



# Weekly Weather Crop Report



Mississippi  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending March 21, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending March 21, 2004. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 0 percent short, 62 percent adequate and 37 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	29	--	8	22	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Jointing	69	--	36	39	0	3	72	23	2
Cattle						1	6	33	51	9
Pasture						2	6	37	45	10
Hay Supply						Short	Adequate	Surplus		
						12	74	14		
Feed Grain						22	78	0		

## County Agent Comments

“Burndown applications have been going out at a rapid rate. Cotton producers are getting the land ready to plant and corn producers are planting.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Producers are preparing to start planting corn as soon as the weather permits. Burndown herbicides will be applied to fields.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Some early soybeans and corn have been planted on lighter soil. Fields are still too soft to put equipment on clay soils.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Corn is being planted throughout the area. Farmers are able to conduct most field operations as needed, with few exceptions in fields where water has stood during recent rain periods. These areas may require another week of drying before they will support equipment.”

— Dr. Ernie Flint, Attala

“Corn planting is going wide open and we were excited that we missed the heavy rains this weekend. The winds were low last week and this allowed an opportunity for burndown herbicides to be applied to fields. Winter wheat is looking better but showing some symptoms of nitrogen deficiency.”

— Dennis B. Reginelli, Noxubee

“Recent sunshine along with abundant moisture has placed most fescue and ryegrass grazing in a good growing condition. Fertilizer and weed applications were going out on selected fields that were dry enough to support equipment. Field conditions are still too wet for row crop field work. Fruit trees are budding, leafing and flowering dependent on species and variety.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Ryegrass has responded to the warm, sunny conditions with growth. Some corn producers were able to enter fields and begin planting late in the week. Soybean producers are getting fields ready, anticipating planting about mid-April.”

— Mark Mowdy, Franklin

“Winter grazing is in the best shape we have seen. Farmers are about through putting out Nitrogen; and due to favorable weather conditions, winter grazing has improved greatly. Cattle are in good shape for the most part and hay quantity has been average while quality has been down for the most part.”

— Mike Keene, Forrest

“Everyone is ready to start planting corn and beans. However, we need dry weather so we can get into the field. The wheat is growing!”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“The soil is too wet for fieldwork with equipment. Some winter annual weed control herbicides have been applied.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“We have had nice, hot weather but still need rain. Landscape plants have been budding and leafing out.”

— Donna Beliech, Yazoo

“Some fertilizer applications have been applied recently and our winter annuals are responding favorably. Weed control has begun to some degree. Hay supplies are adequate right now, but they are becoming shorter everyday. I think that we need some drier weather for these pastures to continue drying to allow more spring fertilization to take place.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Corn is being planted and conditions look good. Some vegetables are being planted.”

— Jeff Wilson, Lowndes

“Ryegrass has gotten a big boost due to weather condition and is really growing. Farmers are busy fertilizing winter forages for extra grazing and hay. Some farmers have run out of hay and are now buying feed.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Dairy producers took advantage of dry weather conditions this week to hit the fields in high gear planting corn for silage and harvesting ryegrass for haylage and/or bale silage. Roughly thirty percent of our corn acreage was planted on high ground this week; low lying areas are still too wet for planting. Many producers are returning to full conventional tillage this year in an effort to combat weed and traffic pan problems encountered through reduced and/or no till practices in recent years. Harvest of ryegrass haylage and/or bale silage is in full swing as producers take advantage of sunny days for optimal harvest. Nitrogen topdressing of ryegrass pastures is in full swing in preparation for hay and/or grass silage harvest.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Winter annuals are doing extremely well at this time. Make sure, if your not going to use winter forages for hay that you graze hard so that summer perennials can make the transition.”

— Roy Higdon, Clarke

“Rain is needed to help with corn emergence and dry land vegetables. Fruit crops are doing very well and although pastures are really greening up, they are still very dry.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Ryegrass pastures have really come out in the last two weeks. Cows are picking up weight and are really looking better. Corn is being planted this week. Everything is really greening up and feels like spring is here with the warm temperatures.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Ryegrass pastures are responding to warmer days and fertilizer. Corn ground is being prepared with only a few acres planted so far. If the weather holds we will see most of the corn planted within the next week to ten days.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“The weather over the past week has been very cooperative for producers looking for beginning planting operations. Ryegrass pastures have been side dressed with nitrogen and are lush and green.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

