

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending April 30, 2006

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, April 30, 2006**. Rain that arrived last week was welcomed by most farm operators. Cooler temperatures slowed the emergence of row crops and plantings were delayed by rain throughout the state. Pastures have responded well to the much-needed rain. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent very short, 24 percent short, 60 percent adequate, and 14 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	99	98	92	96	0	2	19	66	13
	Emerged	93	87	81	85					
Cotton	Planted	57	36	37	38	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	33	16	14	15					
Peanuts	Planted	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Planted	91	73	77	64	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	72	38	44	37					
Sorghum	Planted	83	60	76	60	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	64	37	42	36					
Soybeans	Planted	87	77	60	58	0	0	12	78	10
	Emerged	74	58	35	38					
Wheat	Jointing	100	99	99	99	0	2	31	52	15
	Heading	95	88	87	85					
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	27	13	26	32	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Planted	64	50	83	82	--	--	--	--	--
Blueberries						0	1	35	56	8
Cattle						1	10	32	45	12
Pasture						3	6	36	49	6

County Agent Comments

“Over the weekend we received 1 to 2 inches of rain and rain is predicted to return mid-week. Producers need a good week of dry weather to clean up crops.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Cool temperatures slowed emergence and development of planted corn and soybeans. Cotton planting was delayed by the cooler temperatures.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Rain showers have made a difference in the crops. We definitely needed the moisture. It did slow the planting activities for a couple of days. In most areas, planting activities are in full swing. Possible rains this weekend could, again, slow the planting activities. We will deal with that as we face it. In most areas, we are still behind as far as soil moisture levels.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“We finally got much needed rain. It is too late for the ryegrass harvest but will boost the summer grasses. Cotton and peanut plantings have been pushed back because of the short moisture but should take off this week.”

— Mike Steede, George

“Rainfall has made a tremendous difference. Pastures have shown improvement. The result can be seen in corn fields as well as providing the needed moisture for cotton producers to begin field preparation for planting.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Weekend rains stopped all fieldwork. We need some warm temperatures and sunshine so we can finish planting and clean up some grass and weeds in our crops.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“The cold snap has stopped crops from growing. Extremely cool nights all week are weakening the vigor of the crops that have emerged. We have sufficient moisture but cotton producers are waiting out the storm front predicted for this weekend and hoping for warmer temperatures before planting.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Corn and soybean planting is near completion. Rain during the end of the week stopped all field activities.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Cool temps stopped cotton planting after Monday. Cotton that was planted Monday did not emerge as of Friday afternoon. Brown stink bugs are damaging some corn fields.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Weekend showers delayed some planting activities. We should be back in the field this week.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“Conditions for pasture and hay in Northeast Mississippi range from poor to good, depending on where rainfall has been received within the last 10 days. Ryegrass has been less than desirable this spring, largely due to low rainfall and above average temperatures. Warm-season pasture fertilization has gotten underway, however, few acres will be fertilized this year due to the excessively high cost of commercial fertilizer. Fly control measures in the beef herds have been initiated 30 to 40 days earlier than last year. Cool-season grasses harvested for hay will be significantly less than last year; primarily due to lack of rainfall which has held growth and production down.”

— Mike Howell, Lee

“Cool temperatures slowed emergence and development of planted corn and soybeans. Cotton planting was delayed by the cooler temperatures.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Corn planting is almost complete with a large reduction in number of acres planted. We are seeing insect damage in home gardens. Winter hay cutting has been slowed by cool temps and rain.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Cool weather slowed cotton planting activities.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Planting is almost complete. Weather from now until the middle of August will have more bearing on yields than the few problems we have had so far this spring.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Weekend rains have effectively recharged our soil profile. Planting will be delayed for most of the week.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Recent rains, cloudy days and soggy soils have stopped ryegrass hay harvest for several days. Pastures where chicken litter or commercial fertilizer have been applied are looking much greener. Some producers are still trying to spray hay fields and pastures between rains and high velocity wind days.”

— Houston Therell, Rankin

“Cotton planting is moving along. Rains this weekend will help germinate all crops planted last week into somewhat dry soils. There are no major insect problems yet.”

— Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Much needed rain finally came over the weekend and will help to fill ponds and give crops a needed boost.”

— Ruby D. Rankin, Kemper

“Pastures are doing well and improving with the rain on Sunday. Weekend rains of over an inch in most locations greatly improved crop prospects. Fieldwork was halted with rains late on Saturday.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Rains during last week were a blessing. Most growers will begin planting cotton and peanuts this week.”

