



# South Carolina Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report

Cooperating with Clemson University  
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**Week Ending:** September 13, 2009  
**Cooperating Agencies:**  
Clemson University  
SC State Climatology Office  
Farm Service Agency



## GENERAL

Dry conditions continued for much of South Carolina this past week, resulting in falling crop, livestock, and pasture conditions. In addition to the lack of rain, Johnson grass and fire ants were causing problems in the field for several farmers in Chester County. South Carolina's soil moisture levels were 34% very short, 43% short, and 23% adequate. There was a statewide average of 6.6 days suitable for field work.

## FIELD CROPS

Dry weather has been beneficial for **CORN** producers to continue harvesting. Eighty-one percent of corn had been harvested by week's end. Conditions for the remaining crop fell and were reported 4% very poor, 12% poor, 29% fair, 48% good, and 7% excellent. The **COTTON** crop had finished setting bolls for the growing season. Cotton made significant gains with regard to opening bolls, increasing thirty points this past week. A few growers have begun applying defoliant to cotton fields. Conditions decreased and were reported 3% poor, 53% fair, 43% good, and 1% excellent. Nearly all of **SOYBEANS** had set pods. Seven percent of the crop's leaves had turned color and 2% had dropped leaves, both falling behind historical averages. Like other crops, the lack of rain had negatively affected soybean conditions. **PEANUT** growers have just begun to harvest their crops. Peanut conditions regressed and were 5% poor, 33% fair, 57% good, and 5% excellent. **TOBACCO** producers have nearly completed harvesting for the 2009 season. Eighty-one percent of tobacco stalks were destroyed, remaining well ahead of the 5-year average.

## OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

**LIVESTOCK** owners had begun preparing land for winter grazing plantings, however dry soils had delayed several farmers. Ponds and **PASTURES** were very dry this past week, resulting in a decline in livestock conditions. Livestock conditions were reported at 1% poor, 37% fair, 61% good, 1% excellent. Likewise, pasture conditions fell and were 1% very poor, 14% poor, 56% fair, 28% good, and 1% excellent. All **PEACHES** had been harvested for the year.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending September 13, 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>
Corn, Harvested	81	75	74	Soybeans, Pods Set	96	96	91
Cotton, Bolls Set	100	100	99	Soybeans, Turned Color	7	10	14
Cotton, Bolls Opened	60	36	45	Soybeans, Leaves Dropped	2	5	4
Peaches, Harvested	100	96	96	Tobacco, Harvested	98	94	95
Peanuts, Harvested	6	5	4	Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed	81	64	59
Soybeans, Bloomed	99	100	99	Winter Grazings, Planted	10	13	12

### Condition for Week Ending September 13, 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	12	29	48	7	Pasture	1	14	56	28	1
Cotton	0	3	53	43	1	Peanuts	0	5	33	57	5
Livestock	0	1	37	61	1	Soybeans	2	4	42	46	6

## South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending September 13, 2009

Overcast conditions and light rain were observed for the Pee Dee and north coast on Labor Day Monday. Waves of thunderstorms and rainshowers began arriving from the northwest on Tuesday. Williamston received 0.97 inches of rain and nearby Fountain Inn 0.92 inches. Darkening skies on Wednesday evening signaled the formation of strong storms that resulted in large hail falling over parts of Newberry and Spartanburg counties. Woodruff was soaked with a two-day rain total of 2.65 inches. A more stable airmass returned during the day on Thursday and would remain over the State through the weekend. Seasonably cool mornings and warm, mostly sunny afternoons were reported on Saturday and Sunday. Pickens recorded at Sunday morning low temperature of 60 degrees before warming to 86 degrees by mid-afternoon. Walterboro reported a Sunday range of 64 minimum and 90 degree maximum. The State average temperature for the period was near normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 93 degrees at Camden on September 8. The lowest official temperature reported was 55 degrees at the Marlboro County Jetport in Bennettsville on September 11. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 1.55 inches Woodruff ending at 7:00 a.m. on September 9. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.3 inches.

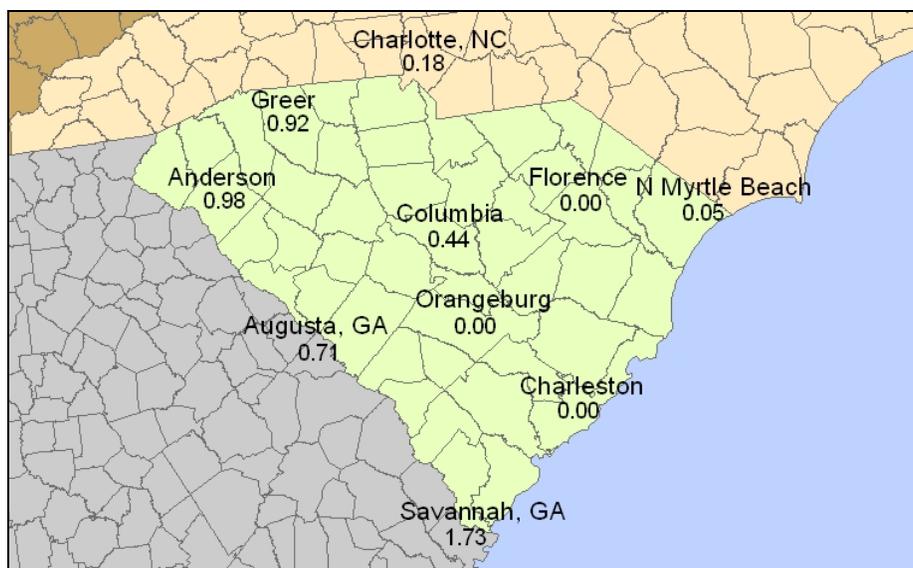
SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 79 degrees, Charleston 80 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near to below normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 81 degrees.

### Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for 2009	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.92	28.66	-7.8
Anderson	0.98	30.77	-2.8
Columbia	0.44	30.32	-6.8
Orangeburg	0.00	29.86	-7.2
Charlotte, NC	0.18	30.98	-0.2
Augusta, GA	0.71	28.00	-5.6
Florence	0.00	26.62	-7.2
N Myrtle Beach	0.05	25.17	-7.9
Charleston	0.00	40.47	1.0
Savannah, GA	1.73	43.99	5.3

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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