



USDA  
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Service

# South Carolina

## Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report



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Week Ending October 14, 2007

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### GENERAL

The drought continued to take its toll on South Carolina's crops. The weather was ideal for harvesting, but awful for planting small grains, and winter grazings. The persistent lack of moisture was further reducing already poor yields for many crops. Surface water is increasingly becoming a concern as levels decline. Some irrigation ponds are too low to draw out any significant amount of water. Soil ratings for the week were 63% very short, 26% short, and 11% adequate. There was a statewide average of 6.7 days that were suitable for field work.

### FIELD CROPS

A week of sunshine and little or no measurable rainfall has permitted **COTTON** harvest to continue uninterrupted at a rapid pace. The State average yield is only expected to be 378 pounds per acre, the lowest in the nation. The cotton condition was 27% very poor, 34% poor, 31% fair, and 8% good. **PEANUT** harvest was ongoing without delays. The condition was 7% very poor, 23% poor, 47% fair, and 23% good. Early planted **SOYBEAN** harvest has begun. South Carolina's forecasted yield of 19 bushels an acre is also the lowest in the country. The condition of the crop was 28% very poor, 34% poor, 29% fair, and 9% good. **SWEET POTATOES** were still in mostly fair condition. **WINTER WHEAT** planting continued to fall behind as farmers have waited on rains that have not come.

### OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

**LIVESTOCK** were in mostly fair condition. **PASTURES** have not looked very good in a very long time. What little **APPLE** harvest there has been continues. The crop was in very poor to fair condition. Due to the very dry soils, the planting of **WINTER GRAZINGS** has come to a halt in some areas.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending October 14, 2007

| Crop and Stage        | 2007    | 2006    | 5-Yr Avg | Crop and Stage            | 2007    | 2006    | 5-Yr Avg |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------------------------|---------|---------|----------|
|                       | Percent | Percent | Percent  |                           | Percent | Percent | Percent  |
| Apples, Harvested     | 75      | 86      | 81       | Soybeans, Turned Color    | 70      | 68      | 67       |
| Corn, Harvested       | 100     | 99      | 99       | Soybeans, Leaves Dropped  | 34      | 32      | 32       |
| Cotton, Bolls Opened  | 97      | 88      | 86       | Soybeans, Mature          | 10      | 17      | 16       |
| Cotton, Harvested     | 35      | 20      | 22       | Soybeans, Harvested       | 2       | 3       | 5        |
| Oats, Planted         | 3       | 13      | 24       | Sweet Potatoes, Harvested | 55      | 66      | 55       |
| Peanuts, Harvested    | 50      | 43      | 48       | Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed | 95      | 97      | 95       |
| Sorghum, Turned Color | 100     | 100     | 100      | Winter Grazings, Planted  | 32      | 60      | 52       |
| Sorghum, Matured      | 94      | 95      | 93       | Winter Grazings, Emerged  | 9       | 14      | 26       |
| Sorghum, Harvested    | 79      | 84      | 74       | Winter Wheat, Planted     | 8       | 14      | 24       |
| Soybeans, Pods Set    | 100     | 100     | 100      | Winter Wheat, Emerged     | 1       | 4       | 11       |

### Condition for Week Ending October 14, 2007

| Crop      | Very Poor | Poor    | Fair    | Good    | Excellent | Crop            | Very Poor | Poor    | Fair    | Good    | Excellent |
|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
|           | Percent   | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent   |                 | Percent   | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent   |
| Apples    | 30        | 35      | 35      | 0       | 0         | Peanuts         | 7         | 23      | 47      | 23      | 0         |
| Cotton    | 27        | 34      | 31      | 8       | 0         | Soybeans        | 28        | 34      | 29      | 9       | 0         |
| Livestock | 14        | 18      | 51      | 17      | 0         | Sweet Potatoes  | 0         | 10      | 80      | 10      | 0         |
| Pasture   | 42        | 38      | 16      | 4       | 0         | Winter Grazings | 42        | 14      | 44      | 0       | 0         |

## South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending October 14, 2007

Summer-like heat ignored the October calendar with the mercury reaching 90 degrees or higher on both Monday and Tuesday. The Columbia AP set a date record 94 degrees on October 9. This was also their highest temperature ever recorded for so late in the season. Instability ahead of a slow-moving cold front produced a few lone thundershowers overnight Tuesday into Wednesday but the coverage was isolated at best. On Thursday morning, Barnwell's 48 degrees represented a temperature drop of 43 degrees from a high of 91 degrees on Wednesday. The season's coolest airmass spread over the state Friday morning with several locations chilling into the 30's. Sunny, clear weather was observed through the weekend. The state average temperature for the period was four degrees above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 94 degrees at Bennettsville, Cades, Orangeburg, Mullins, and Columbia AP on October 9. The lowest official temperature reported was 35 degrees at Cedar Creek on the morning of October 13. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 0.75 inches at Bennettsville ending at 7:00 a.m. on October 10. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.0 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth average soil temperature: Columbia 77 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were below normal. Ocean water temperatures at S Capers Island were reported at 77 degrees.

### Precipitation

| Location       | Weekly Total | Jan 1 Total | Deviation from Average |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Greer          | 0.00         | 24.09       | -16.4                  |
| Columbia       | 0.00         | 23.72       | -16.8                  |
| Orangeburg     | 0.00         | 31.31       | -9.2                   |
| Charlotte, NC  | 0.01         | 21.83       | -13.2                  |
| Augusta, GA    | 0.00         | 24.95       | -12.1                  |
| Florence       | 0.00         | 26.94       | -10.2                  |
| N Myrtle Beach | 0.00         | 26.28       | -11.5                  |
| Charleston     | 0.00         | 34.67       | -9.5                   |
| Savannah, GA   | 0.00         | 38.73       | -4.1                   |

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.

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