



South Carolina Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report

Cooperating with Clemson University
1835 Assembly St., Suite 1008 · Columbia, SC 29201
(800) 424-9406 · FAX (803) 765-5310 · www.nass.usda.gov/sc

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

GENERAL

The majority of South Carolina saw dry, warm weather this past week. The consistent sunshine has been beneficial in some areas, but many farmers have reported the need for rain. The lack of precipitation has caused planting to slow down as the topsoil dries out, leading many cotton, peanut, and soybean growers to wait for rain to start planting. Many farmers also expressed concern about wheat heading, tobacco transplants, and newly seeded crops due to the dry conditions. South Carolina's soil moisture ratings were 1% very short, 41% short, and 58% adequate. There was a statewide average of 6.3 days that were suitable for field work.

FIELD CROPS

CORN planting is close to completion for 2009 and is in mostly good condition. **TOBACCO** transplanting continued, while conditions were reported at 1% poor, 43% fair, 52% Good, and 4% excellent. **WINTER WHEAT** heading continues to progress well and has begun turning color. Ninety percent of **OATS** were headed and are turning color as well. Forty percent of **GRAIN HAY** has been harvested with conditions being reported as 6% poor, 42% fair, 49% good, and 3% excellent. **SOYBEAN** and **PEANUT** crops are still in the early stages of planting.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions remained mostly good. **PASTURES** were reported at 6% poor, 42% fair, 50% good and 2% excellent. **VEGETABLE** conditions improved slightly from last week. **PEACH** conditions were reported at 8% poor, 35% fair, 51% good, and 6% excellent.

Crop Progress for Week Ending May 3, 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	80	86	86	Peanuts, Planted	5	10	16
Corn, Planted	97	97	98	Snapbeans, Fresh, Planted	86	87	88
Corn, Emerged	75	81	86	Soybeans, Planted	4	7	9
Cotton, Planted	13	9	16	Tobacco, Transplanted	88	90	91
Cucumbers, Fresh, Planted	84	84	91	Tomatoes, Fresh, Planted	98	98	98
Hay, Grain Hay, Harvested	40	43	41	Watermelons, Planted	92	89	89
Oats, Headed	90	90	91	Winter Wheat, Headed	87	88	91
Oats, Turned Color	10	14	19	Winter Wheat, Turning Color	3	4	13

Condition for Week Ending May 3, 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>
Cantaloup	0	4	46	50	0	Peaches	0	8	35	51	6
Corn	0	1	35	61	3	Snapbeans	0	10	40	50	0
Cucumbers	0	0	60	40	0	Tobacco	0	1	43	52	4
Hay	0	6	42	49	3	Tomatoes	0	0	28	58	14
Livestock	0	1	24	72	3	Watermelons	0	1	45	47	7
Oats	2	2	20	71	5	Winter Wheat	1	1	27	67	4
Pasture	0	6	42	50	2						

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending May 3, 2009

On Monday at 11:00 a.m., the N Myrtle Beach Airport reported a peak barometric pressure reading of 30.49 inches of mercury. Stable weather and 80-degree afternoon temperatures were observed from the mountains to the coast. The temperate conditions continued through Thursday with bright sunshine over fields of cumulus clouds. At month's end, the N Myrtle Beach Airport had received only 1.26 inches of rain during April. Clouds began increasing Friday in response to a nearly stationary boundary drifting southward across the state. A few showers were noted Friday. Scattered, convective thunderstorms developed on Saturday and were aided by afternoon temperatures near 90 degrees. Long Creek measured 0.93 inches of rain. The week ended with partly sunny skies, gusting southwest winds and isolated evening thundershowers. The state average temperature for the period was five degrees above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 90 degrees at Bamberg on May 2 and at Cades on May 3. The lowest official temperature reported was 46 degrees at Pageland on April 28. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 0.95 inches at Jocassee Dam ending at 7:00 a.m. on May 3. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.1 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 72 degrees, Charleston 75 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 73 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for Year	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.07	17.18	-0.7
Columbia	0.04	10.28	-6.1
Orangeburg	0.06	11.49	-4.9
Charlotte, NC	0.50	12.93	-2.3
Augusta, GA	0.00	13.44	-3.0
Florence	0.74	9.18	-5.0
N Myrtle Beach	0.00	8.20	m
Charleston	0.00	10.70	-3.5
Savannah, GA	0.37	13.74	-0.4

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



USDA-NASS
 SOUTH CAROLINA FIELD OFFICE
 1835 Assembly St. Suite 1008
 Columbia, SC 29201-2449
 Official Business

Address Service Requested