

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending May 7, 2006

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, May 7, 2006**. This week's rain was a blessing for most emerging crops, but hindered field work later in the week. Even though the rain was needed, now farmers are anxious to get into their fields to control weeds. The rain continued to improve pasture conditions and hay harvesting should resume after a few more dry days. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 67 percent adequate, and 25 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	100	99	98	99	0	2	16	59	23
	Emerged	98	93	92	94					
Cotton	Planted	68	57	61	67	2	6	20	63	9
	Emerged	54	33	31	40					
Peanuts	Planted	25	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Planted	92	91	91	84	0	1	10	79	10
	Emerged	84	72	68	61					
Sorghum	Planted	92	83	90	80	0	0	7	93	0
	Emerged	84	64	71	61					
Soybeans	Planted	91	87	77	73	0	1	14	60	25
	Emerged	83	74	53	55					
Wheat	Jointing	100	100	100	100	0	2	28	57	13
	Heading	99	95	95	97					
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	35	27	37	48	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Planted	78	64	94	89	0	0	45	41	14
Blueberries						0	0	16	77	7
Cattle						1	6	32	50	11
Pasture						0	2	37	44	17

County Agent Comments

"Just as farmers were getting back into the field it rained again. We need a good 10-14 days to get the rest of the cotton and beans planted and to clean up what has started to grow."

— Mack Young, Quitman

"The cold snap had cotton farmers waiting on warmer soil temperatures. Now that the weather has gotten warmer, there is a lot of cotton going into the ground. Many acres of soybeans have had to be replanted for various reasons."

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

"We have had three half-inch rains in the past week which have halted planting operations."

— Danny Owen, Tishomingo

"Scattered showers are preventing progress on cotton planting. We need about a week of clear weather to complete planting."

— Ernest Flint, Attala

"Corn is looking better daily. Cool season hay harvest has been slowed by rain. More dry weather is needed to continue harvesting."

— Victor Lee, Newton

"Recent rains have helped, and more are expected this week-end. Grass is not responding well."

— Judith Breland, Stone

"Rains are keeping us out of the field. We need to control some weeds and grass and finish planting our rice, cotton and soybeans."

— Don Respass, Bolivar

"Rain stopped all field activities this past week. We need some dry weather to complete planting crops."

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Threat of rain Thursday stopped the planting of cotton. We received about one half inch Thursday night and more rain on Friday. If weather permits, we will start planting again Monday morning.”

— Stephen R. Winters Grenada

“Planting in northern counties has been delayed by frequent rainfall. Emerged soybeans and corn are growing slowly due to cool temperatures and cloudy weather.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“With very limited exceptions, soybean and rice planting has been completed. Cotton planting continues to progress well, although rains have slowed the planting process. Overall, the crops are looking good.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Thunderstorms created very general showers and downpours over the county Thursday night. Most producers received an adequate amount to bring up their crops. Most all planting has been completed. Insects in corn and soybeans are creating concerns.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Rains last weekend and this week are bringing growing conditions to an excellent level. Fieldwork was stopped Thursday with thunder showers and general rains Friday. It will be midweek before fieldwork can resume.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Thursday, as I traveled through the counties, the planters were wide open. Planting activities were everywhere. The farmers were planting ahead of the predicted rains. In most areas there were definitely rains Thursday night. I received 2.5 inches at my house. Along with the rain was wind and lightning. We went from dry to wet in a hurry. The grass in the pastures needed the rain, as did the row crop fields. The planted cotton seed received a good soaking. Cotton and soybeans look good at this point in time. Corn is growing good as well.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“Recent rains have made a great difference. Pastures are growing and corn has responded well. Very little ryegrass hay has been put up. Weeds in pastures are really growing. Cotton and peanuts are being planted. Some planted fields are up and growing.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Planting has started and everyone is trying to play catch-up. The rain really made a difference in the summer grasses that are beginning to grow.”

— Mike Steede, George

“Most of the area received over 2.5 inches of rain this past week. Pastures are looking a lot better! It's too late to help the ryegrass hay situation in most cases. We can expect ryegrass hay production losses over 50 percent due to drought.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Pastures are turning green and producers are in the process of cutting hay in the pastures that had minimal growth. Cotton producers have enough moisture to finalize planting. Corn and watermelon stands are showing marked improvements.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“We've gotten rain and everything is growing.”