— Mike Howell Covington

“Recent rains helped forage crops, however Jackson County is still 12 inches of rain below the norm for this time of year.”

— Walter E. Walker, Jackson

“Rain delayed some field operations but was welcomed by most producers. Rain did catch some winter hay crops on the ground and delayed baling by several days. Corn is looking better now that some rain has fallen. Pastures are also responding to the rain.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“Rain came on Tuesday afternoon, however only about a quarter of an inch was registered. This will help summer forages and other crops such as corn, soybean and watermelons. Cool-season hay is now being harvested. Blueberries continue to progress rapidly. Growers believe they will have an early harvest season.”

— 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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**Southern Regional Climate Center
Louisiana State University
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Service Climatologist**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural
Statistics Service - Mississippi FO
Thomas L. Gregory, Director**

Weather Summary from April 24, 2006 to April 30, 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	86	49	67	65	+2	1.79	+0.60	3	5.09				
Lambert	87	47	66			1.25	+0.10	2	3.27				
Tunica	87	50	67	65	+2	1.44	+0.11	2	3.99				
Extreme/Average	87	47	67	66	+1	1.62	+0.36	3	4.54				
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	83	42	63	64	-1	0.27	-1.06	3	2.90				
Hickory Flat	85	40	63	63	0	1.77	+0.51	3	6.38				
Independence	84	43	62	63	-1	2.33	+1.14	2	5.53				
Oxford	86	44	65	63	+2	1.03	-0.19	3	3.64				
Extreme/Average	86	40	63	64	-1	1.46	+0.20	3	4.22				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	85	43	64	63	+1	1.00	-0.28	3	3.84				
Iuka	83	35	60	60	0	0.98	-0.26	3	4.33				
Ripley	85	41	62	62	0	1.36	+0.10	2	4.60				
Tupelo	86	46	67			0.16 E		2	2.39				
Verona	86	41	67	64	+3	0.45	-0.68	2	4.02				
Extreme/Average	86	35	64	64	0	0.88	-0.38	3	3.79				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	87	50	68	67	+1	0.59	-0.67	3	2.90				
Rolling Fork	90	48	68	67	+1	0.98	-0.28	3	1.48				
Stoneville	88	51	68	67	+1	2.87	+1.61	3	7.38				
Yazoo City				67		1.35	+0.02	1	1.92				
Extreme/Average	90	48	68	67	+1	1.48	+0.17	3	3.92				
5. Central													
Canton	85	46	66	67	-1	0.67	-0.73	2	1.86				
Carthage	85	43	66	65	+1	1.65	+0.32	2	1.85				
Eupora	86	39	64	64	0	0.84	-0.36	2	1.24				
Lexington				65		0.20	-1.06	1	1.40				
Extreme/Average	86	39	66	65	+1	0.67	-0.65	2	1.86				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	87	44	67	64	+3	0.07	-1.14	2	2.22				
Houston	84	40	63	63	0	0.53	-0.66	3	4.25				
Philadelphia	87	54	71	66	+5	2.17	+0.91	2	3.70				
State University	85	44	66	65	+1	0.95	-0.30	1	2.75				
Extreme/Average	87	40	65	65	0	0.30	-0.96	3	3.24				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	86	49	68	67	+1	2.68	+1.39	3	3.31				
Natchez	86	47	67	68	-1	2.27	+0.94	3	3.31				
Oakley	87	44	64	66	-2	1.17	-0.10	1	2.07				
Vicksburg	85	49	67			2.39		3	4.40				
Extreme/Average	87	44	68	67	+1	2.45	+1.12	3	3.31				
8. South-Central													
Collins	85	50	68	67	+1	2.40	+1.10	2	2.85				
Columbia	88	51	69	68	+1	2.58	+1.25	3	2.70				
Tylertown	88	50	68	68	0	3.54	+2.21	3	3.85				
Extreme/Average	88	50	68	67	+1	2.84	+1.51	3	2.78				
9. Southeast													
Hattiesburg				68		2.40 E	+1.14	2	2.80				
Laurel	87	48	68	67	+1	1.60	+0.41	2	1.71				
Newton	87	43	66	65	+1	0.98	-0.26	2	2.15				
Extreme/Average	87	43	67	67	0	1.29	+0.10	2	1.71				
10. Coastal													
Gulfport				70		2.19 E	+0.99	3	3.41				
Pascagoula 3 NE				68		1.38	+0.27	1	1.98				
Picayune				68			-1.15	0					
Extreme/Average				69									
State	90	35	66	66	0	1.43	+0.15	3	3.11				

DFN = Departure from Normal.