

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending April 23, 2006

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, April 23, 2006**. Rain that arrived late in the week provided some relief to producers across the state. Although farmers had hoped for more rain, it did allow some fieldwork that had been put on hold to resume. Emergence rates, which had slowed, perked up after receiving much-needed moisture. Blueberry growers are using irrigation on maturing berries and the dry conditions aided cool-season hay harvesting. Soil moisture was rated 10 percent very short, 36 percent short, 50 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2005	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	98	92	84	90	0	1	19	60	20
	Emerged	87	72	68	74					
Cotton	Planted	36	11	15	14	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	16	--	--	3					
Rice	Planted	73	44	50	41	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	38	7	15	16					
Sorghum	Planted	60	29	47	36	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	37	6	8	14					
Soybeans	Planted	77	61	37	38	0	1	16	58	25
	Emerged	58	34	15	21					
Wheat	Jointing	99	98	97	96	0	3	27	54	16
	Heading	88	61	62	63					
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	13	5	15	21	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Planted	50	48	71	71	--	--	--	--	--
Blueberries						0	1	41	46	12
Cattle						1	9	34	42	14
Pasture						5	9	39	43	4

County Agent Comments

“Most producers received up to two inches of much-needed rain. A lack of moisture has caused many producers to stop planting soybeans.”

— Anthony Bland, Tunica

“Friday night rains stopped fieldwork, but farmers returned to the fields this morning. Corn growers should finish planting this week and cotton growers are putting their first seeds in the ground today. Soybean growers are getting their acreage planted earlier than in previous years. Emerging corn and soybeans look good.”

— Stanley G. Wise, Jr., Union

“Corn planting is complete as well as most of the Group IV soybeans. Some cotton and Group V soybeans have been planted. Growers are waiting on a rain to finish planting because of the short soil moisture.”

— Charlie Stokes, Monroe

“Rain on Friday was good for all crops and should give us enough moisture for cotton planting. Corn is growing great due to a strong root system, timely rainfall, and warm temperatures.”

— Dennis B. Reginelli, Ph.D., Noxubee

“A much-needed rain was received Friday. A small amount of ryegrass hay has been cut. Ryegrass hay will be in short supply due to dry conditions. Producers are busy working spring born calves.”

— Shelby Bearden, Copiah

“Conditions are very dry and we need rain to push cool-season hay for winter forage. Corn planting is in full stride at this time but will need moisture to get corn up and going. Truck crop planting is also in full swing.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Rain on Friday was very beneficial, but we still need more rain to finish planting cotton.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Rain this past Thursday and Friday was a welcomed sight. Crops that were not emerged should be popping out of the ground soon. Wheat looks great and is the best crop in years. It looks like we will have the earliest planted crop ever.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“We received about half an inch of rain Friday morning, but could use more in certain places. Soil temperature is getting about right for cotton and I expect that producers will be hustling to get it in as soon as it gets dry enough to run.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“We had a lot of corn and soybeans planted this past week. Attention is now on planting cotton.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“We need rain to get moisture back to the top of the ground for cotton planting.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Planting is continuing and we received a needed rain event over the weekend.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“Wheat appears to have low disease and insect pressure at this time. Emerged corn has developed well with the recent warm temperatures.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Soybean and rice planting are near completion. The rate of cotton planting slowed due to rain and cooler temperatures in the weather forecast. Some soybeans were replanted due to hail damage from two weeks ago. The same weather event destroyed some wheat fields.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Fields were getting dry until early Friday when rain and showers stopped planting and helped in emergence. Some producers held up planting due to weather fronts approaching and will complete planting when adequate moisture is available.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Field conditions are good following weekend rains. I expect full-scale cotton planting to begin this week.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Rains received the latter part of last week helped to eliminate the dry conditions that we had been experiencing. Some hay producers took advantage of the dry conditions and put up some pretty ryegrass hay. The much-needed rains should stimulate the growth of forages, row crops, yard grasses and gardens.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Rains on Friday were a welcomed event. Pastures and row crops jumped as a result. Field planting will resume this week. Pasture weed controls are going out in some areas of the county. Livestock are doing well.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Rain this past weekend was a welcomed event. We were extremely dry in most areas. The crops are already looking better since the rains. We are looking at more rain this week according to the weather people. We are still behind on total annual rainfall.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“We couldn’t be happier to see half an inch of rain. We are in need of more rain and the forecast has a 50% chance this week. We normally start planting at this time but we do not have enough moisture to consider starting.”

— Mike Steede, George

“We finally got rain! Adequate forage production in pastures is a month away from recovery if normal conditions continue. Vegetable crops on black plastic are doing well. New pine plantations may not survive.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Pastures need rain! Jackson County is 15-18 inches below normal rainfall for this time of year.”

