



Weekly Weather Crop Report



In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week ending March 18, 2007

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, March 18, 2007**. With almost a full week of days suitable for fieldwork, producers across the state worked feverishly to make progress on their corn plantings. In some areas of the delta, corn planting is expected to near completion within a week. Hay supplies remain extremely low and many cattle producers are anxiously waiting the development of grazing pastures. Soil moisture was rated 9 percent very short, 42 percent short, 47 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

Crop progress for week ending 03/18/07

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn, planted	50	0	0	0
Corn, emerged	5	0	0	0
Soybeans, planted	4	0	0	0
Winter Wheat, jointing	44	0	0	0
Winter Wheat, heading	1	0	0	0

Crop condition for week ending 03/18/07

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Blueberries	0	0	19	41	40
Livestock	3	16	28	43	10
Pasture	1	18	32	27	22
Winter Wheat	0	1	21	56	22

Comments

“Corn is going in the ground. Scattered showers in the area have slowed up planting but the temperatures remain cold and the ground temperatures are still low. Hay supplies are extremely low to gone and cattlemen are having to spend more than usual this time of year to make it through until summer grass comes in.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Weather is warming up slowly and farmers are ready to start full swing into planting activities. Hundreds of our cotton acres will be planted in corn this year. Hay is still in short supply and pastures are just starting to green up.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“So far March has given us excellent weather for field tillage work, corn planting and excellent wheat growing conditions. Many farmers have already completed corn planting and it is only March 17. Some corn is 2" tall. I am guessing that corn acreage in my area will be up 3 to 4 times over 2006 acreage.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Most producers are totally out of hay or down to their last 10 or so bales. Lawrence County is at an all time low for hay reserves. Producers that harvested ryegrass hay are running short on that as well. Ryegrass is still holding on but is in need of rain. Producers are looking to alternative commodities for ration supplementation.”

— Amanda Walker, Lawrence

“Some watermelons and corn have been planted. Additional fields are being prepared. Honeybees and bumblebees are really working the blueberries. Blueberries have progress all the way from stage 1 to stage 5. If temperatures do not get below 32 degrees again, there should be a "bumper crop". Most producers have applied Nitrogen to their ryegrass and it is responding well. Cattle are responding as a result of the ryegrass growth.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

“Lots of corn has been planted. We have center pivots running in the middle of March. Growers have been able to get several thousand acres ready to plant. We need rain.”

— Don Respass, Coahoma

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“Burndown herbicides have been applied to some fields that will be planted in corn.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Corn planting got in full swing this week as our soil temps hit 55 mid-week. Small cattlemen are having trouble finding hay right now. Large producers have enough hay to get them through and even a little extra if the weather does not turn bad. However, they are not letting any extra go in case of bad weather.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Most winter wheat is Feekes Growth Stage 5 or 6 and nitrogen is being applied where the applications have been split. Herbicide applications for winter annual weed control appear to be effective. Tillage operations continue as fields dry enough to support equipment.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Light showers the last 3 days have slowed planting for a few hours each day but not stopped it. Corn planting will be completed early next week.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Corn planting is well beyond levels normal for this time of year, with most fields in good condition. Below normal rainfall for this period may benefit wheat, but cool season grazing needs more rain soon. Some farmers are already concerned about low rainfall.”

— Earnest Flint, Attala

“Above normal spring temperatures have boosted the winter forages and are bringing the permanent grasses out of dormancy. High fertilizer prices have some producers pondering about when and how much to apply to their pastures or fields. Some weed control practices should be starting soon considering the early spring flush of weeds that have emerged.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Mostly moderate temperatures were experienced during the week. Rain on Thursday was one half to three fourths of an inch. Winter grazing is growing well. It looks like producers will squeak by with enough hay till greenup. No row crop field work is being done as yet.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Wheat, for the most part, looks good. The plants are jointing and will be heading shortly. The corn planting is progressing well and planting conditions, in most areas, are great.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“Producers have taken advantage of the weather to break ground and fertilize winter pastures. Most are waiting on rain to plant. The winds in recent weeks, coupled with little or no precipitation, has dried the soil out. Warmer temperatures are bringing the winter grazing crops out but moisture is needed on all crops and land.”

— Victor Lee, Simpson

“Row crop land is being prepared for planting. Soil moisture is short since we are over 6 inches below average for rain. Ryegrass has started growing really well the last two weeks. Blueberry bushes are looking great.”