“This past week's weather has allowed farmers to get into the fields to work and begin preparations for planting. If the weather holds for next week, crops should be planted; and with an adequate supply of moisture, they should not have any problems with seed germination.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“The ryegrass on prepared seedbeds are doing well, while overseed ryegrass is growing slow. All varieties of blueberries are blooming. Only about 20 percent of the corn has been planted and watermelon ground is being prepared.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

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Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.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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Mississippi Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
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Weather Summary from March 15, 2004 to March 21, 2004 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston	76	33	56	54	+2	0.98	-0.42	4	4.84				
Cleveland	77	41	57	54	+3	1.62	+0.36	4	4.70				
Tunica				54		1.24	-0.04	3	4.14				
Extreme/Average	77	33	56	55	+1	1.30	-0.02	4	4.77				
2. North-Central													
Batesville				53		0.50	-0.88	2	3.90				
Calhoun City	80	37	58	54	+4	2.08	+0.75	4	6.50				
Independence	79	32	53	52	+1	1.98	+0.79	4	4.56				
Oxford	81	34	57	52	+5	0.80	-0.55	4	4.31				
Extreme/Average	81	32	56	54	+2	1.34	-0.01	4	4.82				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	84	39	57	52	+5	1.05	-0.42	4	4.83				
Corinth City				55					2.96				
Iuka	84	29	54	50	+4	2.23	+0.66	4	7.44				
Ripley	83	33	56	51	+5	0.44	-0.96	4	5.44				
Tupelo	75	38	56			1.52		4	6.33				
Verona				54		1.20	-0.20	4	6.56				0.16
Extreme/Average	84	29	56	54	+2	1.31	-0.16	4	6.01				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				56					2.58				
Rolling Fork	86	35	63	56	+7	0.69	-0.74	4	4.64	73	56	66	
Stoneville	85	46	63	55	+8	0.67	-0.61	5	3.41	75	54	62	
Yazoo City	84	42	63	58	+5	0.52	-1.08	4	6.75				
Extreme/Average	86	35	63	57	+6	0.63	-0.79	4	4.93	75	54	64	
5. Central													
Canton	84	41	62	58	+4	0.25	-1.15	3	1.71				
Carthage	84	40	61	56	+5	0.24	-1.16	2	3.91				
Lexington	85	38	61	56	+5	0.63	-0.77	4	5.43				
Eupora	87	36	59	54	+5	0.88	-0.66	4	5.22				
Extreme/Average	87	36	61	56	+5	0.50	-0.97	3	4.85				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	86	39	60	54	+6	0.54	-0.91	2	4.14				
Houston	83	35	58	53	+5	1.70	+0.17	4	5.25				
Louisville				55		0.10	-1.44	1	3.13				
State University	84	36	56	55	+1	1.83	+0.43	2	6.96	69	50	59	0.21
Extreme/Average	86	35	58	56	+2	1.04	-0.42	2	4.87	69	50	59	0.21
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	85	47	65	59	+6	0.52	-0.85	1	3.49	78	58	67	
Natchez	82	44	64	60	+4	0.80	-0.76	2	3.86				
Oakley	86	47	66	57	+9	0.71	-0.76	2	2.98	76	61	67	
Vicksburg	82	51	64			0.28		4	5.45				
Extreme/Average	86	44	65	59	+6	0.58	-0.91	2	3.95	78	58	67	
8. South-Central													
Collins				58		0.51	-1.03	1	5.18				
Columbia	81	47	64	59	+5	0.46	-1.04	2	6.58				
Tylertown	85	44	64	60	+4	0.00	-1.44	0	5.46				
Extreme/Average	85	44	64	59	+5	0.32	-1.19	1	5.74				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	87	41	65			0.08		2	6.31				
Hattiesburg	84	43	65	59	+6	0.41	-1.06	2	7.67				
Laurel	85	44	65	58	+7	0.20	-1.22	2	4.19				
Newton				56		0.00	-1.47	0	5.04				0.17
Extreme/Average	87	41	65	58	+7	0.17	-1.37	2	5.80				0.17
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	82	38	64	61	+3	0.26	-1.31	1	3.39				
Gulfport	77	46	65	62	+3	0.07	-1.30	1	2.92				
Pascagoula				59		0.55	-0.89	1	3.79				
Poplarville	83	46	64	60	+4	0.85	-0.63	2	4.97	79	58	65	0.25
Waveland	77	44	63	60	+3	0.15	-1.41	2	2.97				
Extreme/Average	83	38	64	61	+3	0.38	-1.12	1	3.61	79	58	65	0.25
State	87	29	61	57	+4	0.71	-0.75	3	4.93	79	50	64	0.18

DFN = Departure from Normal.