

Hurricanes Dennis and Katrina, which hit Alabama's Gulf Coast, caused crop yields to be somewhat lower for some farmers. Most fields across the state recovered from weather damage better than expected. Katrina took its toll on the more mature **cotton** fields in Baldwin and Mobile counties, as well as several other counties. Later planted fields fared very well. Yield was 749 pounds of lint per acre, compared to 724 pounds per acre the previous year and the ten year average of 605 pounds per acre. Some **corn** fields were blown over but harvested with minimal loss. Alabama corn yield was 119 bushels per acre, 4 bushels below the record set in 2004. The ten year average is 91 bushels per acre. Production came in at 23.8 million bushels, 1 percent less than in 2004. **Peanut** yields varied across the state because of the hurricanes, salt water, tomato spotted wilt virus and dry conditions during harvest. As peanut acreage increases in south western Alabama, peanut production continues to show an increase. Production totaled 613.3 million pounds and yield was 2,750 pounds per acre, down 50 pounds per acre from 2004 and 210 pounds below the record 2,960 set in 1984. **Soybean** fields were affected by hurricane debris in the fields. Growers planted less acreage because of Asian Soybean Rust concerns and low prices. Growers believed dry conditions during September caused yields to be lower, especially during pod fill. Hurricanes brought much needed rain to younger soybeans. Soybean production totaled 4.8 million bushels compared to 6.7 million bushels the previous year. The yield of 33 bushels per acre was two bushels below 2004. The ten year average is 27 bushels per acre. **Hay** fields were reported as mostly good to excellent during the 2005 year. The yield was 2.7 tons per acre, unchanged from the record yield set in 2004. **Irish potato** growers experienced excessive moisture that caused rot and unharvested potato acreage again this year. Producers planted 1,600 acres, down 700 acres from last year, and 1,300 acres were harvested. Yield was 155 cwt. per acre, 20 cwt. per acre below the 2004 yield. Twenty-seven hundred acres of **sweet potatoes** were planted, down 100 acres from previous year. Harvested area was 2,500 acres, compared to 2,300 acres last year. Many fields were left unharvested due to wet weather. The average yield at 150 cwt. per acre, was 15 cwt. per acre less than last year. **Wheat** seedings for 2006 were slightly behind schedule because of dry conditions. An estimated 100,000 acres have been sown.

#### Normal Crop Progress

Crop	Planting Begins	Planting Ends	Harvest Begins	Harvest Ends
Corn	Mid-March	Early June	Late July	Early Nov
Cotton	Early April	Mid-June	Mid-September	Mid-December
Hay, first Cutting	---	---	Early May	Mid-July
Peaches	---	---	Mid-May	Mid-July
Peanuts	Late April	Mid-June	Early September	Early November
Pecans	---	---	Early October	Mid-December
Spring Potatoes	Mid-January	Mid-March	Early May	Early July
Summer Potatoes	Early March	Early April	Early July	Late August
Sweet Potatoes (South)	Mid-March	Late June	Mid-July	Early-November
Sweet Potatoes (North)	Mid-May	Early July	Mid-September	Late October
Soybeans	Late April	Early July	Late September	Mid-December
Wheat	Early October	Late-November	Mid-May	Mid-July