



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

South Carolina received a much needed general rainfall this past week. The entire state got some level of rain with most areas getting an inch or more of precipitation. Portions of the Upstate were slighted the abundant rains, as they have often been for the past couple of years. Average soil moisture ratings greatly improved over the previous week and were reported at 18% very short, 38% short, 43% adequate, and 1% surplus. The average number of days that was suitable for field work was 5.5 last week.

FIELD CROPS

CORN harvest continued with early yields estimated at 65 bushels an acre. Conditions were 45% very poor, 26% poor, 22% fair, and 7% good. Some **COTTON** growers were applying pesticides for green and brown stink bugs. Bolls were beginning to open in many areas. Conditions were 10% very poor, 22% poor, 41% fair, 24% good, and 3% excellent. **PEANUTS** were continuing to show some improvement. Conditions were 2% very poor, 7% poor, 35% fair, 50% good, and 6% excellent. There was some very late **SORGHUM** being planted for silage due to low corn silage yields. Conditions were 35% very poor, 22% poor, 28% fair, and 15% good. **SOYBEAN** growers were still applying controls to larvae pests this past week. Conditions should see improvement in the upcoming weeks with additional rains. Conditions were 14% very poor, 27% poor, 41% fair, 15% good, and 3% excellent. **SWEET POTATOES** were 5% very poor, 10% poor, 45% fair, and 40% good. **TOBACCO** had suffered damage from the heat and drought earlier, but recent rains should help upper stalk leaf development to some extent. Conditions were 12% poor, 43% fair, 40% good, and 5% excellent.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

HAY remained in short supply in several areas. **LIVESTOCK** were happy to see cooler temperatures across the state later in the week. **PASTURES** in the Upstate could use additional rains. **APPLE** harvest has begun. There have been some reports of hail damage. **PEACH** harvest was ongoing. South Carolina peaches are as tasty as ever. **VEGETABLE** harvest was complete for tomatoes, and nearing completion for cantaloupes, and watermelons.

Crop Progress for Week Ending August 17, 2008

| Crop and Stage | 2008 | 2007 | 5-Yr Avg | Crop and Stage | 2008 | 2007 | 5-Yr Avg |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Apples, Harvested | 5 | 4 | 2 | Sorghum, Turned Color | 50 | 69 | 69 |
| Cantaloup, Harvested | 97 | 99 | 99 | Sorghum, Matured | 15 | 34 | 34 |
| Corn, Doughed | 99 | 99 | 98 | Soybeans, Bloomed | 85 | 88 | 85 |
| Corn, Matured | 86 | 82 | 80 | Soybeans, Pods Set | 53 | 47 | 48 |
| Corn, Harvested | 10 | 11 | 14 | Soybeans, Turned Color | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Cotton, Bolls Set | 88 | 79 | 82 | Tobacco, Topped | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Cotton, Bolls Opened | 1 | 3 | 5 | Tobacco, Harvested | 50 | 63 | 70 |
| Hay, Other Hay, Harvested | 86 | 95 | 93 | Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed | 9 | 13 | 14 |
| Peaches, Harvested | 79 | 79 | 81 | Tomatoes, Fresh, Harvested | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Peanuts, Pegged | 100 | 99 | 98 | Watermelons, Harvested | 94 | 95 | 97 |
| Sorghum, Headed | 80 | 95 | 96 | | | | |

Condition for Week Ending August 17, 2008

| 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> |
| Apples | 5 | 5 | 75 | 15 | 0 | Peanuts | 2 | 7 | 35 | 50 | 6 |
| Corn | 45 | 26 | 22 | 7 | 0 | Sorghum | 35 | 22 | 28 | 15 | 0 |
| Cotton | 10 | 22 | 41 | 24 | 3 | Soybeans | 14 | 27 | 41 | 15 | 3 |
| Livestock | 5 | 16 | 48 | 31 | 0 | Sweet Potatoes | 5 | 10 | 45 | 40 | 0 |
| Pasture | 21 | 25 | 34 | 20 | 0 | Tobacco | 0 | 12 | 43 | 40 | 5 |
| Peaches | 4 | 7 | 31 | 53 | 5 | | | | | | |

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending August 17, 2008

Monday afternoon temperatures were highest from McCormick to Charleston. Clouds began increasing Tuesday in response to an energetic area of low pressure moving into South Carolina from the Gulf Coast states. On Wednesday, steady rains fell over much of the central and eastern counties. There were reliable reports of storm cells producing 5-inch rains near Irmo and Mt. Pleasant. Winds along Folly Beach gusted to 35 mph. A pool of unseasonably cool air dropped in behind the departing feature by Thursday morning. Before sunrise, temperatures in the upper 50's and middle 60's were common. Columbia's Thursday high temperature of 73 degrees set a new date record lowest maximum temperature. Widely scattered thunderstorms were observed through the weekend. Gaffney received 3.28 inches of rain and Clemson welcomed some relief to their dry conditions, measuring 1.40 inches. The state average temperature for the period was four degrees below normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 99 degrees at Ft. Moultrie, Sullivans Island, on August 11. The lowest official temperature reported was 55 degrees at Cheraw on the morning of August 12 and 14. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 4.96 inches at Ft. Moultrie, Sullivans Island, ending at 7:00 a.m. on August 13. The state average rainfall for the period was 1.7 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth average soil temperature: Columbia 80 degrees.

RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were below normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 84 degrees.

Precipitation

| Location | Weekly Total | Jan 1 Total | Deviation from Average |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Greer | 0.54 | 21.86 | -11.1 |
| Columbia | 3.51 | 27.17 | -5.7 |
| Orangeburg | 1.52 | 25.18 | -7.7 |
| Charlotte, NC | 0.58 | 21.97 | -5.8 |
| Augusta, GA | 3.06 | 25.16 | -4.8 |
| Florence | 1.98 | 28.06 | -1.8 |
| N Myrtle Beach | 2.94 | 31.75 | 3.8 |
| Charleston | 1.64 | 23.66 | -9.7 |
| Savannah, GA | 1.74 | 27.10 | -5.6 |

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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