



Weekly Weather Crop Report



Mississippi
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending May 11, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 4.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending May 11, 2003**. Dry conditions in the southern half of the state, coupled with very wet and stormy conditions in the northern half, made for a variable weather week across the state. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent very short, 25 percent short, 41 percent adequate and 31 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	99	99	100	98	0	6	18	53	23
	Emerged	97	95	97	93					
Cotton	Planted	73	64	68	65	0	8	24	56	12
	Emerged	60	30	47	40					
Rice	Planted	85	69	83	84	0	2	22	58	18
	Emerged	65	35	66	62					
Sorghum	Planted	85	70	73	77	0	1	18	69	12
	Emerged	70	49	54	61					
Soybeans	Planted	73	68	62	58	1	9	26	54	10
	Emerged	61	48	45	42					
Wheat	Heading	100	96	100	96	0	6	45	45	4
	Mature	2	--	5	5					
Sweetpotatoes	Planted	1	--	2	3	--	--	--	--	--
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	63	50	56	48	3	6	47	41	3
Hay (Warm Season)		3	--	NA	NA					
Watermelons	Planted	94	90	93	79	0	3	26	47	24
Cattle						2	6	20	61	11
Pasture						2	10	32	48	8

County Agent Comments

“Wind and rains have delayed weed control efforts on the crops that are planted. Some of the crops are getting wooly and may have to be sprayed by air if it rains mid-week.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“There will be some re-planting in all row crops due to flooding and excessive rains.”

— Steve Cummings, Yalobusha

“Due to wet, cool weather from the previous weeks, we're having numerous reports and calls to the office on fire blight in pear and apple trees. Good rain over the weekend should help to germinate cotton and soybeans.”

— Karen Benson, Attala

“A lot of cool season hay was harvested last week. Expected rain this week may delay hay harvest. Corn planting is complete. Soil moisture conditions have become dry.”

— Shelby Bearden, Copiah

“Dry weather has helped farmers harvest ryegrass hay and improved conditions for watermelon production.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Dry weather conditions continue in South Mississippi making it more difficult on forages, row crops, and livestock.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

“Heavy rains with 8-plus inches hurt crops in the north part of the county, but the 2 inches in the south part of the county was just right. Wheat has armyworms, but hopefully the crop is mature enough that they will not hurt.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Crops that had been planted but not yet emerged, were pounded into the ground by heavy rains and will likely be re-planted. The crop that was affected the most was cotton. By the time it is dry enough to get back into the field we will be able to tell if re-planting is necessary. There is a lot of acreage under water and 95% of it is ruined. Corn was blown over, but a high percentage of that should recover.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“We had several tornados and thunderstorms last week that stopped all field work. Farmers will continue planting corn, soybeans, and cotton when the weather permits.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“It would have been dry enough to start fieldwork again Monday, except we got 1 inch of rain Saturday night. Total rain last week was 5-12 inches, depending on where you were in the county.”

— Stephen Winters, Grenada

“Too much rain has caused delayed planting and damage to crops in low areas of fields. Pastures and hay fields are looking very good now, but no harvesting of hay yet. Cattle are doing very well also.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

“The northern part of the county is getting a good amount of rain while the southern part is getting little or none. We need a good rain in order to start back planting.”

— Andy Braswell, Leflore

“We got a general type of rain early Saturday morning over much of the county. This should bring up the dry fields that were planted in the south end of the county. Crops look much better after the rain.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Some areas in Rankin County were almost too dry to plant prior to the last rain which amounted to around ½ inch. This allowed planting to continue, but won't last long. Although a shower was received Sunday morning, we will need another rain to germinate cotton and soybean seed in some fields with high ridges that dry out quickly.”

— Sonia Hancock, Rankin

“Corn planting is completed and soybean planting is reaching the mid-point. Saturday night rains have halted planting for at least a few days. Pastures are in excellent condition.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Dry, Dry, Dry! It is always amazing how quickly we can go from plenty of moisture to basically none. The corn crop is in bad need of a good soaking rain. That rain would also help summer pastures get going. The forecast does not look too favorable.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“The latest forecast of the Mississippi River stage at Vicksburg of 42 feet would flood hundreds of acres of corn and soybeans. Producers have stopped planting beans in low lying areas.”

— Terry Rector, Warren

“Due to the dry weather of the past couple of weeks, ryegrass hay and the first cutting of bermuda grass hay were cut and baled without being rained on. Although hay making weather has been excellent, soil moisture is now short. Pastures are going backwards and the crops need a rain. The last moisture that only a part of Lamar county received was on April 24th, and was in the form of hail. Temperatures have also been above average.”