— Walter E. Walker, Jackson

“As of Friday we are still in a drought situation. Ryegrass has matured and grazing is getting scarce. Some hay is being feed. Silage corn is looking bad due to lack of water.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Much-needed rain came Friday. Corn, grass and other crops are responding to the much-needed moisture. No cotton will be planted in the county this year. Cotton acres will go to corn and soybeans. Winter hay harvest is continuing with a fever pitch following last week's rain. Producers need several days of sunshine for proper curing and rain is again in the forecast for later this week.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“The lack of rainfall continues to be a problem for producers. Pastures and crops are showing the effects of the lack of moisture and with conditions as they are now it will take several days of continuous rainfall to see results.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“DRY! Corn, watermelons, wheat, forages and other home vegetables gardens are showing signs of the dry soils. These crops could use rain now or we could see long-term effects. Blueberry growers are running irrigation 24-7. Berries are developing rapidly and we should see good yields.”

— Allen W. McReynolds, Wayne

Additional comments appear on the Internet 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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**U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural
Statistics Service - Mississippi FO
Thomas L. Gregory, Director**

Weather Summary from April 17, 2006 to April 23, 2006 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													
Cleveland	93	56	74	63	+11	1.10	-0.09	2	3.60				
Lambert	94	52	74			1.39	+0.27	2	2.02				
Tunica	94	55	75	63	+12	2.14	+0.81	3	2.86				
Extreme/Average	94	52	74	64	+10	1.54	+0.28	2	3.23				
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	89	52	72	62	+10	1.22	-0.11	2	3.02				
Hickory Flat	92	56	74	61	+13	2.23	+0.97	2	5.11				
Independence	89	50	71	61	+10	1.70	+0.58	2	3.75				
Oxford	92	54	73	61	+12	0.05	-1.14	1	2.87				
Extreme/Average	92	50	72	62	+10	1.46	+0.20	2	3.02				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	91	54	73	61	+12	0.59	-0.60	2	3.62				
Iuka	88	46	69	59	+10	0.79	-0.38	3	3.51				
Ripley	91	53	73	60	+13	1.03	-0.23	2	4.03				
Tupelo	93	57	75			0.13		1	2.41				
Verona	93	56	74	62	+12	1.16	-0.03	1	4.77				
Extreme/Average	93	46	73	62	+11	0.74	-0.45	2	3.32				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	92	57	76	65	+11	1.16	-0.14	3	2.74				
Rolling Fork	95	56	76	65	+11	0.26	-1.01	1	0.70				
Stoneville	94	58	75	65	+10	1.94	+0.68	2	4.80				
Yazoo City	91	55	74	65	+9	0.45	-0.90	1	0.57				
Extreme/Average	95	55	76	65	+11	1.12	-0.18	2	2.75				
5. Central													
Canton	91	53	74	65	+9	0.87	-0.46	1	1.19				
Carthage	91	52	73	63	+10	0.00	-1.33	0	0.20				
Eupora	92	50	73	62	+11	0.40	-0.86	1	0.57				
Lexington	90	51	73	63	+10	1.20	-0.06	2	1.20				
Extreme/Average	92	50	73	63	+10	0.82	-0.51	1	1.19				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	92	54	74	62	+12	0.56	-0.63	2	2.25				
Houston	90	50	72	61	+11	1.90	+0.71	1	3.90				
Philadelphia	94	52	76	64	+12	1.03	-0.28	1	1.53				
State University	91	59	74	63	+11	0.40	-0.88	1	1.89				
Extreme/Average	94	50	73	63	+10	1.23	-0.06	2	2.25				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	91	54	75	66	+9	0.48	-0.90	1	0.63				
Natchez	91	53	75	66	+9	0.84	-0.55	1	1.06				
Oakley	92	51	72	64	+8	0.80	-0.56	1	0.90				
Vicksburg	90	56	74			1.65		1	2.01				
Extreme/Average	92	51	74	65	+9	0.64	-0.74	1	0.63				
8. South-Central													
Collins	91	53	75	65	+10	0.30	-0.96	1	0.79				
Columbia	92	53	76	66	+10	0.05	-1.30	1	0.32				
Tylertown	91	51	74	66	+8	0.26	-1.03	1	0.48				
Extreme/Average	92	51	75	66	+9	0.18	-1.15	1	0.56				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont													
Hattiesburg	93	52	75	66	+9	0.40	-0.86	1	0.40				
Laurel	91	52	74	65	+9	0.09	-1.10	1	0.43				
Newton				63		0.00	-1.36	0	0.45				
Extreme/Average	93	52	74	65	+9	0.09	-1.10	1	0.43				
10. Coastal													
Gulfport	85	60	75	69	+6	1.22	+0.06	2	1.22				
Pascagoula 3NE				66		0.60	-0.42	1	0.60				
Picayune				67					0.00				
Extreme/Average	85	60		67									
State	95	46	74	64	+10	0.82	-0.46	1	1.74				

DFN = Departure from Normal.