— Chuck Grantham, Forrest

“We are really dry again. Fruit trees are way ahead in bloom and corn production acres are up.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Weather conditions have been very favorable over the past two weeks for winter pastures. Producers are working soil to get ready for planting vegetable crops and for livestock.”

— Billy J. Lee, Pearl River

“Grain and hay are becoming short and producers are considering options. Producers are increasing corn acreage as a result of higher corn futures.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

(Additional comments appear at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>)

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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National Agricultural
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Mississippi Weather Summary for Week Ending 03/18/07

Division/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Plan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
Upper Delta													
Cleveland	82	36	64	53	11	0.35	-0.91	2	1.24				
Lambert						0.16	-1.17	1	1.22				
Tunica	86	44	67	53	14	0.16	-1.10	3	2.44				
Extreme/Average	86	36	65	54	12	0.22	-1.06	2	1.63				
North-Central													
Calhoun City	82	31	60	53	7	0.00	-1.32	0	2.35				
Hickory Flat	81	27	59	51	8	0.00	-1.40	0	1.78				
Independence	80	30	58	51	7	0.18	-1.01	3	1.39				
Oxford	82	29	60	52	8	0.06	-1.29	2	1.42				
Extreme/Average	82	27	59	53	7	0.06	-1.25	1	1.41				
Northeast													
Booneville	78	30	58	52	6	0.00	-1.47	0	2.10				
Iuka	79	27	58	49	9	0.00	-1.60	0	2.84				
Ripley	79	29	57	51	6	0.00	-1.40	0	1.81				
Verona	82	33	59	53	6	0.05	-1.35	1	1.67				
Extreme/Average	82	27	58	53	6	0.01	-1.45	0	2.10				
Lower Delta													
Moorhead	81	36	62	56	6	0.10	-1.26	3	1.92				
Rolling Fork				55		0.06	-1.34	3	1.14				
Stoneville	83	37	62	55	7	0.28	-0.98	4	1.17				
Yazoo City				57		0.00	-1.57	0	0.63				
Extreme/Average	83	36	62	56	6	0.11	-1.28	2	1.21				
Central													
Canton	81	30	59	57	2	0.04	-1.36	2	1.08				
Carhage	81	31	58	56	2	0.60	-0.80	2	0.80				
Eupora	81	45	64	53	11	0.22	-1.32	1	1.67				
Lexington	82	30	61	56	5	0.00	-1.40	0	1.05				
Extreme/Average	82	30	60	56	5	0.21	-1.22	1	1.15				
East-Central													
Aberdeen	80	37	61	53	8	0.02	-1.41	1	1.57				
Houston	79	27	57	52	5	0.09	-1.43	2	1.91				
State University	81	34	60	54	6	0.14	-1.26	2	1.94				
Extreme/Average	81	27	59	55	6	0.08	-1.35	2	1.81				
Southwest													
Crystal Springs	83	37	63	58	5	0.25	-1.09	1	1.57				
Natchez	81	52	68	60	8	0.33	-1.21	4	1.05				
Oakley	83	42	66	56	10	0.03	-1.43	1	0.87				
Vicksburg	81	33	63			0.01	0.00	1	1.36				
Extreme/Average	83	33	65	58	7	0.15	-1.24	1	1.21				
South-Central													
Collins	80	34	60	57	3	0.30	-1.22	2	0.70				
Columbia	81	37	63	59	4	0.79	-0.68	2	1.35				
Tylertown				60		0.83	-0.60	2	1.87				
Extreme/Average	81	34	61	58	3	0.64	-0.83	2	1.30				
Southeast													
Beaumont						0.00	0.00	0	0.00				
Hattiesburg				59		0.50	-0.97	2	1.53				
Laurel	84	35	62	57	5	0.36	-1.05	2	1.14				
Newton	82	27	57	55	2	0.14	-1.33	2	0.90				
Extreme/Average	84	27	59	57	3	0.33	-1.11	2	1.19				
Coastal													
Gulfport	73	41	64	61	3	1.20	-0.20	3	1.80				
Pascagoula 3 NE				58		0.00	-1.47	0	0.00				
Picayune	81	48	67	60	7	0.80	-0.70	1	1.70				
Extreme/Average	81	41	65	60	5	0.67	-0.79	2	1.17				
State	86	27	60	56	4	0.19	-1.25	2	1.39				

DFN = Departure from Normal.