. Soil moisture was 6% very short, 32% short, 55% adequate, and 7% surplus. The average number of days that was suitable for field work was 5.7 for the state.

FIELD CROPS

CORN harvest has been very busy the past three weeks. Better yields have been coming off of later planted fields, but overall production has been low for most growers. Expected yield per acre is forecast at only 55 bushels. Conditions were 46% very poor, 27% poor, 21% fair, and 6% good. Recent rains have caused unwanted growth in some **COTTON** fields at a time when drier weather would be welcome. There may be difficulty harvesting due to the excessive growth of the tops. A few farmers began defoliation this past week with many more planning to begin shortly. Conditions were 5% very poor, 11% poor, 49% fair, 33% good, and 2% excellent. Late last week some early planted **PEANUTS** were being dug. The crop condition was still mostly good. **SORGHUM** conditions continued to improve. Conditions were reported at 26% very poor, 30% poor, 20% fair, and 24% good. Rainfall over the last week has helped fill **SOYBEAN** pods. Farmers were still scouting later maturing beans for stink bugs and worms with treatments being applied. Conditions were 10% very poor, 19% poor, 34% fair, 32% good, and 5% excellent. **SWEET POTATO** harvest has just begun. Conditions were 10% poor, 45% fair, and 45% good. Farmers are trying desperately to get the last of the **TOBACCO** leaf out of their fields that have been too wet for tractors and harvesters.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

The last cutting of **HAY** was almost complete. **LIVESTOCK** owners were still preparing land for winter grazing plantings. **PASTURES** in many parts of the state received rain last week. Conditions were only slightly improved. **APPLE** harvest was ongoing. This year's **PEACH** crop was coming to an end.

Crop Progress for Week Ending September 14, 2008

Crop and Stage	2008	2007	5-Yr Avg	Crop and Stage	2008	2007	5-Yr Avg
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Apples, Harvested	33	35	36	Sorghum, Harvested	22	39	38
Corn, Matured	100	100	99	Soybeans, Bloomed	100	100	99
Corn, Harvested	77	84	75	Soybeans, Pods Set	97	86	91
Cotton, Bolls Opened	39	51	44	Soybeans, Turned Color	11	14	16
Hay, Other Hay, Harvested	99	100	99	Soybeans, Leaves Dropped	5	5	4
Peaches, Harvested	97	95	97	Sweet Potatoes, Harvested	1	2	1
Peanuts, Harvested	6	1	5	Tobacco, Harvested	95	94	96
Sorghum, Headed	100	100	100	Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed	66	49	60
Sorghum, Turned Color	81	90	94	Winter Grazings, Planted	14	6	14
Sorghum, Matured	49	68	67				

Condition for Week Ending September 14, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Apples	0	5	70	25	0	Peanuts	0	4	23	63	10
Corn	46	27	21	6	0	Sorghum	26	30	20	24	0
Cotton	5	11	49	33	2	Soybeans	10	19	34	32	5
Livestock	2	12	40	44	2	Sweet Potatoes	0	10	45	45	0
Pasture	6	21	37	35	1						

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending September 14, 2008

Mid-90-degree heat was observed on Monday. A slow moving thunderstorm Tuesday evening caused localized flooding within the city of Columbia and pockets of heavy rain from McCormick to Florence County. Another round of scattered thunderstorms fell Wednesday with Catawba measuring 1.85 inches. Most of the afternoon activity was focused near a west to east boundary dividing the state. Allendale received 1.60 inches of rain on Thursday. Temperatures began climbing Saturday as the feature moved north. On Sunday, late season heat and high humidity values were still hanging on despite the calendar date. The state average temperature for the period was four degrees above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 95 degrees at Sandhill and Orangeburg on September 8. The lowest official temperature reported was 62 degrees at Lake Bowen on the morning of September 11. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 3.81 inches at Clarks Hill ending at 7:00 a.m. on September 10. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.9 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth average soil temperature: Columbia 81 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near to below normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 86 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Weekly Total	Jan 1 Total	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.02	25.31	-11.3
Columbia	0.49	30.84	-6.4
Orangeburg	3.17	29.84	-7.4
Charlotte, NC	1.68	32.46	1.1
Augusta, GA	0.89	28.43	-5.3
Florence	2.49	38.25	4.3
N Myrtle Beach	0.34	38.03	4.8
Charleston	0.06	31.64	-8.0
Savannah, GA	1.02	31.44	-7.4

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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