



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

Scattered thunderstorms last week brought much needed rain and helped improve soil moisture in some parts of the State, thereby reviving pastures and field crops in those locations. For the areas of South Carolina not fortunate enough to receive significant amounts of rainfall, another week of dry conditions and high temperatures took its effect on crops and yield potential. Overall, South Carolina's soil moisture levels improved and were reported 19% very short, 39% short, 40% adequate and 2% surplus. There was a statewide average of 6.1 days suitable for field work.

FIELD CROPS

This year's entire **CORN** crop had reportedly emerged by week's end. Corn conditions were 2% very poor, 9% poor, 47% fair and 42% good. All **TOBACCO** for the 2010 season had been set in the field. Conditions for the crop improved and were reported 3% very poor, 3% poor, 45% fair, 46% good and 3% excellent. **COTTON** planting continued to progress well with 82% planted. Cotton conditions were reported 7% poor, 46% fair, 46% good and 1% excellent. Sixty percent of **PEANUTS** had been planted. Forty-three percent of **SOYBEANS** had been planted and 28% had emerged, both remaining ahead of historical numbers. All **SMALL GRAINS** had headed by week's end. Winter Wheat is expected to experience some production loss due to the lack of rain. Oat harvesting had just begun with 7% of the crop reportedly harvested. Seventy-nine percent of **GRAIN HAY** had been harvested.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions were mostly unchanged. **PASTURE** conditions continued to struggle and were reportedly 3% very poor, 16% poor, 45% fair and 36% good. **VEGETABLE** planting was complete for cucumbers and tomatoes. Cucumbers had just begun to be harvested. **MELON** planting continued and crop condition was reported as mostly fair to good. The 2010 **PEACH** harvest began last week and conditions are looking very favorable for peach growers.

Crop Progress for Week Ending May 23, 2010

Crop and Stage	2010	2009	5-Yr Avg	Crop and Stage	2010	2009	5-Yr Avg
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cantaloup, Planted	95	95	96	Peanuts, Planted	60	49	61
Corn, Emerged	100	98	99	Snapbeans, Fresh, Planted	99	100	99
Cotton, Planted	82	72	76	Soybeans, Planted	43	29	37
Cucumbers, Fresh, Planted	100	97	98	Soybeans, Emerged	28	18	16
Cucumbers, Fresh, Harvested	5	0	0	Tobacco, Transplanted	100	100	100
Hay, Grain Hay, Harvested	79	83	84	Tomatoes, Fresh, Planted	100	100	100
Oats, Headed	100	100	100	Watermelons, Planted	98	98	97
Oats, Turned Color	88	82	75	Winter Wheat, Headed	100	100	100
Oats, Ripe	34	24	28	Winter Wheat, Turning Color	80	75	73
Oats, Harvested	7	0	4	Winter Wheat, Ripe	30	7	16
Peaches, Harvested	4	2	2				

Condition for Week Ending May 23, 2010

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>
Cantaloup	0	3	27	64	6	Pasture	3	16	45	36	0
Corn	2	9	47	42	0	Peaches	0	1	7	81	11
Cotton	0	7	46	46	1	Snapbeans	0	4	21	65	10
Cucumbers	0	4	21	68	7	Tobacco	3	3	45	46	3
Hay	3	13	43	40	1	Tomatoes	0	2	19	74	5
Livestock	0	3	21	76	0	Watermelons	0	6	34	60	0
Oats	4	14	49	33	0	Winter Wheat	3	15	43	39	0

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending May 23, 2010

Unsettled, rainy weather was observed on Monday. During the late morning hours heavy rains were falling across the Lowcountry. Between 2:45 and 3:15 p.m., National Weather Service instruments measured 1.71 inches of rain at the University of South Carolina Campus which resulted in flash flooding for the Five Points area and Rocky Branch Creek drainage basin. Ridgeville measured a 24-hour rainfall total of 3.88 inches and nearby Walterboro received 3.40 inches. On Wednesday morning, a boundary of drier and cooler air dropped into the state. Inland observation sites reported minimum temperatures in the upper 50's to around 60 degrees. Areas to the east and ahead of the change, like Beaufort, Conway, Cades and Charleston, all reported afternoon high temperatures of 90 degrees. Isolated showers and a few thunderstorms started the weekend but were generally concentrated over the north Midlands and Pee Dee locations. Severe weather developed on Sunday as groups of thunderstorms moved from north to south over much of the eastern half of the state. High winds caused downed trees in parts of Greenwood, Beaufort, Colleton and Jasper counties and golf ball-sized hail fell on Goose Creek and Garden City Beach. Hail described as "near baseball" size (2.50" diameter) pelted a small area of Highway 17 near Seewee Road, nine miles southwest of Awendaw in Charleston County. Barnwell and Johnston reported a Sunday high temperature of 93 degrees. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was three degrees above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 94 degrees at Bamberg on May 23. The lowest official temperature reported was 51 degrees at Table Rock, Long Creek and Walhalla on May 20. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 4.60 inches at Givhans ending at 7:00 a.m. on May 18. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.8 inches.

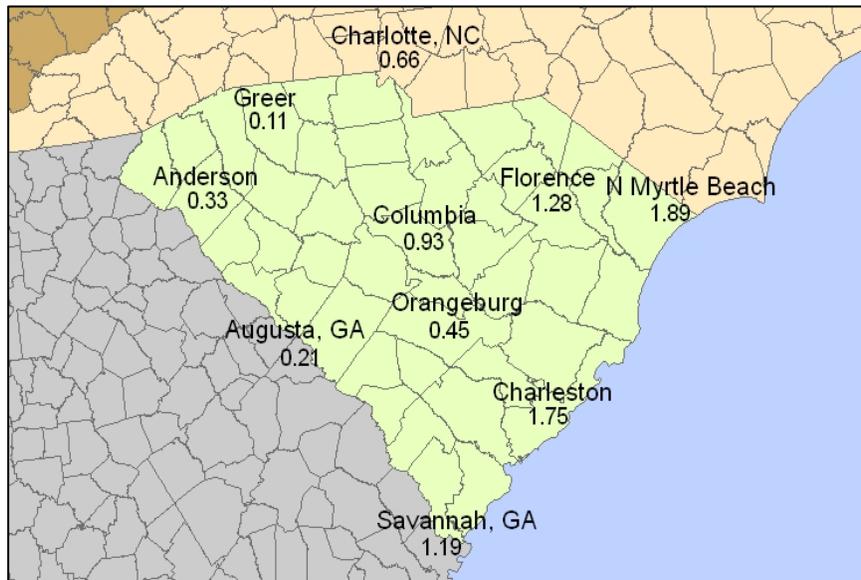
SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 76 degrees, Charleston 78 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near to below normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 77 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for 2010	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.11	15.88	-5.0
Anderson	0.33	16.87	-3.1
Columbia	0.93	10.59	-7.7
Orangeburg	0.45	12.53	-5.8
Charlotte, NC	0.66	16.03	-1.6
Augusta, GA	0.21	13.16	-5.2
Florence	1.28	10.51	-5.7
N Myrtle Beach	1.89	12.78	-2.4
Charleston	1.75	16.46	0.1
Savannah, GA	1.19	16.19	-0.1

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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