



Weekly Weather Crop Report



Mississippi
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending May 18, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 3.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending May 18, 2003**. Heavy rains fell across most of the state, bringing relief to some and grief for others. Statewide, the rainfall average is nearly two inches above normal. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent very short, 12 percent short, 41 percent adequate and 44 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	100	99	100	100	1	7	21	49	22
	Emerged	98	97	100	97					
Cotton	Planted	82	73	80	84	1	10	28	46	15
	Emerged	71	60	59	63					
Rice	Planted	89	85	90	92	0	8	18	55	19
	Emerged	81	65	79	78					
Sorghum	Planted	93	85	86	86	0	7	13	65	15
	Emerged	85	70	74	76					
Soybeans	Planted	78	73	71	73	1	10	22	54	13
	Emerged	70	61	56	56					
Wheat	Mature	12	2	15	17	0	11	43	34	12
Sweetpotatoes	Planted	5	1	5	8	--	--	--	--	--
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	75	63	69	63	3	10	27	50	10
Hay (Warm Season)		7	3	0	4					
Watermelons	Planted	97	94	98	83	0	16	40	37	7
Cattle						2	7	23	53	15
Pasture						3	11	29	48	9

County Agent Comments

“Coahoma County has received over 15 inches of rain in May with more in the forecast. Friday night and Saturday rains dumped over 6 inches on most of the county. Crops on well drained soils where water is not backed up look good; however, there are a lot of acres that are under water.”

— Ann Ruscoe, Coahoma

“Producers are getting very nervous. We received 3-5 inches of rain across the county over the weekend. As of today we have received 6.87 inches during the month of May. Half of the intended cotton acreage has not been planted and 25 percent of the intended rice acreage has not been planted. With more rain in the immediate forecast, some planting intentions are likely to change.”

— Anthony Bland, Tunica

“Recent heavy rains have again postponed all field activities. Rain totals for the last week exceeded 6 inches in most areas. Several hundred acres of corn will have to be re-planted due to rains that occurred more than a week ago.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“Cycles of wet weather continue to move over the county hindering planting progress on row crops. Some corn acreage went underwater during the week and will be lost. Soybean planting is at a standstill. Cool season hay harvest is being slowed. No warm season hay has been cut yet. Pastures are looking very good.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“The rain came just in time to save the corn. Most cattle are in good shape. Summer pasture grasses should really come out after this rain.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Rains continue to hammer Quitman county with more in the forecast. Producers need some dry weather to finish planting and get this crop cleaned up.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Rains kept farmers out of the field all week. The crops are getting pretty grassy.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“There has been plenty of rain and tornados in our area. Farmers have not been able to plant crops the last few weeks and it doesn't look like any planting will be done this week.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Rain is keeping us out of the field. We have a little cotton to re-plant but we need to get the other 20% in the ground for the first time.”

— Stephen Winters, Grenada

“Excessive rain has caused all kinds of problems for producers. Flooding, drifts, erosion, and delayed planting are some of the major ones. The chance of field work this week is very remote. All crops are behind normal development at this time.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

“Heavy rains late last week and early this week have flooded some corn. Edges are showing signs of damage. Insect pressure has increased in vegetable crops. Winter hay needs dry weather to harvest. Overall, a few dry days would be a blessing.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Cooler and damper conditions with high winds held most field work to a minimum. Hooded sprayers were the predominate field work done last week.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“We are beginning to get home garden calls mostly related to aphids, slugs, and possible herbicide drift. We had drenching rains over the weekend. It's too early to tell how this affected our cotton fields. We believe some to be underwater, and if this is the case, we expect loss of fields.”

— Karen Benson, Attala

“Rain again this week put an end to field crop activities. Some rain was welcome due to the dry situation. We need dry weather conditions to continue hay harvesting.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“Soil is pretty saturated at this point.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Some areas were almost too dry to plant prior to the last rain which gave that area around ½ inch. This allowed planting to continue, but it won't last long. We will need another rain to germinate cotton and soybean seed in some fields with high ridges that dry out quickly.”

— Anita Webb, Scott

“Continued dry weather has corn beginning to show signs of stress. Cool-season hay harvest is about complete, but summer pastures and hay crops have been slowed due to the lack of rainfall.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“Rains this past week have helped boost corn, pasture, and warm season hay. We have not received the amounts of rain that others in the state have and could use some additional moisture.”

