

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

Phone: 601-965-4575
Facsimile: 601-965-5622
www.nass.usda.gov/ms/
nass-ms@nass.usda.gov/

Week Ending April 4, 2004

Released: 3:00 P.M., April 5, 2004

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending April 4, 2004**. Although Mississippi has yet to see any significant spring rainfall, many producers are taking advantage of the dry weather to forge ahead with row crop planting, while others are holding back as a result of the dry soil conditions. Regardless of the situation, a substantial rainfall would be beneficial. Soil moisture was rated 11 percent very short, 47 percent short, 41 percent adequate and 1 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	75	49	58	52	3	9	37	44	7
	Emerged	27	16	17	24					
Rice	Planted	9	--	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Planted	21	10	6	4	0	3	24	69	4
	Emerged	5	--	1	1					
Wheat	Jointing	77	70	70	72	3	7	23	45	22
	Heading	8	2	2	10					
Watermelons	Planted	36	20	43	31	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						1	11	26	55	7
Pasture						5	12	51	29	3
Hay Supply						Short		Adequate		Surplus
						5		92		3
Feed Grain						0		99		1

County Agent Comments

“Growers have planted soybeans, corn, and rice. We could stand some rain and some warmer weather.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“We were really rolling this last week. If we can miss this next rain, we will be fully planted with the corn and about 80 percent planted with the soybeans.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Corn planting is almost over and tillage prep has gone extremely well for the last two weeks. However, we do need some rainfall. Cool nights are slowing corn germination. Usually in the past, we were wanting things to dry up enough to get into fields in March and April, and not hoping for rain.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Corn planting is in full swing, but fields are mighty dry. We will need some moisture to get corn up and going.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“The farmers are still waiting for rain; March was very dry. Ryegrass hay and bale silage harvest continue in full swing. Corn for silage planting is roughly 80 percent complete. Germinating corn needs improved soil moisture for optimal growth. Several producers have ceased corn planting due to very dry soil moisture conditions. We need a good rain.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Ryegrass has shut down due to drought. Some producers have started back haying cows. There was some frost damage visible on vegetables that were transplanted on plastic.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Cotton producers have about 70 percent of their acreage ready to plant and will have the other 30 percent ready in 8 days. Soybean producers have planted around 8,000 acres of soybeans already and will continue until it rains.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“While tillage work has continued in some fields, the cooler temperatures have delayed extensive planting.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“It's hard to believe that we have gone another week without significant rainfall. Planting operations are grinding to a halt, and those fields that are planted are not emerging as they should. A lot of needed field work, such as grading, leveling and drainage, is getting done and a lot of lime is going out while fields can support the trucks well. However, progress toward this year's crop will be put on hold this week if no rain comes.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala

“Soil moisture is very short and we are having trouble getting a stand in some corn fields. We have caught up with our cotton fieldwork and need a good rain for our beds. Soybean planting has stopped due to our low soil moisture.”

— Dr. Dennis B. Reginelli, Noxubee

“Corn planting is almost complete. Growth of winter grazing has slowed in some areas due to a lack of moisture.”

— Mark Mowdy, Franklin

“It is very, very dry! Pastures are showing signs of drought stress and corn planting is way behind due to dry conditions.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Lack of rainfall continues to be a problem for producers and will have serious implications for the harvest if rainfall is not received within the next week. Crops are spotty in some areas due to a lack of rainfall and will have to be replanted if producers are to see a profit. By planting late, many will miss the peak market which will drastically affect their profit margin. Ryegrass is lush, but with no rainfall and heavy grazing, it will soon feel the effect of the weather and cause producers to continue to feed hay and supplemental feed.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

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:

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mississippi Cooperative
Extension Service
Dr. Joseph H. McGilberry, Director**

**Southern Regional Climate Center
Louisiana State University
Elizabeth Mons
Service Climatologist**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mississippi Agricultural
Statistics Service
Thomas L. Gregory, State Statistician**

