



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

Dry weather persisted across much of the state, causing concern for yield potential for cotton, soybeans and peanuts. The majority of South Carolina was below average in rainfall for the year. Soil moisture levels were reported 29% very short, 27% short, 43% adequate, and 1% surplus. There was a statewide average of 6.6 days suitable for field work.

FIELD CROPS

Dry weather helped wind down **CORN** harvest with ninety-eight percent of the crop being harvested by week's end. Warm weather helped progress the **COTTON** crop nicely last week. Eighty-five percent of bolls had opened while 11% of the crop had been harvested. Cotton conditions remained stable, with 96% of the crop reportedly being in fair or better condition. **SOYBEAN** maturation was ahead of the 5 year average for all stages. Eleven percent of the crop was mature and harvest had begun, with 4% of the crop harvested by the end of the week. Conditions increased slightly, with 92% being reported as being in fair, good or excellent condition. **PEANUT** harvest was in full swing. Nearly ideal harvest conditions allowed producers to dig peanuts at a fast pace, by week's end, 30% of the crop had been harvested. Peanut conditions stayed nearly the same. **TOBACCO** season wound down, with 98% of stalks being destroyed. Small grains seeding continued, with 8% of the **WINTER WHEAT** crop and 7% of the **OAT** crop in the ground.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions were reported at 2% very poor, 2% poor, 44% fair, 51% good and 1% excellent, a shift of 15 % went from good to fair last week. Thirty-two percent of **WINTER GRAZINGS** were planted, which continues to lag behind historical averages. **PASTURE** conditions declined last week, only 25% were reported as good.

Crop Progress for Week Ending October 4, 2009

Crop and Stage	2009	2008	5-Yr Avg	Crop and Stage	2009	2008	5-Yr Avg
	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn, Harvested	98	97	97	Soybeans, Leaves Dropped	17	12	14
Cotton, Bolls Opened	85	80	81	Soybeans, Mature	11	5	6
Cotton, Harvested	11	4	11	Soybeans, Harvested	4	1	0
Oats, Planted	7	6	4	Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed	98	91	88
Peanuts, Harvested	30	27	31	Winter Grazings, Planted	32	42	36
Soybeans, Pods Set	100	100	99	Winter Wheat, Planted	8	5	8
Soybeans, Turned Color	45	31	39				

Condition for Week Ending October 4, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Cotton	0	4	46	50	0	Peanuts	0	5	45	45	5
Livestock	2	2	44	51	1	Soybeans	1	7	60	28	4
Pasture	4	14	57	25	0						

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending October 4, 2009

A seasonal, cooler airmass replaced the exiting, late-summer heat on Monday evening. The Marlboro County Jetport's low temperature of 45 degrees on Tuesday was a drop of 48 degrees overnight. Cloudless blue skies were observed on Tuesday and Wednesday. At the end of September, Jocassee had received 19.76 inches of rain while Cades, located in Williamsburg County, had only measured 0.13 inches. The mercury slowly climbed on Thursday with parts of central South Carolina warming into the low 80's. On Friday, a few light showers drifted inland from the coastal counties but amounts were generally less than one-tenth of an inch and did little to help with the dry soils. Mostly sunny weather was observed over the weekend before an area of rain began arriving from the west late Sunday evening. The state average temperature for the period was three degrees below normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 93 degrees at the Marlboro County Jetport on September 28. The lowest official temperature reported was 40 degrees at Jocassee on October 1. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 0.26 inches at Anderson AP on October 4. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.1 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 75 degrees, Charleston 75 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 86 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for 2009	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.17	33.40	-5.8
Anderson	0.26	35.65	-0.7
Columbia	0.03	34.63	-4.9
Orangeburg	0.02	31.75	-7.8
Charlotte, NC	0.04	32.51	-1.3
Augusta, GA	0.04	30.94	-5.1
Florence	0.00	27.52	-8.6
N Myrtle Beach	0.00	27.73	-8.9
Charleston	0.03	40.98	-2.1
Savannah, GA	0.00	44.69	3.0

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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