— Allen W. McReynolds, Wayne

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

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Weather Summary from May 1, 2006 to May 7, 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	58	69	68	+1	0.85	-0.33	4	3.74				
Lambert	88	56	69			2.09	+0.82	3	4.73				
Tunica	88	56	69	67	+2	2.96	+1.63	5	6.54				
Extreme/Average	88	56	69	68	+1	1.97	+0.71	4	5.14				
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	84	53	67	66	+1	0.82	-0.44	4	2.31				
Hickory Flat	86	51	66	65	+1	1.54E	+0.28	4	5.54 E				
Independence	84	50	66	65	+1	1.75	+0.56	5	5.78				
Oxford	86	52	67	65	+2	1.69E	+0.43	5	2.77 E				
Extreme/Average	86	50	67	66	+1	1.45	+0.19	5	4.05				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	86	58	69	65	+4	1.30	-0.08	4	2.89				
Iuka	82	45	64	62	+2	1.04	-0.33	5	2.81				
Ripley	86	51	66	64	+2	1.42	+0.16	4	3.81				
Tupelo	87	54	69			2.51		4	2.80				
Verona	86	55	68	66	+2	2.05	+0.93	5	3.66				
Extreme/Average	87	45	67	66	+1	1.66	+0.34	4	3.08				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	86	59	71	69	+2	0.72	-0.54	4	2.47				
Rolling Fork	87	59	73	69	+4	1.14	-0.12	2	2.38				
Stoneville	87	58	71	69	+2	0.55	-0.71	2	5.36				
Yazoo City				69		1.25E	-0.08	2	3.05 E				
Extreme/Average	87	58	72	69	+3	0.92	-0.41	3	3.40				
5. Central													
Canton				69		1.05	-0.35	2	2.59				
Carthage	85	50	69	67	+2	1.90E	+0.57	4	3.55 E				
Eupora	83	53	68	66	+2	0.33E	-0.87	2	1.57 E				
Lexington				67		0.74	-0.49	3	2.14				
Extreme/Average	85	50	69	67	+2	1.01	-0.25	3	2.59				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	86	55	68	66	+2	1.17	-0.08	4	1.80				
Houston	84	51	66	65	+1	0.90	-0.33	4	3.33				
Philadelphia				68		2.60E	+1.34	3	5.80 E				
State University	86	57	70	67	+3	0.72	-0.47	3	2.07				
Extreme/Average	86	51	68	67	+1	1.35	+0.12	4	2.57				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	86	57	71	69	+2	1.98	+0.80	3	5.14				
Natchez	85	52	71	70	+1	1.18	-0.12	3	4.29				
Oakley	88	53	70	68	+2	2.25	+1.09	2	4.22				
Vicksburg	85	60	72			3.31E		3	7.35 E				
Extreme/Average	88	52	72	69	+3	2.16	+0.87	3	4.72				
8. South-Central													
Collins	85	62	72	68	+4	1.55	+0.20	1	4.25				
Columbia	86	60	73	70	+3	0.27	-1.06	3	2.90				
Tylertown	86	54	72	70	+2	0.49	-0.84	3	4.29				
Extreme/Average	86	54	72	69	+3	0.77	-0.56	2	3.58				
9. Southeast													
Hattiesburg				70		0.44	-0.82	2	3.24				
Laurel	85	61	72	69	+3	2.66	+1.43	4	4.35				
Newton	85	57	70	67	+3	3.23	+2.14	4	5.21				
Extreme/Average	85	57	72	69	+3	1.55	+0.36	3	4.35				
10. Coastal													
Gulfport	86	63	75	72	+3	0.06	-1.20	1	3.47				
Pascagoula 3 NE				70		1.05	-0.19	1	3.03				
Picayune				70					0.00				
Extreme/Average	86	63	75	71	+4	0.56	-0.73	1					
State	88	45	70	68	+2	1.36	+0.09	3	3.69				

DFN = Departure from Normal.