



South Carolina Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report

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



GENERAL

The beginning of the week continued with unseasonably high temperatures and very little rainfall. The state average temperature was well above average for the period. It wasn't until Sunday that South Carolina finally received some relief in the form of significant amounts of rain. Many farmers had gone several weeks without seeing any measurable precipitation. The rain had somewhat helped to stabilize crop and livestock conditions by the end of the week. Soil moisture conditions improved this past week and were reportedly 46% very short, 33% short and 21% adequate. There was a statewide average of 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork in South Carolina, same as the previous week.

FIELD CROPS

Ninety-five percent of **CORN** had been harvested by week's end. All **COTTON** had set bolls and 81% of the crop had open bolls. Ten percent of cotton had been harvested, ahead of the average for this time of year. Cotton conditions were 4% very poor, 13% poor, 30% fair, 49% good and 4% excellent. The **PEANUT** harvest was moving at full speed as growers tried to harvest before any further declines in yield potential. Twenty-eight percent of peanuts had been harvested, ahead of historical figures. Conditions increased slightly and were reportedly 3% poor, 31% fair, 59% good and 7% excellent. Nearly all **SOYBEANS** had set pods, while 30% had turned color and 13% had dropped leaves. The soybean crop had just begun to mature. Several growers reported premature leaf drop and pods being shed due to the lack of moisture and extreme heat. Some fields were reportedly too far gone to benefit from any rain. Soybean conditions continued to decline and were 7% very poor, 19% poor, 43% fair, 30% good and 1% excellent. The **TOBACCO** harvest was nearly complete by the end of the week. Three-quarters of tobacco stalks had been destroyed. Dry soils and armyworms continued to hinder **WINTER GRAZINGS**, with 20% reportedly planted. **WINTER WHEAT** had just begun to be planted.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions were 1% very poor, 8% poor, 35% fair and 56% good. **PASTURES** were providing little feed value due to dry conditions, high temperatures and the outbreak of armyworms. Conditions declined and were reportedly 18% very poor, 29% poor, 36% fair and 17% good. Producers continued feeding hay as their pastures go dormant.

Crop Progress for Week Ending September 26, 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>
Corn, Harvested	95	95	92	Soybeans, Leaves Dropped	13	9	9
Cotton, Bolls Set	100	100	100	Soybeans, Mature	2	3	3
Cotton, Bolls Opened	81	76	73	Tobacco, Harvested	99	100	99
Cotton, Harvested	10	3	3	Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed	75	91	82
Peanuts, Harvested	28	17	16	Winter Grazings, Planted	20	20	25
Soybeans, Pods Set	95	98	97	Winter Wheat, Planted	8	5	2
Soybeans, Turned Color	30	29	27				

Condition for Week Ending September 26, 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>
Cotton	4	13	30	49	4	Peanuts	0	3	31	59	7
Livestock	1	8	35	56	0	Soybeans	7	19	43	30	1
Pasture	18	29	36	17	0						

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending September 26, 2010

Barnwell's Monday morning temperature of 58 degrees soared to 98 degrees by the afternoon. Florence set a date record of 96 degrees. Although the last full day of astronomical summer occurred on Tuesday, Johnston recorded 100 degrees. A weak boundary helped form a handful of localized showers with Jeffries Hydro, near Lake Moultrie, receiving 1.35 inches of rain. Elevated humidity crept back into the state's weather during mid-week. Wednesday's showers were isolated and only brought amounts of less than one-tenth of an inch to a few sites. For the remainder of the state, this was the fourth week of no measurable rain. A frontal boundary moved into South Carolina late Thursday and pushed Friday morning temperatures to more seasonable values. West Pelzer, Calhoun Falls and Ridgeville all cooled to 61 degrees. The heat was back for Saturday with Columbia and Cedar Creek both recording afternoon high temperatures of 96 degrees. On Sunday, showers and thunderstorms began arriving from the south along a pathway left by the nearly stationary boundary. Heavy rains were concentrated across the coastal plains. A thunderstorm over Hampton County produced 1.75-inch diameter hail. At day's end, rain was falling from the mountains to the sea. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was eight degrees above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 101 degrees at the USC Campus in Columbia on September 20. The lowest official temperature reported was 56 degrees at Chesnee on September 20. The heaviest official 24-hour rain reported was 2.44 inches at the Charleston Airport on September 26. The state average rainfall for the period was 1.3 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 82 degrees, Charleston 80 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were below normal. Ocean water temperatures at the Johnny Mercer Pier, Wrightsville Beach, NC, were reported at 82 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for 2010	Deviation from Average
Greer	1.34	35.62	-2.6
Anderson	1.66	31.58	-3.8
Columbia	0.94	29.81	-8.9
Orangeburg	0.95	35.00	-3.7
Charlotte, NC	1.97	30.08	-2.8
Augusta, GA	1.25	24.95	-10.2
Florence	1.27	33.08	-2.3
N Myrtle Beach	0.60	29.36	-6.1
Charleston	2.63	49.66	7.8
Savannah, GA	0.11	31.49	-9.2

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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