



# Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending September 20, 2009

## RAINY WEEK HINDERS HARVEST

Harvest efforts were stymied last week as substantial amounts of gulf moisture pushed into the western half of the state with record rainfall in some areas. The moisture was a product of surface low pressure over Louisiana that remained nearly stationary through most of the past week. This same front eventually pushed eastward and continued to drop well above normal precipitation. As a result, harvest progress for all crops was trailing the normal pace by week's end. Also, all major row crops were developing at a slower rate than last year and the 5-year average. Cotton growers have begun applying defoliant on a limited basis. The bountiful precipitation helped to recharge ponds and increase moisture levels in pastures and hayfields. On the downside, some hay has become overripe as a consequence of harvest delays.

There were 2 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 7 percent short, 50 percent adequate, and 43 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent very short, 11 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 23 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged slightly above normal across the entire state through the week. Daytime highs were generally slightly below normal, but ample cloud cover caused overnight lows to trend slightly above normal. Rainfall averaged from half an inch to six inches above normal last week.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2008	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<b>Percent</b>					<b>Percent</b>				
Corn – Mature	69	51	86	95	Cotton	0	1	22	54	23
Corn – Harvested	13	6	44	61	Hay	0	4	24	56	16
Corn – Silage Harvested	89	83	94	94	Pastures	0	3	23	62	12
Cotton – Bolls Opening	40	31	72	77	Soybeans	1	3	15	54	27
Soybeans – Dropping Leaves	41	25	50	59	Tobacco	0	4	15	69	12
Tobacco – Burley Harvested	68	64	65	77						
Tobacco – Air-Cured Harvested	83	78	91	92						
Tobacco – Fire-Cured Harvested	75	72	80	82						

### County Agent Comments

*“Rain, rain, go away! We've got a good crop and need a sunny day!”*

**Tracey Sullivan, Haywood County**

*“Corn producers made some headway this week as they worked around spotty showers and searched for lower moisture corn. Clouds, high humidity, and rain showers have made for poor drying conditions but some acreage of corn and soybeans have been harvested with good yields of both crops being reported.”*

**Jeff Lannom, Weakley County**

*“Rainfall this week has been a blessing for late soybeans. Pastures and hayfields are phenomenal for this time of the year. Late tobacco harvest is being hampered by the rains which are forecasted to continue into next week.”*

**Ronnie Barron, Cheatham County**

*“Several days of rain has brought corn, tobacco and hay harvest to a halt. Farmers have had time for machinery repair and they are anxious to resume harvesting. Some of the remaining uncut burley is becoming very ripe and some growers are afraid that leaves may begin to drop from the stalk in the field. Early seeded forages have benefited from the rain as have late crops and pasture in many parts of the county which have been very dry for the last month.”*

**Richard Groce, Maury County**

*“Heavy rains have put an average of 6 to 10 inches or more on the ground this week and more to come. Some damage to soybeans and late hay crops but has helped low ponds and ground water levels.”*

**Scott Chadwell, Putnam County**

*“Rainfall has occurred most days in the county. Some areas have received over 4 inches. The hay crop looks good but the chances of harvesting are remote with all the rainfall as of late.”*

**Neal Denton, Knox County**

**TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION**  
**For week ending: September 20, 2009 (with comparisons)**

