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# South Carolina

## Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report



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Week Ending April 15, 2007

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### GENERAL

The freezing temperatures over Easter weekend did extensive damage to this year's peach crop as well as to most vegetable and field crops. SC Commissioner of Agriculture, Hugh Weathers, said "From initial reports, South Carolina peach growers say that they would be fortunate to have 10% of a crop." Crop weather reporters rated overall freeze damage at 7% none, 12% light, 16% moderate, 44% heavy and 21% severe. Nearly all of South Carolina is continuing to experience non-typical weather patterns this spring to include below average precipitation for the year. Fortunately, significant rainfall over the weekend did improve the soil moisture situation to 10% very short, 24% short, 60% adequate, and 6% surplus. There were 5.6 days suitable for field work.

### FIELD CROPS

Last weeks heavy frost and cold temperatures in most areas wreaked havoc to the corn, cucurbits, and tobacco crops. **CORN** was 83% planted and 67% emerged. **TOBACCO** transplanting continued with 25% of plants set as some farmers had to replace transplants killed by the cold. **OATS** were 44% headed, slightly ahead of normal. **WINTER WHEAT** was 35% headed, and continued to lag behind the five year average. Early **COTTON** and **SOYBEAN** planting had not started yet due to the cool weather.

### OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

**LIVESTOCK** conditions were fair to mostly good. **PASTURE** conditions were fair to good. **VEGETABLE** planting has been well under way so crops in some areas may have extensive damage due to cold temperatures; for most crops damage estimates are still being investigated. **PEACH** condition is 73% very poor, 14% poor and 13% fair with the poor condition due primarily to the freezing temperatures over Easter. The **APPLE** condition is 50% very poor, and 50% poor.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending April 15, 2007

Crop and Stage	2007	2006	5-Yr Avg	Crop and Stage	2007	2006	5-Yr Avg
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cantalopes, Planted	60	56	54	Sorghum, Planted	10	11	13
Corn, Planted	83	76	69	Tobacco, Transplanted	25	37	35
Corn, Emerged	67	43	42	Tomatoes, Fresh, Planted	78	76	76
Cucumbers, Fresh, Planted	40	49	65	Watermelons, Planted	73	62	61
Oats, Headed	44	37	42	Winter Wheat, Headed	35	32	36
Snapbeans, Fresh, Planted	60	54	53				

### Condition for Week Ending April 15, 2007

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	50	50	0	0	0	Peaches	73	14	13	0	0
Cantalopes	20	35	45	0	0	Snapbeans	30	40	30	0	0
Corn	5	49	36	10	0	Tobacco	55	8	17	20	0
Cucumbers	40	30	30	0	0	Tomatoes	1	35	59	5	0
Livestock	0	1	33	65	1	Watermelons	33	21	46	0	0
Oats	6	14	43	37	0	Winter Wheat	9	6	39	46	0
Pasture	2	16	41	41	0						

## South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending April 15, 2007

Below normal temperatures continued on Monday and Tuesday. Preliminary field surveys early in the week indicated the past Sunday's, April 8, record freeze did extensive and costly damage to corn, peaches, watermelons and assorted row crops. Described by agricultural interest between Lexington and Aiken as the worst since 1983. On Wednesday, gray skies, light rain and drizzle held mid-day temperatures in the 50's. Morning thunderstorms on Thursday produced 1.75 inch diameter hail in Rock Hill. Under clear skies temperatures on Friday morning neared the freezing mark well inland, preceding a period of very warm weather for part of Saturday. Afternoon high temperatures in the middle 80's were common across central counties. A vigorous cold front raced into the state during that afternoon with high winds and small hail episodes. Clusters of storm cells continued overnight into Sunday. A violent tornado ripped through Sumter County Sunday morning. The path was estimated at 14 miles in length. There were additional tornadoes observed at near Lynchburg and Rowesville. A few sites received rainfall amounts exceeding two inches. The tight pressure gradient between the exiting, mid-Atlantic coastal storm system and building high pressure over the state, caused west winds at Pineville to gust at 62 mph on Sunday. Tide-gage measurements near Charleston measured low tide levels, commonly called "blowout tides", of between two and three feet below predictions on Sunday. Sunday's warmth was tempered by gusting winds mixing with periods of bright sunshine against areas of cloudy skies. The state average temperature for the period was four degrees below normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 85 degrees Columbia, Pelion, Aiken, Barnwell, and Jamestown on April 14. The lowest official temperature reported was 25 degrees at Walhalla Hatchery on the morning of April 10. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 3.20 inches at Barnwell ending at 7:00 a.m. on April 15. The state average rainfall for the period was 1.5 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth average soil temperature: Columbia 65 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 62 degrees.

### Precipitation

Location	Weekly Total	Jan 1 Total	Deviation from Average
Greer	1.30	12.26	-3.5
Columbia	1.15	10.35	-4.4
Orangeburg	0.50	9.28	-5.5
Charlotte, NC	2.90	13.56	0.1
Augusta, GA	2.44	10.65	-4.2
Florence	3.34	9.68	-2.9
Myrtle Beach	1.23	8.07	-4.2
Charleston	0.45	7.57	-5.1
Savannah, GA	0.06	6.66	-5.6

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.

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