— Mark Mowdy, Franklin

“We received some much needed rain that should get forages up and going, but not enough to sustain it.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“We are still very dry and waiting for a nice, gentle, deep-soaking rain shower.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Rain showers this week were welcomed but we still need a good soaking general rain. Lots of ryegrass hay is being cut. Cattle body condition is really improving from a bad winter. Many pines have brown needle cast.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“There have been reports of some hail damage in isolated areas from storms over the last two days, which also brought three inches of needed rain.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“We received scattered showers throughout the county.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Rain has again delayed some field operations; however, the showers were needed by all crops except winter hay. Some hay was rained on and harvest was delayed in other fields. Crops are off to a good start this year, particularly corn.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“Thunderstorms moved through the area of south Mississippi over the weekend giving some relief to the dry conditions that have lingered for the past several weeks. Some areas of the county have not seen rain in over six weeks!”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

“Beneficial rainfall on Saturday evening has increased soil moisture. Row crops have improved with this added soil moisture and will continue their rapid growth. Corn has been replanted in fields where there was significant hail damage.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“There has been very little rainfall for the first half of the month.”

— Judy Breland, Stone

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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Statistics Service
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Weather Summary from May 12, 2003 to May 18, 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				70		6.01 E	+4.75	4	12.61 E				
Cleveland	88	54	71	71	0	1.44	+0.32	4	5.58				
Tunica	85	59	72	70	+2	4.34	+3.02	4	9.30	83	65	74	0.23
Extreme/Average	88	54	71	71	0	3.93	+2.67	4	9.16	83	65	74	0.23
2. North-Central													
Batesville	86	51	70	69	+1	7.40	+6.14	3	15.14				
Calhoun City	86	48	68	69	-1	4.61	+3.37	4	13.56				
Independence	83	50	66	68	-2	5.27	+4.01	4	10.47				
Oxford				68		3.00 E	+1.67	4	10.57 E				
Extreme/Average	86	48	68	69	-1	5.76	+4.49	4	13.06				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	82	52	68	68	0	6.23	+4.76	4	13.21				
Corinth City				70		4.00 E	+2.67	4	9.40 E				
Ripley				67		4.80	+3.55	4	10.20				
Tupelo						2.59		4	12.77				
Extreme/Average	82	52	68	69	-1	4.54	+3.27	4	12.06				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	90	58	76	72	+4	1.18 E	-0.28	2	2.88 E	91	68	83	
Rolling Fork	82	54	70	72	-2	0.92	-0.27	3	3.99	88	72	78	
Stoneville	89	55	71	72	-1	1.08	-0.11	3	3.50	88	70	77	0.23
Yazoo City	87	51	70	72	-2	1.40	+0.11	2	3.21				
Extreme/Average	90	51	72	72	0	1.15	-0.04	3	3.40	91	68	79	0.23
5. Central													
Canton				72		2.63	+1.30	4	6.71				
Carthage	86	48	70	70	0	2.64	+1.39	3	8.48				
Eupora	84	46	67	69	-2	3.58	+2.39	3	7.40				
Extreme/Average	86	46	68	71	-3	2.95	+1.76	3	7.53				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	86	51	69	69	0	2.86	+1.60	5	11.01				0.20
Houston	85	45	67	68	-1	3.83	+2.57	5	13.42				
Louisville	85	60	71	69	+2	1.51	+0.32	3	4.42				
State University	87	49	70	70	0	4.12	+3.00	4	7.29	79	69	73	0.19
Extreme/Average	87	45	69	70	-1	3.08	+1.98	4	9.04	79	69	73	0.20
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	86	54	70	72	-2	2.64 E	+1.59	4	3.24 E		90	70	77
Natchez	90	57	73	73	0	2.86	+1.60	5	3.47				
Oakley	89	52	71	71	0	2.73	+1.68	2	8.25	87	71	78	
Vicksburg	87	55	72			3.33		4	4.95				
Extreme/Average	90	52	72	72	0	2.89	+1.65	4	4.98	90	70	78	
8. South-Central													
Collins	90	53	74	71	+3	2.24	+0.89	2	3.68				
Columbia	91	61	74	73	+1	0.84	-0.42	3	2.52				
Tylertown	90	58	76	73	+3	1.18	-0.14	2	1.96				
Extreme/Average	91	53	74	72	+2	1.42	+0.16	2	2.72				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	92	53	74			0.96		4	3.51				
Hattiesburg	90	56	76	73	+3	1.20	-0.01	3	3.10				
Laurel	91	52	73	72	+1	3.88	+2.66	3	4.31				
Newton	88	48	70	70	0	1.75	+0.82	3	6.09	79	65	72	0.17
Extreme/Average	92	48	73	72	+1	1.95	+0.90	3	4.25	79	65	72	0.17
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	92	60	77	73	+4	0.16 E	-1.15	2	0.22 E				
Gulfport	88	62	78	75	+3	4.27	+2.94	3	4.77				
Pascagoula				72		4.60 E	+3.21	2	4.77 E				
Poplarville	94	60	77	73	+4	0.43	-0.85	2	0.87	92	68	81	0.21
Waveland	91	63	78	74	+4	2.88	+1.67	2	3.99				
Extreme/Average	94	60	77	74	+3	2.47	+1.34	2	2.92	92	68	81	0.21
State	94	45	71	71	0	2.96	+1.78	3	6.79	92	65	76	0.20

DFN = Departure from Normal.