



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

South Carolina continued to receive rain and below average temperatures this past week. Isolated areas of heavy rain showers and windy conditions were observed in some areas of the State. Persistent rain fall has either delayed or stopped field activities in several locations. Producers have also reported lodging of small grains and some disease problems in some vegetable crops due to excess moisture. South Carolina's soil moisture ratings were 6% short, 73% adequate, and 21% surplus. There was a statewide average of 5.0 days that were suitable for field work.

FIELD CROPS

This year's entire **CORN** crop has been planted and nearly all of the crop has emerged. Conditions improved from last week and were reported at 16% fair, 74% good, and 10% excellent. **TOBACCO** conditions remained mostly good. **WINTER WHEAT** that has turned color made significant gains, moving 32 points in one week. However, ripened winter wheat has fallen behind schedule from previous years. **OATS** also continue to turn color at a rapid pace; 27% of those oats have ripened. **GRAIN HAY** harvested is on schedule with the five year average. **COTTON** planting made significant gains this past week and is back on schedule, however the condition of the cotton crop declined from the previous week and was reported at 1% poor, 40% fair, 58% good, and 1% excellent. Wet fields continue to stall both **SOYBEAN** and **PEANUT** planting causing them to fall behind the five year average for this time of year.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions improved slightly from the previous week remaining mostly good. Aided by steady rain, **PASTURE** conditions continue to improve from previous weeks and were reported at 1% poor, 18% fair, 79% good and 2% excellent. **CUCUMBER** planting has neared completion for the year. **WATERMELON** planting is nearly complete as well. **PEACH** harvesting has just begun and conditions have improved slightly from the previous week for most producers.

Crop Progress for Week Ending May 24, 2009

Crop and Stage	2009	2008	5-Yr Avg	Crop and Stage	2009	2008	5-Yr Avg
	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent
Cantaloup, Planted	95	96	97	Peaches, Harvested	2	4	2
Corn, Planted	100	100	100	Peanuts, Planted	54	66	70
Corn, Emerged	98	98	99	Soybeans, Planted	31	42	42
Cotton, Planted	78	76	80	Soybeans, Emerged	20	26	14
Cucumbers, Fresh, Planted	97	98	99	Watermelons, Planted	98	97	97
Hay, Grain Hay, Harvested	84	87	84	Winter Wheat, Turning Color	80	76	79
Oats, Turned Color	85	79	79	Winter Wheat, Ripe	8	22	23
Oats, Ripe	27	36	34				

Condition for Week Ending May 24, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Cantaloup	0	4	25	71	0	Peaches	0	4	32	64	0
Corn	0	0	16	74	10	Peanuts	0	0	36	64	0
Cotton	0	1	40	58	1	Snapbeans	0	0	20	65	15
Cucumbers	0	0	29	54	17	Soybeans	0	0	6	93	1
Hay	0	2	29	67	2	Tobacco	0	0	22	73	5
Livestock	0	0	15	82	3	Tomatoes	0	0	18	70	12
Oats	0	0	12	85	3	Watermelons	0	1	19	80	0
Pasture	0	1	18	79	2	Winter Wheat	0	0	18	79	3

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending May 24, 2009

A southward moving body of colder air overspread the state on Monday morning with northeast winds gusting to 37 mph at N Myrtle Beach AP. Florence established a date record “lowest maximum” temperature Monday with only 63 degrees as did Charleston with only 59 degrees. Near sunrise on Tuesday, most of the state reported low temperatures in the 40’s. Strong, onshore winds between high pressure ridging south along the eastern seaboard and a deep area of low pressure over central Florida, continued through Thursday. At 3:00 p.m. Thursday afternoon, Charleston City was reporting east winds at 29 mph, gusting to 37 mph. Clusters of rain showers developed over inland sites within the humid airmass. Surface winds shifted to a more southerly direction over the weekend and contributed to localized pockets of heavy rains. A nearly equal mix of clouds and sunshine kept afternoon high temperatures on both Saturday and Sunday to around 80 degrees. The state average temperature for the period was three degrees below normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 87 degrees at Manning on May 22. The lowest official temperature reported was 38 degrees at Table Rock on May 19. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 3.70 inches at the Conway ending at 7:00 a.m. on May 18. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.8 inches.

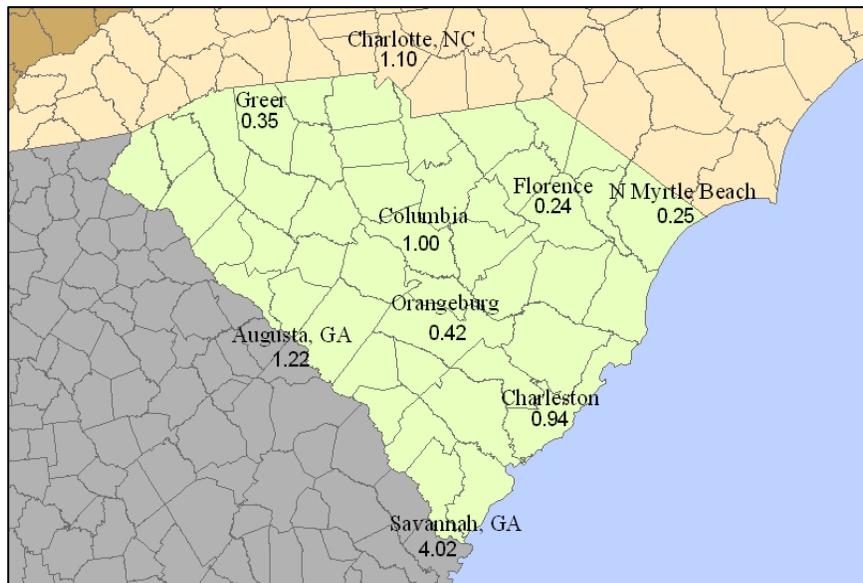
SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 72 degrees, Charleston 75 degrees.

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 2009	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.35	20.01	-1.0
Columbia	1.00	13.45	-4.9
Orangeburg	0.42	17.21	-1.1
Charlotte, NC	1.10	17.53	-0.2
Augusta, GA	1.22	17.82	-0.6
Florence	0.24	13.49	-2.9
N Myrtle Beach	0.25	11.40	-3.9
Charleston	0.94	15.94	-0.6
Savannah, GA	4.02	22.41	6.0

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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