



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

Much of South Carolina saw considerable amounts of precipitation again this past week. Slightly cooler than average temperatures were also observed. The rain continued to improve crop conditions for most farmers, however many field operations were delayed by wet fields. South Carolina's soil moisture ratings were 6% short, 82% adequate, and 12% surplus. There was a statewide average of 5.1 days that were suitable for field work.

FIELD CROPS

CORN planting is nearly complete for 2009. The condition of the planted crop was reported at 24% fair, 71% good, and 5% excellent. **TOBACCO** has been set in the fields for this year and conditions were reported to be generally good. **WINTER WHEAT** has finished heading and have just begun to ripen. Forty-eight percent of the crop has turned color. **OATS** have also finished heading. The crop has continued to turn color while 7% of those oats have ripened. In some areas, growers are cutting **GRAIN HAY** around the rain showers. **COTTON** planting was somewhat delayed due to wet field conditions and has fallen a bit behind schedule for this time of year. Seventy percent of the planted cotton crop was reported in good condition. Both **SOYBEAN** and **PEANUT** planting were also delayed due to wet fields and have fallen behind schedule for this time of year.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions were little changed from the previous week remaining mostly good. Rain continued to improve **PASTURE** conditions from previous weeks and was reported at 1% poor, 27% fair, 71% good and 1% excellent. **VEGETABLE** planting has completed for snapbeans and tomatoes. **WATERMELON** planting is nearing completion for the year. **PEACH** conditions were mostly unchanged from last week and reported at 3% poor, 39% fair, and 58% good.

Crop Progress for Week Ending May 17, 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	94	93	94	Snapbeans, Fresh, Planted	100	100	98
Corn, Planted	99	100	100	Soybeans, Planted	17	25	26
Corn, Emerged	96	96	97	Soybeans, Emerged	5	10	6
Cotton, Planted	38	52	60	Tobacco, Transplanted	100	100	100
Cucumbers, Fresh, Planted	96	94	98	Tomatoes, Fresh, Planted	100	100	99
Hay, Grain Hay, Harvested	80	74	71	Watermelons, Planted	97	95	96
Oats, Headed	100	98	99	Winter Wheat, Headed	100	100	99
Oats, Turned Color	65	55	60	Winter Wheat, Turning Color	48	51	58
Oats, Ripe	7	12	10	Winter Wheat, Ripe	3	2	5
Peanuts, Planted	21	45	53				

Condition for Week Ending May 17, 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	7	29	64	0	Peaches	0	3	39	58	0
Corn	0	0	24	71	5	Peanuts	0	0	25	75	0
Cotton	0	0	29	70	1	Snapbeans	0	0	70	30	0
Cucumbers	0	0	44	56	0	Soybeans	0	0	19	78	3
Hay	0	0	29	69	2	Tobacco	0	1	31	62	6
Livestock	0	0	19	79	2	Tomatoes	0	0	17	72	11
Oats	0	0	8	86	6	Watermelons	0	1	28	71	0
Pasture	0	1	27	71	1	Winter Wheat	0	1	19	78	2

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending May 17, 2009

The week began with much cooler temperatures on the heels of building high pressure. Table Rock reported a high temperature on Monday of only 60 degrees. On Tuesday morning, McClellanville recorded a minimum temperature of 53 degrees. Deep-layer surface winds shifted to a more onshore direction Wednesday and by Thursday the airmass had become quite tropical in nature. Slow moving thunderstorms on Thursday produced localized flooding near the Charleston Airport as 0.67 inches of rain fell in fourteen minutes. Relative humidity values of 100 percent were observed at many locations Friday morning. Seabreeze boundaries help contribute to widely scattered showers for much of eastern South Carolina into the weekend. For sites receiving the most sunshine hours, afternoon high temperatures on both Friday and Saturday climbed into the mid-80's. A frontal boundary approached from the west Sunday, bringing evening rains and falling temperatures. The state average temperature for the period was two degrees below normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 89 degrees at Manning on May 16. The lowest official temperature reported was 43 degrees at Hunts Bridge on May 12. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.36 inches at the Bishopville USGS gage ending at 7:00 a.m. on May 17. The state average rainfall for the period was 1.9 inches.

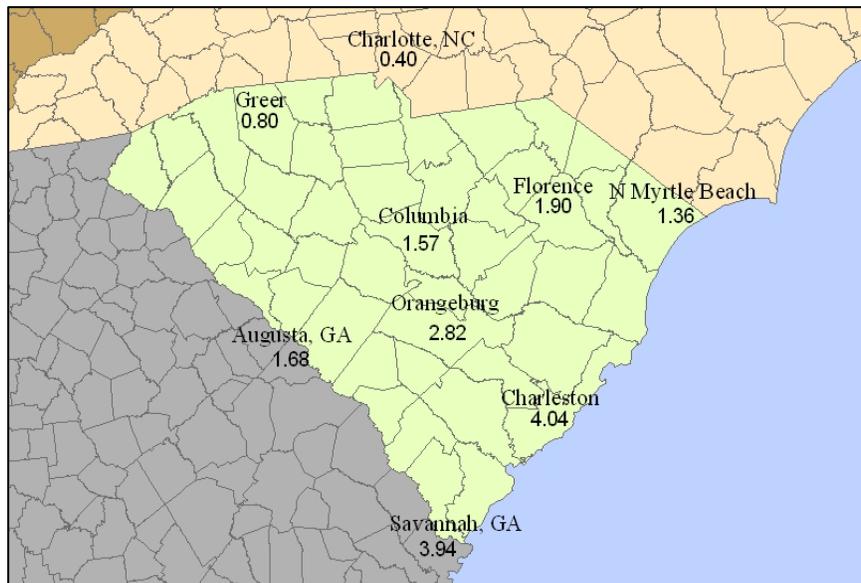
SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 74 degrees, Charleston 77 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 76 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for 2009	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.80	19.66	-0.3
Columbia	1.57	12.45	-5.2
Orangeburg	2.82	16.79	-0.9
Charlotte, NC	0.40	16.43	-0.4
Augusta, GA	1.68	16.60	-1.1
Florence	1.90	13.25	-2.3
N Myrtle Beach	1.36	11.15	-3.4
Charleston	4.04	15.00	-0.7
Savannah, GA	3.94	18.39	2.8

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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