



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

All eyes were on Hurricane Irene during the week ending August 28th, 2011. While some coastal counties received some rainfall and winds from the storm, the majority of the State remained dry all week. The lack of rainfall coupled with higher temperatures than the previous week caused soil moisture conditions to deteriorate and crop potential to decline. Very little damage was reported in counties that experienced the outer bands of the hurricane. Armyworms continued to appear as farmers sprayed crops to attempt to control the outbreak. While the State was spared from any major damage from the hurricane, the hot and dry week did not help operators with livestock or field crops. The State average temperature was four degrees above normal with 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.2 inches. Soil moisture conditions declined to 22% very short, 38% short and 40% adequate.

FIELD CROPS

Ninety-nine percent of the **CORN** crop had matured by the end of the week, three points ahead of the five year average. Fifty-five percent of the crop had been harvested. Conditions were 44% very poor, 29% poor, 19% fair, 7% good and 1% excellent. Ninety-five percent of **COTTON** had set bolls by the end of the week, two points ahead of last year and exactly on schedule with the five year average. Twenty-nine percent of the bolls had opened by the end of the week. Conditions declined slightly to 5% very poor, 18% poor, 38% fair, 37% good and 2% excellent. **PEANUTS** completed pegging for the season. Conditions were set at 2% very poor, 10% poor, 40% fair, 45% good and 3% excellent. Ninety-four percent of **SOYBEANS** had bloomed with 68% of the crop setting pods by the end of the week, ten points behind the mark set last year. Leaves were just beginning to turn color on the plant. Conditions remained stable at 9% very poor, 23% poor, 43% fair, 24% good and 1% excellent. **TOBACCO** harvest continued with 85% of the crop harvested by week's end, five points ahead of the five year average. Forty percent of the stalks had been destroyed.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

The **CANTALOUPE** and **WATERMELON** harvest completed for the season. **LIVESTOCK** conditions were 2% very poor, 10% poor, 35% fair, 52% good and 1% excellent. Producers in dry counties continued to feed hay due to poor grazing conditions and heat. **PASTURES** declined to 16% very poor, 29% poor, 35% fair and 20% good. All **HAY** had been harvested, two points ahead of the five year average. Ninety-two percent of **PEACHES** had been harvested, five points behind last year.

Crop Progress for Week Ending August 28, 2011

Crop and Stage	2011	2010	5-Yr Avg	Crop and Stage	2011	2010	5-Yr Avg
	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent
Cantaloup, Harvested	100	100	100	Peanuts, Pegged	100	100	100
Corn, Matured	99	99	96	Soybeans, Bloomed	94	96	95
Corn, Harvested	55	41	40	Soybeans, Pods Set	68	78	74
Cotton, Bolls Set	95	93	95	Soybeans, Turned Color	1	2	4
Cotton, Bolls Opened	29	11	11	Tobacco, Harvested	85	85	80
Hay, Other Hay, Harvested	100	100	98	Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed	40	39	32
Peaches, Harvested	92	97	91	Watermelons, Harvested	100	100	99

Condition for Week Ending August 28, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn	44	29	19	7	1	Pasture	16	29	35	20	0
Cotton	5	18	38	37	2	Peanuts	2	10	40	45	3
Livestock	2	10	35	52	1	Soybeans	9	23	43	24	1

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending August 28, 2011

The Clemson Airport, Sandy Springs, McCormick and Aiken each reported a Monday high temperature of 99 degrees. An eastward-moving frontal boundary passed through the State during the early evening hours and produced hailstones measuring 1.75 inches in diameter near Goose Creek. On Tuesday morning, Ft. Moultrie had received one of the heaviest rainfall totals with 3.00 inches. Chesnee cooled to 57 degrees. Mostly sunny weather was observed for inland South Carolina on Wednesday. At around 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, clouds within the outflow boundary of Hurricane Irene, located well offshore of southeast Florida, were entering South Carolina's Lowcountry. At 6:06 p.m., the surf water temperature at Springmaid Pier reached its highest of the season at 86.9 degrees. Showers began rotating into Cape Romain on Friday morning. At 8:00 a.m., Hurricane Irene was still a distant 315 miles south-southeast of Myrtle Beach. At 11:00 a.m., the Charleston City peninsula reported northeast winds of 30 mph, gusting to 48 mph. Winds at Folly Beach gusted to 55 mph. Breaking waves, estimated at 10 feet, produced beachfront property overwash at Edisto Beach, Fripp Island and Folly Beach. The Charleston Harbor tide gage measured an observed peak high water of 7.64 feet which was 1.73 feet above the predicted value. Further up the coast, the events highest windspeed was measured at Springmaid Pier with a gust from the north-northeast of 62 mph at 5:12 p.m. Although Hurricane Irene passed approximately 150 miles to the east of Myrtle Beach, a minimum barometric pressure value of 29.22 inches of mercury was recorded at the N Myrtle Beach Airport on August 27 at 4:00 a.m. The core of heavy rainfall was limited to the north coastal counties. The Crabtree Swamp gage, near Conway, measured 2.79 inches. The State's Saturday high temperature was 98 degrees at the Clemson and Columbia Hamilton-Owens airports. Sunny, dry conditions and middle to upper 90-degree heat ended the week. The State average temperature for the seven-day period was four degrees above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 100 degrees at Johnston on August 22. The lowest official temperature reported was 55 degrees at Table Rock on August 27. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 3.20 inches at Dillon ending at 7:00 a.m. on August 22. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.2 inches.

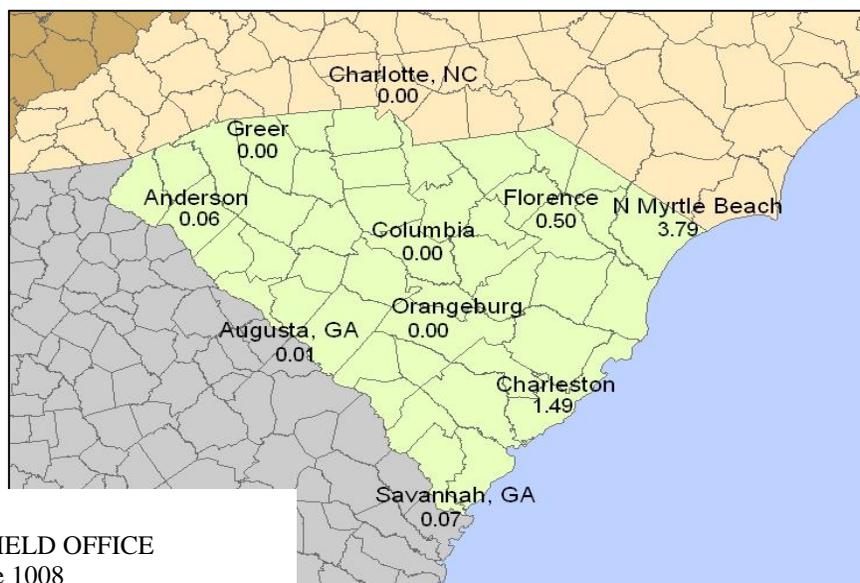
SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 83 degrees, Charleston 84 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were below normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 83 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for 2011	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.00	28.74	-3.4
Anderson	0.06	22.72	-6.5
Columbia	0.00	27.54	-4.0
Orangeburg	0.00	27.92	-4.9
Charlotte, NC	0.00	29.18	1.0
Augusta, GA	0.01	23.52	-7.0
Florence	0.50	21.42	-8.6
N Myrtle Beach	3.79	23.64	-11.0
Charleston	1.49	29.40	-5.5
Savannah, GA	0.07	26.07	-7.7

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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