



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

Several South Carolina locations received much needed rainfall this past week. However, many areas of the State, particularly the eastern portion, are still in a desperate need of precipitation. Crop and livestock conditions showed signs of improvement for the producers that received rain. South Carolina's soil moisture levels progressed and were reported 19% very short, 50% short, 30% adequate, and 1% surplus. There was a statewide average of 6.2 days suitable for field work.

FIELD CROPS

Ninety-two percent of the **CORN** crop had been harvested. Seventy-four percent of **COTTON** bolls had opened which remains ahead of historical averages. Some cotton growers had just begun to harvest while other farmers had applied defoliant in preparation for the harvest. Cotton conditions improved somewhat and were reported 2% poor, 48% fair, 49% good, and 1% excellent. **SOYBEANS** had completed blooming and nearly all soybeans had set pods by week's end. Eighteen percent of the crop's leaves had turned color, 4% had dropped leaves, and 1% had matured. Soybean growers in several rain deficient counties had reported reduced yields. Conditions were reported at 1% very poor, 5% poor, 39% fair, 50% good, and 5% excellent. **PEANUT** growers continue to harvest their crops. However, the ground was too hard for some producers to dig peanuts. Peanut conditions were 4% poor, 39% fair, 52% good, and 5% excellent. **TOBACCO** producers have nearly completed harvesting for the 2009 season. Eighty-four percent of tobacco stalks were destroyed, remaining well ahead of the 5-year average.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions improved slightly and were reported at 1% poor, 35% fair, 63% good, and 1% excellent. Fourteen percent of **WINTER GRAZINGS** had been planted which continue to be stalled for some livestock owners due to dry soil. Likewise, **PASTURES** conditions improved somewhat and were 1% very poor, 15% poor, 49% fair, 34% good, and 1% excellent.

Crop Progress for Week Ending September 20, 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	92	83	86	Soybeans, Turned Color	18	15	19
Cotton, Bolls Opened	74	54	61	Soybeans, Leaves Dropped	4	7	6
Cotton, Harvested	1	0	1	Soybeans, Mature	1	1	1
Peanuts, Harvested	13	10	10	Tobacco, Harvested	99	97	98
Soybeans, Bloomed	100	100	100	Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed	84	75	70
Soybeans, Pods Set	97	98	95	Winter Grazings, Planted	14	22	20

Condition for Week Ending September 20, 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>
Cotton	0	2	48	49	1	Peanuts	0	4	39	52	5
Livestock	0	1	35	63	1	Soybeans	1	5	39	50	5
Pasture	1	15	49	34	1						

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending September 20, 2009

Light winds and abundant sunshine made for unseasonably hot afternoons on both Monday and Tuesday. Barnwell, Sandy Springs, Clinton, Darlington, Orangeburg and Jamestown all reported high temperatures of at least 90 degrees. The circulation around a broad cyclonic feature, located over the central Gulf coast states, began to influence South Carolina's weather late Tuesday. Pockets of much needed rain fell over the Upstate into Wednesday morning. Hunts Bridge, in Greenville County, measured 1.02 inches of rain. A second round of showers on Wednesday evening brought 1.04 inches of rain to Jocassee Dam. The pattern continued with heavy rains falling over Aiken and Lexington County on Thursday night. The Columbia Airport received 2.67 inches. On Friday morning, an isolated and nearly stationary downpour flooded streets in Bluffton. There was an unofficial measurement of 7.98 inches of rain. The axis of repeating rainfall concentrated over the Upstate during the weekend. Flooding was reported in parts of Oconee County from two-day rain amounts approaching 12 inches. Coastal counties observed partly sunny, warm weather for the last weekend of astronomical summer. The state average temperature for the period was three degrees above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 92 degrees at Camden on September 14 and at Jamestown on September 16. The lowest official temperature reported was 53 degrees at Walhalla Hatchery (Jocassee) on September 14. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 6.70 inches at Walhalla Hatchery (Jocassee) ending at 7:00 a.m. on September 20. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.9 inches.

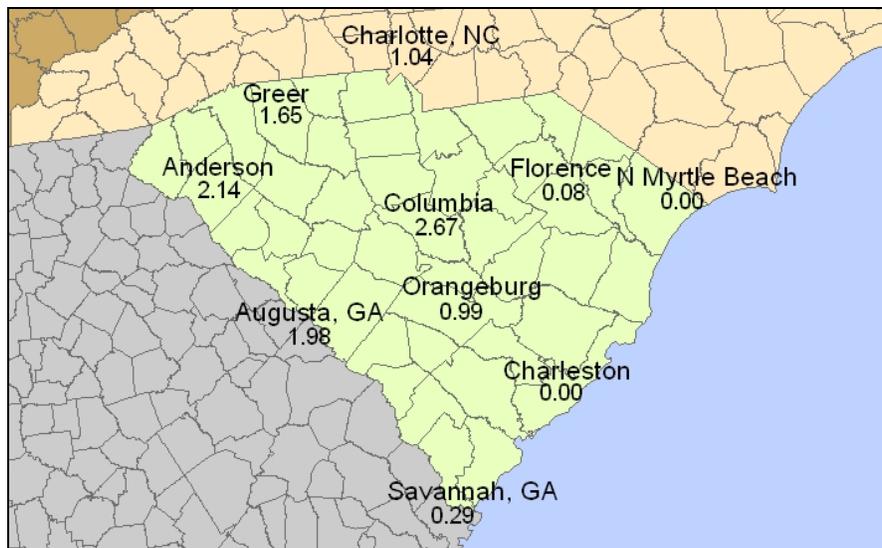
SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 80 degrees, Charleston 81 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near to above normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 82 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for 2009	Deviation from Average
Greer	1.65	29.71	-7.7
Anderson	2.14	32.91	-1.6
Columbia	2.67	32.99	-5.0
Orangeburg	0.99	30.85	-7.1
Charlotte, NC	1.04	32.02	0.0
Augusta, GA	1.98	29.98	-4.5
Florence	0.08	26.70	-8.0
N Myrtle Beach	0.00	25.17	-9.2
Charleston	0.00	40.47	-0.4
Savannah, GA	0.29	44.28	4.4

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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