



Weekly Weather Crop Report



Mississippi
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending April 6, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending April 6, 2003**. Severe thunderstorms with very heavy rain and scattered hail will halt field operations for a few days. A wide belt through central Mississippi was particularly hard hit. Soil moisture was rated 54 percent adequate and 46 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2002	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	70	27	38	53	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	23	2	16	28	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Planted	6	--	1	5	--	--	--	--	--
Sorghum	Planted	1	--	0	4	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Planted	9	2	0	5	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	2	--	0	1	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Jointing	75	58	59	76	1	7	45	43	4
	Heading	3	--	5	15	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Planted	51	22	38	29	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						2	7	27	53	11
Pasture						2	15	34	43	6
						Short		Adequate		Surplus
Hay Supply						19		71		10
Feed Grain						11		85		4

County Agent Comments

“Weekend rain stopped all planting and ground preparation. The 1 3/4 inches of rain we received will help the rice that had been planted. Early planted corn and soybeans are coming up and looking good.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Producers were able to get some soybeans and corn planted this week. We received 1 to 2 inches of rain over the weekend, and that will keep producers out of the fields for the upcoming week.”

— Anthony Bland, Tunica

“Recent wet weather has hampered fieldwork in most cases. Farmers are ready to start planting as soon as field conditions permit.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“The heavy rains that we received on Sunday will stop fieldwork for most of the week.”

— Andy Braswell, Leflore

“The corn crop is being planted 2-3 weeks later than established recommended planting dates. Although this may not cause severe problems with regard to temperatures and moisture, it may cause the crop to be more susceptible to the Southwestern Corn Borer. If the pattern of increase in this insect continues this year as it has in the past 2-3 years, it could mean significant problems with the pests this year.”

— Pam Lee, Carroll

“Producers used this week to catch up on corn planting. Hybrid bermuda grass is showing some frost damage from a couple of weeks ago.”

— Mark Mowdy, Franklin

“Because of the frost during the earlier part of the week, one watermelon grower is replanting about 30% of his crop.”

— Thomas Brewer, Jefferson Davis

“Farmers were in the fields for about 5 days, but rains Friday and Sunday night have halted all fieldwork. Rain Sunday night averaged about 1 to 1-1/2 inches.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Sunshine and 10-to-20 MPH winds dried the ground out during the week. Burndown looks good and is getting close in most fields to allow tillage. De-worming cattle, lice control, fly tags, and clean-up in feeding areas seems to be the practice for cattlemen.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Producers were busy planting corn and applying burndown herbicides to fields. Rain delayed all fieldwork over the weekend.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Corn planting is about done and soybean planting is in full force. Burndowns put out in the last 3 weeks are working very slowly.”

— Stephen Winters, Grenada

“Producers were able to get in a few days of fieldwork last week before the rain came. Corn planting has just begun, but replanting is a good possibility. Wheat and pastures are responding to the good growing conditions. Vegetable planting has been limited.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

“Corn planting is almost complete. Early soybeans are being planted, and a great deal of land is being burned down or fields cultivated to get ready for planting.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“This has been a good week for corn planting and other fieldwork. Pastures are also looking good after the rain.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“Corn is being planted at a record rate; however, rain is forecast.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“At present 10-1/2 inches of rainfall have occurred in the last 24 hours.”

— Anita Webb, Scott

“This is the first good week we've had in some time to do any extended fieldwork. However, we had a heavy rain last night that will slow fieldwork down.”

— Stacy Brown, Monroe

“Corn planting is continuing with the drier weather we have had the last two weeks. Baleage and haylage are being put up.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“A tornado dropped down on the west side of Lincoln County, causing severe damage to trees and homes last night. Rains have left farming activities nearly impossible for the moment.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Essentially, we have finished up corn planting. The first soybean seed went in this week, but weekend showers held planting to a few hundred acres. Wheat looks good, as do most pastures.”

— Terry Rector, Warren

“Warm, sunny days all week allowed pasture fertilization. Ryegrass hay harvest and corn planting are proceeding in full swing. Hundreds of acres of ryegrass were harvested for bale silage this week as producers took advantage of ideal weather conditions. Beef and dairy producers are fertilizing their perennial pastures of bahiagrass and bermudagrass in preparation for spring and summer grazing/hay production. Roughly ten percent of our corn for silage acres were planted this week as producers hit the fields on higher ground that was dry enough for soil preparation. Heavy rains moved into our area Sunday evening and are continuing this morning to further hinder corn planting and hay harvest operations. Many dairy producers are greatly reducing their corn acreage this year due to budget constraints not allowing them to invest in the crop. Tough times lie ahead if summer weather conditions do not allow optimal grass growth and milk production.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Soils were just getting dry enough to do fieldwork. Some corn has been planted and land for cotton and peanuts is being broken up. Cattle are looking better although some are still a little thin. Planted pines are growing well. Hay supplies are holding up.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Soils were beginning to dry out and farmers were just being able to get into the fields for planting.”

