



South Carolina Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report

Cooperating with Clemson University
1835 Assembly St., Suite 1008 · Columbia, SC 29201
(800) 424-9406 · FAX (803) 765-5310 · www.nass.usda.gov/sc

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Cooperating Agencies:
Clemson University
SC State Climatology Office
Farm Service Agency



GENERAL

Hot weather and dry conditions continued to plague much of South Carolina. However, thundershowers arrived at the latter portion of the week, bringing much needed relief to many agricultural producers. Despite the respite from harsh weather, drought conditions and excessive heat continued to have a great negative effect on crop production for some growers. In addition, a large number of farmers, particularly in the Upstate area, experienced an increasing outbreak of army worms and grasshoppers, greatly affecting crops and pastures. Soil moisture levels were reportedly 9% very short, 29% short, 56% adequate and 6% surplus. There was a statewide average of 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork in South Carolina.

FIELD CROPS

CORN had finished filling out and 85% of the crop had matured by week's end. Twenty percent of corn had been harvested, nine points ahead of the five-year average. Corn conditions fell slightly and were reportedly 9% very poor, 27% poor, 39% fair, 24% good and 1% excellent. Nearly all **COTTON** had squared while 70% had set bolls, falling behind average for this time of year. Bolls had just begun to open. Cotton conditions were 1% very poor, 9% poor, 28% fair, 54% good and 8% excellent. Nearly all **PEANUTS** had pegged. Peanut conditions were reported as 3% poor, 23% fair, 63% good and 11% excellent. Eighty-eight percent of **SOYBEANS** had bloomed. Over half of the crop had set pods. Some growers reported soybean blooms and small pods aborting due to hot weather conditions. Soybean conditions were 2% very poor, 18% poor, 31% fair, 45% good and 4% excellent. Seventy-two percent of **TOBACCO** had been harvested and 20% of producers had destroyed stalks, remaining ahead of historical figures.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions were reportedly 3% poor, 31% fair, 64% good and 2% excellent. **PASTURE** conditions were 7% very poor, 17% poor, 32% fair, 42% good and 2% excellent. The **WATERMELON** and **CANTALOUPE** harvest continued to approach completion for the year. Eighty-five percent of **PEACHES** had been harvested. The extreme heat and lack of rainfall has been very hard on vegetable and fruit crops, affecting pollination.

Crop Progress for Week Ending August 15, 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, Harvested	96	93	97	Peaches, Harvested	85	89	80
Corn, Doughed	100	99	99	Peanuts, Pegged	98	99	98
Corn, Matured	85	77	77	Soybeans, Bloomed	88	85	84
Corn, Harvested	20	13	11	Soybeans, Pods Set	52	55	48
Cotton, Squared	99	99	99	Tobacco, Harvested	72	67	61
Cotton, Bolls Set	70	78	78	Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed	20	17	10
Cotton, Bolls Opened	2	0	2	Watermelons, Harvested	98	98	95
Hay, Other Hay, Harvested	98	100	92				

Condition for Week Ending August 15, 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>
Corn	9	27	39	24	1	Pasture	7	17	32	42	2
Cotton	1	9	28	54	8	Peanuts	0	3	23	63	11
Livestock	0	3	31	64	2	Soybeans	2	18	31	45	4

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending August 15, 2010

Late summer heat combined with high humidity to create sultry weather conditions for all of South Carolina. Anderson, located in the western corner of the state, and Jamestown, located just inland and along the central coast, both reported Monday high temperatures of 95 degrees. Patchy fog was observed Tuesday morning before clearing blue skies returned for the remainder of the day. On Wednesday morning, the low temperature at Edisto Beach only fell to 83 degrees. A 100-degree high temperature was reported at Clarks Hill on Wednesday and at Johnston on Thursday. Thunderstorm coverage began increasing Thursday evening and continued into Sunday night. The Spartanburg Memorial Airport recorded a storm wind gust of 53 mph on Thursday afternoon at 3:55 p.m. The Naval Weapons Station in Goose Creek noted a 50-mph gust during a thunderstorm on Friday. The tropical airmass contributed to torrential downpours over parts of the Upstate. Table Rock received 3.95 inches of rain. Another round of heavy rains on Saturday left 3.40 inches in the gage at Clinton. Flooding rains fell across the central and southern coast on Sunday. Bennetts Point received 5.04 inches and the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station measured 7.73 inches over the three calendar-day weekend. Sunday's clouds and passing showers resulted in a general lowering of afternoon high temperatures by ten degrees or more. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was four degrees above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 101 degrees at Lake Wateree and Johnston on August 13. The lowest official temperature reported was 62 degrees at Jocassee on August 10. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 5.18 inches at the College of Charleston on August 15. The state average rainfall for the period was 1.4 inches.

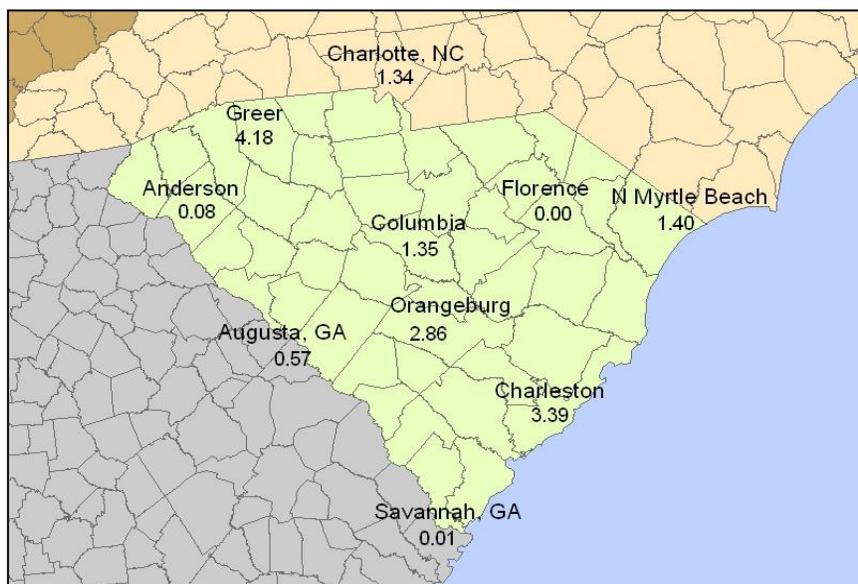
SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 84 degrees, Charleston 84 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near normal. Ocean water temperatures at the Johnny Mercer Pier, Wrightsville Beach, NC were reported at 84 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for 2010	Deviation from Average
Greer	4.18	32.68	0.0
Anderson	0.08	28.37	-1.4
Columbia	1.35	26.67	-5.8
Orangeburg	2.86	30.26	-2.2
Charlotte, NC	1.34	25.91	-1.7
Augusta, GA	0.57	22.56	-7.1
Florence	0.00	30.30	0.8
N Myrtle Beach	1.40	26.27	-1.3
Charleston	3.39	44.25	11.4
Savannah, GA	0.01	26.15	-6.3

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



USDA-NASS
 SOUTH CAROLINA FIELD OFFICE
 1835 Assembly St. Suite 1008
 Columbia, SC 29201-2449
 Official Business

Address Service Requested