



South Carolina Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report

Cooperating with Clemson University
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Week Ending: August 30, 2009
Cooperating Agencies:
Clemson University
SC State Climatology Office
Farm Service Agency



GENERAL

Hot, dry weather helped crops progress, but rain is needed to keep crops growing. Tropical Storm Danny brought light, scattered rains to parts of South Carolina late in the week. South Carolina's soil moisture levels were 12% very short, 32% short, 54% adequate, and 2% surplus. There was a statewide average of 6.2 days that were suitable for field work.

FIELD CROPS

The **CORN** crop had reportedly all matured by last week and nearly 50% had been harvested. Corn conditions improved, with 52% being in good or excellent condition. Conditions were reported at 3% very poor, 10% poor, 35% fair, 45% good and 7% excellent. **COTTON** progressed nicely with nearly all bolls set and 12% of bolls opened. Cotton conditions were mostly unchanged from the previous week and were reported at 3% poor, 46% fair, 50% good and 1% excellent. **SOYBEANS** were poised to set a good crop, and growers hoped adequate rains would fall while pods filled out. Eighty-seven percent of the crop had set pods while leaves were beginning to change color on 1% of the crop. Conditions were reported 3% very poor, 6% poor, 38% fair, 46% good and 7% excellent. **PEANUTS** remained in overall fair or better condition. **TOBACCO** harvest was winding down, with 88% of the crop harvested. Growers seemed happy with the 2009 crop. Tobacco crop conditions stayed nearly the same at 1% very poor, 3% poor, 25% fair, 59% good, and 12% excellent.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions were reported as 1% poor, 28% fair, 70% good and 1% excellent. **PASTURE** conditions were largely unchanged at 2% very poor, 12% poor, 42% fair, 42% good and 2% excellent. **PEACH** harvest was nearing the end as was melon harvest.

Crop Progress for Week Ending August 30, 2009

| Crop and Stage | 2009 | 2008 | 5-Yr Avg | Crop and Stage | 2009 | 2008 | 5-Yr Avg |
|----------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| | Percent | Percent | Percent | | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| Corn, Matured | 100 | 96 | 96 | Soybeans, Pods Set | 87 | 75 | 75 |
| Corn, Harvested | 46 | 38 | 42 | Soybeans, Turned Color | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| Cotton, Bolls Set | 97 | 97 | 96 | Tobacco, Harvested | 88 | 76 | 83 |
| Cotton, Bolls Opened | 12 | 6 | 17 | Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed | 56 | 28 | 32 |
| Peaches, Harvested | 97 | 89 | 89 | Watermelons, Harvested | 100 | 98 | 99 |
| Soybeans, Bloomed | 95 | 94 | 96 | | | | |

Condition for Week Ending August 30, 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 |
| Corn | 3 | 10 | 35 | 45 | 7 | Peanuts | 0 | 7 | 29 | 63 | 1 |
| Cotton | 0 | 3 | 46 | 50 | 1 | Soybeans | 3 | 6 | 38 | 46 | 7 |
| Livestock | 0 | 1 | 28 | 70 | 1 | Tobacco | 1 | 3 | 25 | 59 | 12 |
| Pasture | 2 | 12 | 42 | 42 | 2 | | | | | | |

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending August 30, 2009

Although afternoon high temperatures on Monday and Tuesday climbed into the middle 90's, lower humidity values offset the apparent heat. A canvas of cumulus clouds mixed with blue skies on both days. Areas of dense fog were observed on Wednesday morning. At 7:00 a.m. Shaw AFB in Sumter and McEntire ANG Airport near Eastover measured ground visibility of one-eighth mile. The circulation around an upper level feature located over the Florida panhandle began to force storms onshore over the southern counties on Thursday. The Charleston Airport measured a two-day rainfall total through Friday of 3.30 inches. Marion received 1.44 inches of rain from Friday's thunderstorms. Mostly sunny weather was noted Saturday before the influence of a southeastward moving boundary of cooler air entered the Upstate. Bamberg's location, well ahead of the change and with a full day of sunshine on Sunday, allowed their thermometer to reach 95 degrees. Late afternoon thunderstorms formed in the unstable air mass with most of the intense activity concentrated from the Midlands to the coast. At nightfall Sunday, much of South Carolina was under a blanket of clouds with passing thunderstorms and trailing rain showers. The state average temperature for the period was one degree above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 98 degrees at Lake Wateree on August 26. The lowest official temperature reported was 61 degrees at Pageland on August 25 and at Long Creek on August 29. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.76 inches (1.92 inches in 30 mins.) at Bishopville USGS on August 30. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.6 inches.

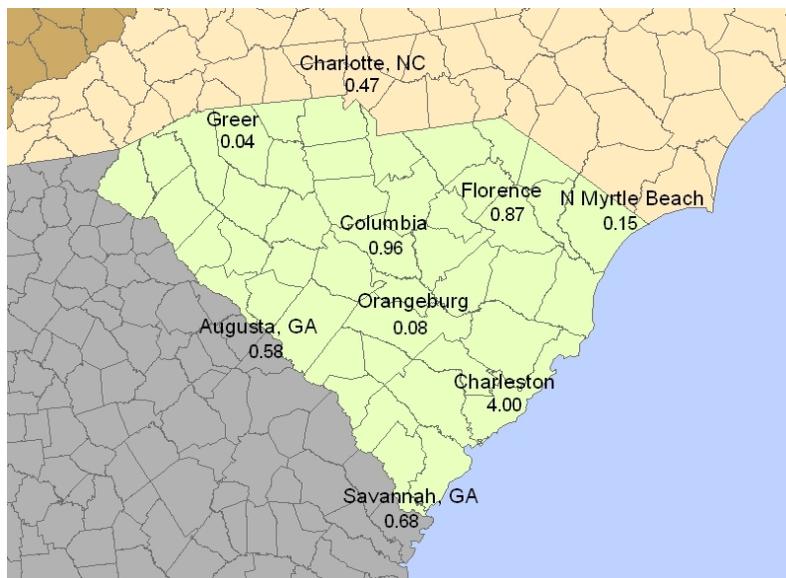
SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 82 degrees, Charleston 82 degrees.

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 | 0.04 | 27.67 | -6.9 |
| Columbia | 0.96 | 28.98 | -6.0 |
| Orangeburg | 0.08 | 29.71 | -5.3 |
| Charlotte, NC | 0.47 | 30.65 | 1.3 |
| Augusta, GA | 0.58 | 27.15 | -4.7 |
| Florence | 0.87 | 26.45 | -5.5 |
| N Myrtle Beach | 0.15 | 24.35 | -6.0 |
| Charleston | 4.00 | 40.06 | 3.7 |
| Savannah, GA | 0.68 | 41.76 | 5.8 |

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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