



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

Incipient drought was declared in 22 upstate counties by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources on September 2. Incipient is the first level of drought declaration. South Carolina's soil moisture levels were 24% very short, 41% short, 34% adequate, and 1% surplus. There was a statewide average of 6.7 days suitable for field work.

FIELD CROPS

Dry weather allowed **CORN** producers to harvest at a rapid pace. By week's end, 65% of the crop had been harvested, well ahead of the 5 year average of 59%. Corn conditions continued improving, with 63% of the crop being in good or excellent condition. While the dry weather helped the corn crop, the **COTTON** crop showed signs of stress. Some plants dropped squares and bolls while others set smaller bolls as a result of dry conditions. Despite the deficiency of soil moisture, the majority of the crop was in good condition. **SOYBEANS** were still in need of moisture to fill out pods. Ninety percent of the crop had set pods, and 5% of the crops leaves had turned color. Soybean conditions improved last week with 67% of the crop reportedly in good or excellent condition. **PEANUT** conditions improved with 74% of the crop in good condition. Producers were preparing to start peanut harvest in the coming weeks. **TOBACCO** harvest neared completion, with 92% of the crop harvested. Sixty-one percent of tobacco stalks were destroyed, well ahead of the 46% 5 year.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions were basically unchanged as producers continued the routine care of animals. **PASTURE** conditions declined as a result of little precipitation. **PEACH** harvest was almost complete at 99% picked.

Crop Progress for Week Ending September 6, 2009

Crop and Stage	2009	2008	5-Yr Avg	Crop and Stage	2009	2008	5-Yr Avg
	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn, Harvested	65	58	59	Soybeans, Pods Set	90	86	84
Cotton, Bolls Set	99	100	98	Soybeans, Turned Color	5	7	10
Cotton, Bolls Opened	30	17	31	Soybeans, Leaves Dropped	1	2	2
Peaches, Harvested	99	93	92	Tobacco, Harvested	92	87	91
Soybeans, Bloomed	98	98	98	Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed	61	47	46

Condition for Week Ending September 6, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn	3	10	24	52	11	Pasture	1	8	53	36	2
Cotton	0	2	45	52	1	Peanuts	0	1	25	74	0
Livestock	0	1	26	73	0	Soybeans	0	1	32	60	7

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending September 6, 2009

An apparent “downburst” with winds estimated at between 60-70 mph swept through the Charleston Southern University campus early Monday morning. Trees were uprooted and there was light property damage. Thunderstorms along the central coast produced heavy rains. Huger, in Berkeley County received 2.93 inches, Ft. Moultrie 2.50 inches. A fall-like airmass overspread the state on Tuesday. Aiken reported a high temperature of only 74 degrees. Chester, Pageland, York and Longtown all cooled to 57 degrees on Wednesday morning. Little Mountain recorded a Wednesday afternoon high temperature of 78 degrees. Unseasonably cool and dry weather continued through Friday night. Light winds and sunny skies pushed the mercury to near 90 degrees by late afternoon Saturday for inland sites. An area of low pressure located offshore and northeast of Myrtle Beach generated clouds and gusting winds for the Grand Strand beaches on Sunday and limited high temperatures to around 80 degrees. Isolated showers fell near Cape Romain. The state average temperature for the period was three degrees below normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 93 degrees at Lake Wateree on September 5. The lowest official temperature reported was 53 degrees at Cedar Creek on September 4 and at Pelion on September 5. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 3.35 inches Witherbee ending at 7:00 a.m. on September 1. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.3 inches.

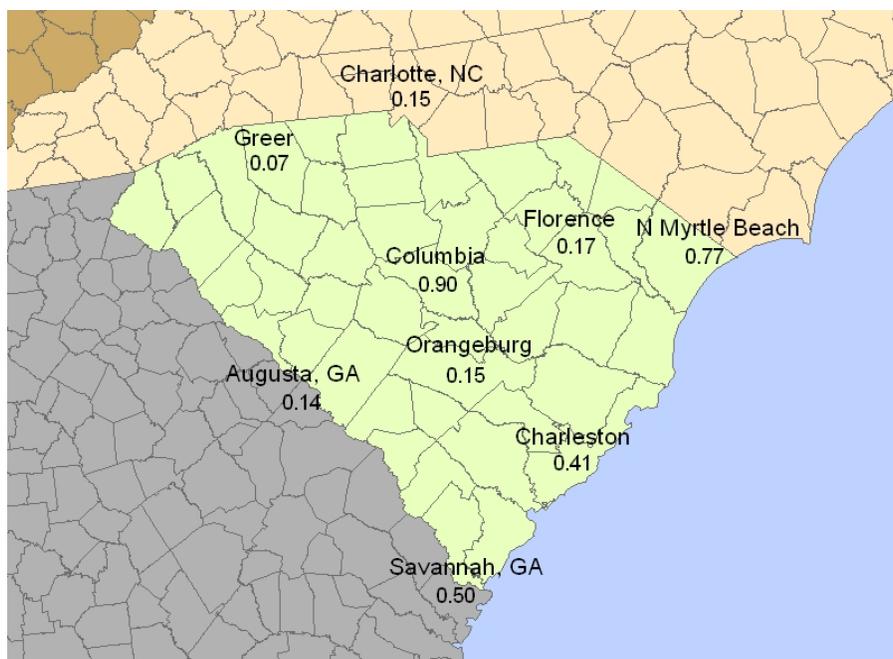
SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 79 degrees, Charleston 80 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near to below normal. Ocean water temperatures at the Edisto Buoy were reported at 79 degrees and at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach 80 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for 2009	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.07	27.74	-7.9
Columbia	0.90	29.88	-6.2
Orangeburg	0.15	29.86	-6.3
Charlotte, NC	0.15	30.80	0.6
Augusta, GA	0.14	27.29	-5.5
Florence	0.17	26.62	-6.3
N Myrtle Beach	0.77	25.12	-6.6
Charleston	0.41	40.47	2.6
Savannah, GA	0.50	42.26	4.9

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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