



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

With the exception of a few scattered thunderstorms, South Carolina observed mostly dry conditions this past week. Precipitation eased crop stress for the farmers that were fortunate enough to receive rainfall. Due to below normal rainfall observed over the past few weeks, South Carolina State Climatologists suggest that some areas of the Upstate are approaching incipient levels of drought. South Carolina's soil moisture ratings were 11% very short, 34% short, 53% adequate, and 2% surplus. There was a statewide average of 6.1 days that were suitable for field work.

FIELD CROPS

The entire **CORN** crop had doughed and one-fourth of the crop had been harvested this past week. Corn continued to struggle in counties that had not received rain and conditions were reported at 4% very poor, 13% poor, 44% fair, 32% good and 7% excellent. **COTTON** bolls had just started to open whereas the entire crop had completed squaring as of last week. Eighty-eight percent of cotton had bolls set. Cotton conditions were mostly unchanged from the previous week and were reported at 2% poor, 49% fair, 48% good and 1% excellent. **SOYBEANS** had just begun to turn color. Ninety-two percent of the crop had bloomed while 71% had set pods. Beneficial rain fell across much of Georgetown County which improved the soybean crop significantly and is expected to contribute to increased yields for those growers. Conditions were reported 1% very poor, 3% poor, 47% fair, 44% good and 5% excellent. Furthermore, some cotton and soybean growers in the southern part of the State are applying insect controls for larvae feeders. **PEANUTS** had completed pegging and remain in overall fair or better condition. Eighty percent of the **TOBACCO** crop had been harvested and stalks were destroyed on 35% of the crop. Tobacco conditions were reported at 1% very poor, 2% poor, 26% fair, 59% good, and 12% excellent.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions were reported 1% very poor, 2% poor, 31% fair, 60% good, and 6% excellent. **PASTURE** conditions improved slightly and were reported 4% very poor, 10% poor, 42% fair, 40% good and 4% excellent. **PEACH** harvest is nearing completion for the year with 95% of the crop harvested last week. Likewise, nearly all **WATERMELONS** had been harvested.

Crop Progress for Week Ending August 23, 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, Harvested	97	99	100	Peanuts, Pegged	100	100	99
Corn, Doughed	100	100	99	Soybeans, Bloomed	92	90	93
Corn, Matured	92	91	90	Soybeans, Pods Set	71	62	61
Corn, Harvested	25	19	25	Soybeans, Turned Color	1	3	5
Cotton, Squared	100	100	100	Tobacco, Harvested	80	63	74
Cotton, Bolls Set	88	94	91	Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed	35	16	21
Cotton, Bolls Opened	5	3	9	Watermelons, Harvested	99	96	97
Peaches, Harvested	95	82	85				

Condition for Week Ending August 23, 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>
Corn	4	13	44	32	7	Peanuts	0	3	39	57	1
Cotton	0	2	49	48	1	Soybeans	1	3	47	44	5
Livestock	1	2	31	60	6	Tobacco	1	2	26	59	12
Pasture	4	10	42	40	4						

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending August 23, 2009

Sunny weather and late summer heat was observed early in the week. On Wednesday, Manning, Hartsville and Jamestown all reported 95 degrees. The tropical atmosphere supported the formation of widely scattered afternoon thundershowers. Bamberg received 1.06 inches of rain Wednesday afternoon. A localized convective burst drenched Longtown with just over three inches of rain Thursday. A few mountain sites measured rainfall totals of around three quarters of an inch. Except for the coastal counties, most of the State enjoyed picturesque blue skies during the daylight hours over the weekend. A lone, nearly stationary storm cell caused flash flooding at Awendaw in north Charleston County Saturday evening. There were unofficial reports of rainfall amounts exceeding six inches. A strong storm over Gaston dropped golf ball-sized hail at 7:30 p.m. Saturday night. Cooler, drier air eased into northwest South Carolina late Saturday. Long Creek in Oconee County recorded a Sunday morning low temperature of 61 degrees. The State average temperature for the period was three degrees above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 99 degrees at Saluda on August 20. The lowest official temperature reported was 59 degrees at Caesars Head on August 23. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 3.02 inches at Longtown ending at 7:00 a.m. on August 21. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.2 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 83 degrees, Charleston 84 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near to below normal. Ocean water temperatures at the Edisto Buoy and Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 83 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for 2009	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.45	27.63	-6.1
Columbia	0.02	28.02	-5.8
Orangeburg	0.07	29.63	-4.2
Charlotte, NC	0.12	30.18	1.7
Augusta, GA	0.15	26.57	-4.3
Florence	0.06	25.58	-5.3
N Myrtle Beach	0.36	24.20	-4.8
Charleston	0.00	36.06	1.3
Savannah, GA	0.97	41.08	6.7

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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