



South Carolina Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report

Cooperating with Clemson University
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Clemson University
SC State Climatology Office
Farm Service Agency

GENERAL

The Upstate finally got substantial amounts of precipitation last week, after having missed out so many weeks before. Tropical storm Fay provided heavy rainfall from its upper bands to the states' lower half a week ago. Its remains returned to deliver much needed rain to the other half this week with an inch or more falling on South Carolina's driest region. Average soil moisture improved for yet another week, and was rated 3% very short, 31% short, 58% adequate, and 8% surplus. The average number of days that was suitable for field work was 5.5 last week.

FIELD CROPS

CORN harvest was in high gear this past week, as farmers were trying to harvest corn before any more potential storms head this way. Others were waiting to dry out some more before taking combines into the fields. Conditions were 50% very poor, 25% poor, 19% fair, and 6% good. **COTTON** conditions continued to improve. Boll set was nearly complete, but there was adequate soil moisture for increased boll size. Growers were scouting for any recurrence of stink bugs. Conditions were 4% very poor, 15% poor, 43% fair, 34% good, and 4% excellent. Rains were helping the **PEANUT** crop to mature. Growers were still applying fungicides. Conditions were 3% poor, 22% fair, 64% good, and 11 excellent. Late planted **SORGHUM** for silage should show improvement. Conditions were 36% very poor, 34% poor, 21% fair, and 9% good. **SOYBEANS** have responded somewhat to the rainfall, but it looks like it may be too late in the season to bloom and make a good yield in some areas. Other soybean fields have definitely seen an improvement in their yield potential. Conditions were 13% very poor, 18% poor, 37% fair, 29% good, and 3% excellent. **SWEET POTATOES** were 5% poor, 50% fair, and 45% good. There were some **TOBACCO** growers that had trouble getting their harvesters into wet fields, but most producers were able to keep their crews busy with priming, racking leaf, and disking stalks. Conditions were 7% poor, 36% fair, 52% good, and 5% excellent.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

HAY cutting for this year is coming to an end. **LIVESTOCK** were able to escape most of August without any lengthy amount of hot weather. Conditions improved somewhat from the ample rains. **PASTURES** have been greening up, with some growth occurring this past week. **APPLE** and **PEACH** harvests were still ongoing. Apple picking slowed up from the all the rain. Harvest was complete for **CANTALOUPE**S, and nearly complete for **WATERMELONS**.

Crop Progress for Week Ending August 31, 2008

Crop and Stage	2008	2007	5-Yr Avg	Crop and Stage	2008	2007	5-Yr Avg
	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent
Apples, Harvested	15	19	20	Sorghum, Matured	32	52	52
Cantaloup, Harvested	100	100	100	Sorghum, Harvested	6	20	22
Corn, Matured	97	98	97	Soybeans, Bloomed	95	98	97
Corn, Harvested	41	49	43	Soybeans, Pods Set	77	72	75
Cotton, Bolls Set	97	97	96	Soybeans, Turned Color	5	7	10
Cotton, Bolls Opened	7	23	21	Soybeans, Leaves Dropped	1	1	1
Hay, Other Hay, Harvested	94	99	97	Tobacco, Harvested	78	79	86
Peaches, Harvested	90	87	90	Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed	30	21	34
Sorghum, Headed	95	99	99	Watermelons, Harvested	98	98	99
Sorghum, Turned Color	68	82	84				

Condition for Week Ending August 31, 2008

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	5	5	70	20	0	Peanuts	0	3	28	58	11
Corn	50	25	19	6	0	Sorghum	36	34	21	9	0
Cotton	4	15	43	34	4	Soybeans	13	18	37	29	3
Livestock	3	13	38	46	0	Sweet Potatoes	0	5	50	45	0
Pasture	11	21	37	30	1	Tobacco	0	7	36	52	5

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending August 31, 2008

The circulation remnants from Tropical Depression Fay began affecting Oconee County, in the mountains of upstate South Carolina, on Monday morning. Repeating, heavy rains would fall over much of the northern half of the state through Wednesday. A rainfall event total of 9.38 inches was measured in Chester. Light property damage was reported from tornadoes that were observed in Anderson, Abbeville, Pickens, Greenville and Chester counties. Flash flooding caused detours around rural and low-lying bridges until their structural integrity could be inspected. Warm, humid weather followed on Thursday through the holiday weekend with a mix of widely scattered afternoon thunderstorms and high temperatures in the 90's. McCormick received 2.43 inches of rain on Saturday and Loris received 2.30 inches Sunday. The state average temperature for the period was one degree above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 95 degrees at Pritchardville and Beaufort MCAS on August 28. The lowest official temperature reported was 63 degrees at Cheraw on the morning of August 25. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 7.13 inches at Chester ending at 7:00 a.m. on August 27. The state average rainfall for the period was 2.1 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth average soil temperature: Columbia 82 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near to below normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 86 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Weekly Total	Jan 1 Total	Deviation from Average
Greer	3.43	25.29	-9.5
Columbia	2.68	30.32	-4.9
Orangeburg	1.15	26.54	-8.7
Charlotte, NC	8.80	30.77	1.3
Augusta, GA	1.49	27.54	-4.4
Florence	3.17	31.24	-0.9
N Myrtle Beach	1.37	33.40	2.9
Charleston	0.77	27.92	-8.6
Savannah, GA	0.01	30.34	-5.8

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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