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending September 20, 2009				Current Week 9/20/09	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
West										
Ames_Plantation	85	67	75	4	2.77	7	46.36	8.34	33.91	9.66
Brownsville_TN	83	67	75	3	2.16	6	41.32	3.35	31.04	6.87
Covington	80	64	73	2	3.22	7	45.62	8.50	34.06	10.62
Dyersburg	84	66	74	3	1.56	5	42.83	6.59	34.07	10.65
Huntingdon_Wate	85	63	74	4	1.69	5	43.09	4.73	30.25	5.65
Jackson_Exp_Stn	83	67	74	4	2.49	7	40.22	2.51	29.10	4.67
Lexington_TN	84	65	73	3	4.22	7	39.24	2.53	29.17	5.65
Martin	85	62	73	4	1.34	4	39.67	1.46	27.03	2.06
Memphis_AG	82	68	75	2	4.65	6	50.15	13.02	36.56	12.92
Milan	84	63	74	5	3.40	7	39.14	-0.24	28.17	2.41
Paris	83	58	73	4	0.95	4	39.20	1.22	26.30	1.83
Savannah_6SW	85	66	75	3	6.79	7	40.87	-0.12	29.05	3.52
Selmer	86	65	74	4	9.57	7	47.24	7.06	36.69	11.75
Union_City	85	61	74	5	1.59	5	44.97	7.75	33.06	9.02
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	83	62	74	5	1.59	6	41.49	4.81	27.99	4.96
Cookeville	83	58	71	3	4.14	4	48.05	6.30	33.91	7.19
Crossville_AP	79	58	71	6	1.66	6	50.79	9.95	36.69	10.87
Dickson_AG	84	64	74	5	3.18	6	46.73	7.50	33.96	8.74
Dover_1W	82	62	72	4	0.53	5	47.69	9.60	33.32	9.13
Fayetteville_TN	84	67	75	6	3.70	6	37.78	-1.18	25.78	2.10
Jamestown	83	55	69	3	3.34	6	50.26	9.79	36.16	9.53
Kingston_Spring	84	60	74	6	5.17	6	46.24	8.61	33.97	10.31
Lawrenceburg_Fl	83	63	74	6	3.75	6	38.50	-2.01	29.31	4.62
Lewisburg	84	56	73	4	7.40	5	40.31	0.62	31.32	6.21
Linden	84	61	73	4	2.39	5	43.97	3.74	34.16	8.92
Livingston_WLIV	84	58	71	4	2.86	3	51.42	12.59	37.28	11.97
Murfreesboro_5N	84	60	72	2	3.64	5	41.44	2.45	30.26	5.05
Nashville_Metro	84	65	74	3	4.93	6	43.42	8.53	33.08	10.43
Oneida	83	51	68	3	1.65	5	49.81	9.52	38.23	11.81
Portland_TN	83	60	72	4	1.20	4	43.77	6.09	29.67	5.29
Pulaski_Water_P	83	63	72	1	5.33	6	44.40	4.53	34.19	9.71
Shelbyville	84	60	74	3	4.47	6	38.18	-1.70	27.28	2.28
Sparta_TN	84	58	72	4	1.88	5	48.05	7.77	32.93	7.22
Springfield	83	58	72	4	2.04	6	38.42	2.24	28.77	5.46
Springhill	84	61	72	4	3.66	6	42.11	2.36	31.52	6.38
Tullahoma	82	61	72	3	5.51	6	40.15	-0.86	28.54	3.50
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	84	69	75	4	2.73	5	34.94	-4.19	21.79	-1.61
Cleveland_6NNE	82	62	73	4	3.55	6	43.32	3.29	33.01	8.54
Dayton	84	61	73	4	4.06	5	41.27	0.24	30.72	5.71
Erwin_1W	82	56	70	5	2.24	5	38.69	1.45	30.13	4.40
Gatlinburg_2SW	81	55	69	3	2.66	5	47.37	4.49	34.64	5.70
Greeneville	84	50	70	2	0.60	5	33.59	1.21	24.42	2.73
Kingston_AG	84	61	72	5	2.69	4	45.46	2.65	32.31	5.58
Knoxville_AP	85	61	73	4	0.47	5	42.37	7.36	29.48	7.79
Newcomb	83	56	70	5	1.56	5	49.13	8.84	35.51	9.09
Norris_4NE	82	56	70	2	2.26	4	45.69	6.69	31.65	6.54
Tri-City_RGNL_A	84	54	71	4	0.51	4	32.93	2.19	22.79	2.42

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
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