Weather Summary from March 29, 2004 to April 4, 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				58		0.30	-1.10	2	1.54				
Cleveland	82	37	55	58	-3	0.39	-0.87	3	2.25				
Tunica				58		0.65	-0.68	2	1.89				0.23
Extreme/Average	82	37	55	59	-4	0.35	-0.98	3	1.90				
2. North-Central													
Batesville				57					0.50				
Calhoun City	80	32	52	57	-5	0.21	-1.12	2	2.29				
Independence	81	31	52	56	-4	0.38	-0.80	2	2.39				
Oxford	69	32	49	56	-7	0.38	-0.90	3	1.18				
Extreme/Average	81	31	51	57	-6	0.32	-1.01	2	1.95				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	79	40	54	56	-2	0.92	-0.40	3	1.97				
Corinth City				59									
Iuka	80	28	49	54	-5	0.79	-0.56	2	3.03				
Ripley	80	32	51	55	-4	0.48	-0.86	2	0.92				
Tupelo	82	38	55			0.31		2	1.83				
Verona				57		0.35	-0.97	2	1.55				0.17
Extreme/Average	82	28	52	57	-5	0.63	-0.72	2	1.94				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				60									
Rolling Fork	85	34	57	60	-3	0.44	-0.96	3	1.13	85	55	68	
Stoneville				59		0.60	-0.72	2	1.28				0.21
Yazoo City	81	33	54	61	-7	0.21	-1.30	1	0.73				
Extreme/Average	85	33	56	60	-4	0.42	-0.96	2	1.05	85	55	68	0.21
5. Central													
Canton	82	31	54	61	-7	0.05	-1.35	1	0.30				
Carthage	82	31	54	59	-5	0.01	-1.39	1	0.25				
Lexington	82	30	53	59	-6	0.34	-1.04	3	0.97				
Eupora	83	30	53	58	-5	0.05	-1.39	2	0.93				
Extreme/Average	83	30	54	59	-5	0.11	-1.31	2	0.61				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	81	37	54	57	-3	0.06	-1.29	2	0.60				0.16
Houston	81	28	50	57	-7	0.08	-1.30	2	1.78				
Louisville	82	31	53	58	-5	0.02	-1.45	2	0.12				
State University	83	35	55	58	-3	0.03	-1.37	1	1.86	69	56	61	0.16
Extreme/Average	83	28	53	59	-6	0.05	-1.35	2	1.09	69	56	61	0.16
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	79	36	58	62	-4	0.26	-1.16	1	0.78	76	58	67	
Natchez	82	36	59	63	-4	0.60	-0.93	1	1.40				
Oakley	80	33	56	60	-4	0.05	-1.43	1	0.76				
Vicksburg	80	37	56			0.18		1	0.46				
Extreme/Average	82	33	57	61	-4	0.27	-1.20	1	0.85	76	58	67	
8. South-Central													
Collins				61		0.63	-0.78	1	1.14				
Columbia	80	38	59	62	-3	0.06	-1.41	1	0.52				
Tylertown	81	36	59	63	-4	0.21	-1.16	1	0.21				
Extreme/Average	81	36	59	62	-3	0.30	-1.16	1	0.62				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	84	34	60			0.50		1	0.58				
Hattiesburg	82	35	59	62	-3	0.10	-1.30	1	0.51				
Laurel	82	37	58	61	-3	0.00	-1.32	0	0.20				
Newton				59		0.20	-1.28	1	0.20				
Extreme/Average	84	34	59	61	-2	0.20	-1.21	1	0.43				
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	79	34	61	63	-2	0.23	-1.18	1	0.49				
Gulfport	80	40	62	65	-3	0.04	-1.20	1	0.11				
Pascagoula	75	42	59	62	-3	0.00	-1.19	0	0.55				
Poplarville	80	35	59	62	-3	0.10	-1.26	1	0.95	80	61	71	0.22
Waveland	79	39	61	62	-1	0.79	-0.71	1	0.94				
Extreme/Average	80	34	60	63	-3	0.23	-1.09	1	0.61	80	61	71	0.22
State	85	28	56	60	-4	0.27	-1.12	2	1.03	85	55	66	0.17

DFN = Departure from Normal.