— Walter Walker, Jackson

“Rain Sunday afternoon, Sunday night and Monday morning has brought all field operations to a halt. Strong straight line winds up-rooted trees around the county and blew branches and limbs down. County schools are closed today as a result. Part of Decatur is still without electrical power this morning.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“Ryegrass pastures continue to excel with the improvement of the weather conditions.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

“Frost and temperatures below 32 degrees for 6 hours caused damage to pasture grasses, emerging corn and watermelon. Early spring vegetables also have been damaged from this late frost. This damage will have an affect on pasture grasses, corn and watermelon crops. Pasture grasses have the potential for recovery, but some corn and watermelon crops in extremely low areas will have to be replanted due to long exposure to temperatures below 32 degrees and frost.”

— 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 it 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 31, 2003 to April 6, 2003 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				59		0.32	-1.08	1	2.42				
Cleveland	78	31	60	58	+2	0.00	-1.26	0	2.34				
Tunica				58		0.00	-1.33	0	3.69				
Extreme/Average	78	31	60	59	+1	0.11	-1.15	0	2.38				
2. North-Central													
Batesville				57		0.20	-1.07	1	2.82				
Calhoun City	77	28	59	58	+1	0.63	-0.70	1	2.61				
Independence	76	29	58	57	+1	0.28	-0.88	1	2.92				
Oxford	78	28	60	57	+3	0.70	-0.56	1	3.37				
Extreme/Average	78	28	59	58	+1	0.45	-0.81	1	2.93				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	76	27	57	57	0	0.98	-0.31	1	4.68				
Corinth City				59		1.18	-0.10	2	4.15				
Iuka	75	22	54	54	0	0.60	-0.71	1	4.09				
Ripley				56		0.51	-0.82	2	3.45				
Tupelo						0.40		1	3.22				
Extreme/Average	76	22	56	58	-2	0.73	-0.59	1	3.92				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	82	38	64	60	+4	0.03	-1.36	1	2.01	77	53	68	
Rolling Fork	82	41	64	60	+4	0.14	-1.25	1	1.33	77	53	68	
Stoneville	80	35	62	60	+2	0.00	-1.30	0	2.31	76	49	65	0.28
Yazoo City				61		0.30	-1.19	1	1.16				
Extreme/Average	82	35	63	61	+2	0.12	-1.14	1	1.70	77	49	67	0.28
5. Central													
Canton	80	28	62	61	+1	0.12	-1.28	1	2.34				
Carthage	81	28	62	60	+2	0.00	-1.40	0	1.76				
Lexington	78	27	59	59	0	0.43	-0.93	1	1.58				
Eupora	78	28	60	58	+2	0.02	-1.40	1	2.33				
Extreme/Average	81	27	61	61	0	0.14	-1.19	1	2.00				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	78	32	59	58	+1	0.00	-1.32	0	3.15				0.18
Houston	77	23	58	57	+1	0.00	-1.36	0	2.36				
Louisville	77	27	60	58	+2	0.22	-1.23	1	2.85				
State University	78	32	61	59	+2	0.30	-1.09	1	3.20	69	51	60	0.17
Extreme/Average	78	23	59	60	-1	0.13	-1.27	1	2.89	69	51	60	0.17
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	81	32	60	62	-2	0.05	-1.39	1	3.04	76	50	65	
Natchez	79	32	62	63	-1	0.00	-1.51	0	5.17				
Oakley	81	32	63	60	+3	0.05	-1.42	2	1.84	74	53	65	
Vicksburg	81	38	63			0.02		1	2.23				
Extreme/Average	81	32	62	63	-1	0.03	-1.29	1	3.07	76	50	65	
8. South-Central													
Collins	80	30	61	61	0	0.13	-1.25	3	2.49				
Columbia	82	32	62	62	0	0.16	-1.30	2	2.17				
Tylertown	82	30	60	63	-3	0.26	-1.09	1	2.19				
Extreme/Average	82	30	61	63	-2	0.18	-1.15	2	2.28				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	85	28	59			0.00		0	2.81				
Hattiesburg	83	28	61	62	-1	0.20	-1.18	2	3.09				
Laurel	82	31	62	61	+1	0.01	-1.28	1	1.95				
Newton	79	27	56	59	-3	0.13	-1.34	2	3.62	68	46	57	0.20
Extreme/Average	85	27	59	62	-3	0.09	-1.23	1	2.87	68	46	57	0.20
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	82	32	59	63	-4	1.74	+0.37	1	3.46				
Gulfport	79	35	63	65	-2	0.62	-0.60	2	2.94				
Pascagoula	75	32	59	62	-3	0.13	-1.02	2	2.09				
Poplarville	80	31	61	63	-2	0.20	-1.14	3	2.95		5	6	
Waveland	79	32	61	63	-2	1.87	+0.40	1	4.22				
Extreme/Average	82	31	61	65	-4	0.91	-0.25	2	3.13		5	6	
State	85	22	60	61	-1	0.25	-1.05	1	2.70		4	6	0.21

DFN = Departure from Normal.