



South Carolina



Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report

South Carolina State Climatology Office



Week Ending July 30, 2006 (18) Released 4:00 P.M. July 31, 2006

GENERAL

Hot, dry weather along with some intermittent showers and severe thunderstorms was reported in parts of South Carolina last week continuing to stress livestock and furthering the decline in crop conditions. While rain fell in some parts of the State, a reporter in Georgetown county indicated that the hot, dry conditions have taken a toll on the corn crop's ear development, adversely affecting the crop's expected yield. There were 6.1 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was 19% very short, 49% short, and 32% adequate.

FIELD CROPS

CORN finished silking, was 94% doughed, and 35% matured. Some reporters indicated that the corn harvest would begin within two weeks as farmers begin to inspect their combines and other harvesting equipment. **COTTON** squared and boll setting was at 93% and 55%, respectively. **PEANUT** pegging was running 4% ahead of the previous year at 90% pegged. **SORGHUM** heading was at 83% and 49% turning color. **SOYBEANS** were 60% bloomed, and 26% of the crop's pods were set. **TOBACCO** completed topping, right on pace with a year ago and slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 99%.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

CANTALOUPEs were 98% harvested and **WATERMELONS** were 91% harvested. The **TOMATO** harvest reached 99%, equal to both a year ago and the 5-year average. The **PEACH** harvest was at 66%, 3% ahead of last year and equal to the 5-year average.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

LIVESTOCK & PASTURE conditions improved slightly from the previous week.

CROP PROGRESS

| Crop | Phase | 5 Yr : | | | :Crop | Phase | 5 Yr | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------|------|-----|--------------|--------------|-------------|------|-----|
| | | 2006 | 2005 | Avg | | | 2006 | 2005 | Avg |
| | | --Percent-- | | | | | --Percent-- | | |
| Cantaloupe | Harvested | 98 | 88 | 95 | :Sorghum | Headed | 83 | 83 | 82 |
| Corn | Silked | 100 | 100 | 100 | :Sorghum | Turned Color | 49 | 48 | 49 |
| Corn | Doughed | 94 | 92 | 89 | :Sorghum | Matured | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Corn | Matured | 35 | 32 | 38 | :Soybeans | Bloomed | 60 | 53 | 48 |
| Cotton | Squared | 93 | 89 | 92 | :Soybeans | Pods Set | 26 | 16 | 23 |
| Cotton | Bolls Set | 55 | 45 | 50 | :Tobacco | Topped | 100 | 100 | 99 |
| Other Hay | Harvested | 86 | 81 | 79 | :Tobacco | Harvested | 45 | 38 | 37 |
| Peaches | Harvested | 66 | 63 | 66 | :Tomatoes | Harvested | 99 | 99 | 99 |
| Peanuts | Pegged | 90 | 86 | 91 | :Watermelons | Harvested | 91 | 82 | 92 |

CONDITION

| Crop | Very | | | | Excel-: | | :Crop | Very | | | | Excel- | |
|-----------|------|---------------|------|------|---------|----------------|-------|---------------|------|------|------|--------|--|
| | Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | lent | Poor | | Poor | Fair | Good | lent | | |
| | | -- Percent -- | | | | | | -- Percent -- | | | | | |
| Apples | 0 | 0 | 50 | 50 | 0 | :Peaches | 3 | 4 | 48 | 40 | 5 | | |
| Corn | 5 | 17 | 34 | 35 | 9 | :Peanuts | 0 | 6 | 30 | 59 | 5 | | |
| Cotton | 1 | 22 | 35 | 39 | 3 | :Sorghum | 0 | 2 | 40 | 54 | 4 | | |
| Other Hay | 8 | 23 | 39 | 30 | 0 | :Soybeans | 7 | 8 | 49 | 35 | 1 | | |
| Livestock | 0 | 4 | 44 | 51 | 1 | :Sweetpotatoes | 0 | 16 | 22 | 62 | 0 | | |
| Pastures | 9 | 22 | 40 | 28 | 1 | :Tobacco | 0 | 4 | 36 | 54 | 6 | | |

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*The report is also available at the following website:
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/South_Carolina/index.asp

**South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending July
30, 2006**

Thunderstorm cloud tops rising nearly 10 miles above ground level fueled convection and heavy rains Monday evening. A USGS rain gage located near the Lake Murray Dam measured 3.91 inches of rain between 8:00 and 9:00 PM. Afternoon high temperatures in the upper 90's were observed Wednesday through Friday. At 1:00 PM Thursday, McEntire AP near Eastover was reporting 95 degrees while Myrtle Beach with a 15 mph southeasterly seabreeze noted 86 degrees. Localized thunderstorms during the hours of peak heating produced golf-ball sized hail on Mt. Pleasant Wednesday and in both Hampton and Calhoun counties on Friday. Friday's high winds downed trees along Interstate 26 in Laurens, temporarily closing both lanes. Large oaks and pines were toppled in western sections of the city of Florence. Saturday's severe weather included gusting winds that damaged watercraft along Bonneau Beach on Lake Moultrie. A weak boundary neared the state on Saturday with increased clouds, some moderation in the heat and passing thundershowers. Mostly sunny skies, near normal temperatures and isolated thundershowers ended the week. For the period, the state average temperature was two degrees above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 101 degrees at Johnston on July 28. The lowest official temperature reported was 61 degrees at Caesars Head on the morning of July 24. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 4.31 inches at Hemingway ending at 7:00 AM on July 25. The average statewide rainfall for the period was 1.4 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth average soil temperature: Columbia 84 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were below normal. Ocean water temperatures near Myrtle Beach and Fripp Inlet will average from 83 to 84 degrees.

| | Precipitation | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------|-----------|
| | Weekly | Jan 1 | Deviation |
| | Total | Total | From Avg |
| Greer | 0.73 | 18.86 | -11.7 |
| Columbia | 1.87 | 20.71 | -8.9 |
| Orangeburg | 2.93 | 22.61 | -7.1 |
| Charlotte, NC | 0.04 | 20.37 | -5.3 |
| Augusta, GA | 0.95 | 21.63 | -5.7 |
| Florence | 1.13 | 27.19 | 0.6 |
| Myrtle Beach | 1.69 | 24.77 | 0.0 |
| Charleston | 1.61 | 26.98 | -2.5 |
| Savannah, GA | 2.58 | 19.02 | -9.7 |

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.