



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

All of South Carolina received rainfall this past week with most of the state receiving an inch or more of precipitation. Upstate areas that needed moisture the most got it from this latest system. The slow rainfall over the course of several days greatly improved soil moisture, and helped replenish irrigation and livestock ponds. Field and land preparation for this year's crops was being done at a rapid pace prior to the storm system. The state's soil moisture ratings were reported at 2% very short, 15% short, 67% adequate, and 16% surplus. There was a statewide average of 4.7 days that were suitable for field work during the week.

FIELD CROPS

CORN planting has been slowed by cool wet weather, but should pick up in another week or so. **OAT** conditions were mostly good this past week, and were just beginning to head out in some areas. Likewise, **WINTER WHEAT** was also progressing well. Conditions were 1% poor, 35% fair, 60% good, and 4% excellent.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions were 1% very poor, 2% poor, 35% fair, 58% good, and 4% excellent. **PASTURES** were greening up with some Upstate pastures even in soggy or muddy condition. **VEGETABLE** planting is well under way, particularly in Low Country areas. Most **PEACHES** have finished blooming. Conditions were reported at 27% fair, 60% good, and 4% excellent.

Crop Progress for Week Ending March 29, 2009

Crop and Stage	2009	2008	5-Yr Avg	Crop and Stage	2009	2008	5-Yr Avg
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cantaloup, Planted	16	6	16	Oats, Headed	3	17	6
Corn, Planted	15	26	26	Snapbeans, Fresh, Planted	14	14	19
Corn, Emerged	2	5	9	Tomatoes, Fresh, Planted	19	17	23
Cucumbers, Fresh, Planted	3	15	14	Watermelons, Planted	23	26	22

Condition for Week Ending March 29, 2009

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>
Livestock	1	2	35	58	4	Peaches	0	0	27	65	8
Oats	0	2	27	69	2	Winter Wheat	0	1	35	60	4
Pasture	1	6	48	43	2						

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending March 29, 2009

Following a cold sunrise, mild weather was observed from Monday afternoon through Tuesday. Jamestown reported a Monday high temperature of 78 degrees and Allendale, 77 degrees on Tuesday. Clouds increased for Wednesday with a few rain showers affecting the Upstate. A nearly stationary boundary remained draped across the state through Saturday with periods of rain, some heavy and with thunder. During the four-day stretch from Wednesday through Saturday, Table Rock measured 3.92 inches of rain, Jocassee Dam, 3.55 inches. The mild conditions have jump-started spring flowering while the wet weather helped rinse early surface coatings of tree pollen. Drying sunshine returned on Sunday's building high pressure, with strong, westerly winds gusting to 44 mph at the Florence AP. Conway and Jamestown both recorded an afternoon high temperature of 78 degrees on Sunday before the cold front swept away the warmth. The state average temperature for the period was two degrees above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 79 degrees at Myrtle Beach AP on March 29. The lowest official temperature reported was 32 degrees at Cedar Creek March 23. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.90 inches at McCormick ending at 7:00 a.m. on March 29. The state average rainfall for the period was 1.6 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth average soil temperature: Columbia 59 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near to above normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 57 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Weekly Total	Jan 1 Total	Deviation from Average
Greer	2.43	12.88	-0.8
Columbia	1.72	7.48	-5.4
Orangeburg	1.00	8.42	-4.5
Charlotte, NC	1.65	10.13	-1.6
Augusta, GA	1.69	9.06	-3.9
Florence	1.09	6.84	-4.0
N Myrtle Beach	1.46	6.94	-3.8
Charleston	0.96	5.33	-5.6
Savannah, GA	1.65	6.12	-4.2

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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