— Clayton Rouse, Lamar

“Soil moisture shortage is getting critical. We desperately need rain to revive the corn crop and summer pastures. Milk production is rapidly declining due to reduced pasture quality and the onset of very hot and humid weather. Many dairy farmers continue exploring options to exit the dairy business in response to the current milk price crisis. Unfavorable weather conditions will add further insult to the injury dairy producers continue to face.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“We are getting dry and need a good general soaking rain. Lots of ryegrass hay has been harvested. Cattle are looking better. Summer pasture is growing and most beef producers are putting out some fertilizer.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Rain and stormy weather hit the county again last week. Rain was welcomed as soil moisture was getting short in some areas. Winter hay harvest will continue this week. Herbicide applications on corn, cotton, and soybeans will also continue. Crops are looking good so far.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“One producer reported that he had cut hay behind a hail storm on May 3rd that damaged 10% of the crop, otherwise the crop was in good condition. If the weather holds, cool season hay cutting and baling should be completed by the end of the week. Cool season hay at this time is in good condition considering the adverse weather conditions of the last month.”

— 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:

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Weather Summary from May 5, 2003 to May 11, 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				67		4.60E	+3.34	4	6.49E				
Cleveland	89	64	78	69	+9	3.51	+2.37	3	4.14				
Tunica	90	60	78	68	+10	3.13	+1.80	3	5.88	84	71	76	0.31
Extreme/Average	90	60	78	69	+9	3.32	+2.06	3	5.01	84	71	76	0.31
2. North-Central													
Batesville				67		5.63	+4.39	3	8.11				
Calhoun City	87	63	75	67	+8	6.26	+5.00	3	8.99				
Independence	85	60	76	66	+10	3.65	+2.44	4	5.79				
Oxford				66		4.70E	+3.42	4	6.18E				
Extreme/Average	87	60	76	67	+9	5.18	+3.85	3	7.63				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	87	61	74	66	+8	3.18	+1.75	4	7.61				
Corinth City				68		3.50E	+2.17	2	6.85E				
Iuka				63									
Ripley				66		2.21	+0.95	4	5.94				
Tupelo						6.74		4	10.59				
Extreme/Average	87	61	74	68	+6	3.91	+2.58	4	7.75				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				70		1.00E	-0.47	3	1.70E				
Rolling Fork	92	65	80	70	+10	2.32	+1.08	3	3.07	95	81	86	
Stoneville	92	59	78	70	+8	0.96	-0.30	2	2.42	90	73	81	0.23
Yazoo City	90	68	79	70	+9	1.01	-0.32	3	1.81				
Extreme/Average	92	59	79	71	+8	1.32	+0.08	3	2.25	95	73	83	0.23
5. Central													
Canton				70		0.54	-0.86	1	4.08				
Carthage	89	71	80	68	+12	0.44	-0.89	2	5.84				
Lexington				68									
Eupora	89	58	76	67	+9	2.42	+1.23	4	3.84				
Extreme/Average	89	58	78	69	+9	1.13	-0.12	2	4.59				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen				67		6.33	+5.07	3	8.25				0.25
Houston	87	57	74	66	+8	7.20	+5.94	4	9.62				
Louisville	88	69	78	67	+11	0.71	-0.54	3	2.91				
State University	90	59	77	68	+9	0.98	-0.19	4	3.23	82	71	76	0.18
Extreme/Average	90	57	76	69	+7	3.81	+2.64	4	6.00	82	71	76	0.20
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	91	68	80	70	+10	0.00	-1.13	0	0.60	93	79	85	
Natchez	91	73	81	71	+10	0.00	-1.26	0	0.61				
Oakley	92	64	80	69	+11	1.88	+0.76	3	5.52	92	77	84	
Vicksburg	89	69	80			0.84		2	1.62				
Extreme/Average	92	64	80	71	+9	0.68	-0.58	1	2.09	93	77	85	
8. South-Central													
Collins	92	65	81	69	+12	0.00	-1.39	0	1.44				
Columbia	91	69	81	71	+10	0.00	-1.30	0	1.68				
Tylertown	90	71	80	71	+9	0.00	-1.33	0	0.78				
Extreme/Average	92	65	81	71	+10	0.00	-1.27	0	1.30				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	93	71	81			0.00		0	2.55				
Hattiesburg	90	72	80	71	+9	0.10	-1.16	1	1.90				
Laurel	92	68	81	69	+12	0.00	-1.26	0	0.43				
Newton	90	64	79	68	+11	0.00	-1.02	0	4.34	80	70	76	0.26
Extreme/Average	93	64	80	70	+10	0.03	-1.08	0	2.31	80	70	76	0.26
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	91	68	81	72	+9	0.00	-1.32	0	0.06				
Gulfport	89	78	82	73	+9	0.00	-1.30	0	1.40				
Pascagoula	85	78	82	71	+11	0.04	-1.27	1	0.17				
Poplarville	91	72	81	72	+9	0.00	-1.32	0	0.44	94	75	83	0.28
Waveland	88	77	83	72	+11	0.00	-1.26	0	1.11				
Extreme/Average	91	68	82	73	+9	0.01	-1.11	0	0.75	94	75	83	0.28
State	93	57	79	70	+9	1.82	+0.59	2	3.90	95	70	80	0.23

DFN = Departure from Normal.