

March 27, 2017

South Carolina: A warm and dry month for the state as the United States Drought Monitor estimates the state at eleven percent drought free compared to fifty-five percent on February 28, 2017. The northwestern corner of the state remains to be under the most serious drought conditions. Comments describe fieldwork preparation ongoing during the month of March. Producers held off planting in early March in anticipation of the realized frosts with most producers beginning to plant corn during the last week of the month. Some frost damage was reported to more advanced winter wheat fields. Several nights and mornings well below freezing caused heavy damage to the state's peach, blueberry, and strawberry crops as many were in bloom or in early fruit stages. Average maximum temperatures ranged from the low 70s in eastern South Carolina to the mid 60s in the west. Average minimum temperatures ranged from the mid 40s in the east to mid 30s in west. Precipitation estimates for the month range from 6.15 inches near Greenville to .77 inches in Walterboro.