



Weekly Weather Crop Report



Mississippi
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending July 6, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 3.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending July 7, 2003**. Tropical Storm Bill dumped heavy amounts of rain across the southern and eastern parts of the State. Hay harvesting and controlling weeds in row crops have been stalled by the excess moisture. Soil moisture was rated 4 percent short, 42 percent adequate and 54 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	Silked	93	87	90	94	1	1	18	52	28
	Dough	63	37	51	64					
	Dent	18	4	16	26					
	Silage Harvested	2	--	7	3					
Cotton	Squaring	77	64	80	92	2	6	18	53	21
	Setting Bolls	35	12	38	45					
Rice	Heading	10	6	6	9	0	3	17	63	17
Sorghum	Heading	54	39	47	52	0	0	25	63	12
Soybeans	Emerged	100	98	100	100	0	4	22	49	25
	Blooming	67	52	52	65					
	Setting Pods	37	20	NA	33					
Wheat	Harvested	100	96	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	51	50	52	52	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Planted	88	75	97	97	1	11	20	64	4
Watermelons	Harvested	49	30	47	34	1	6	50	31	12
Blueberries						0	3	39	47	11
Cattle						0	3	23	55	19
Pasture						0	8	23	56	13

County Agent Comments

“Soybean planting for the most part finished up last week. Scattered short showers were welcome in some of the hill areas that had started getting a little dry. For the most part, we're 2 to 3 weeks behind the state as far as crop emergence and growth.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“More rain has come to the area that was not needed. We are very saturated, with weed problems getting out of hand in some areas.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Heavy rains across the county last week have hindered many activities. Cattle producers have an abundance of grass for livestock to graze on.”

— Ruby D. Rankin, Kemper

“Continued rains have slowed all fieldwork. The corn looks very good as producers prepare to harvest for corn silage, but we will need some drier weather. Summer hay harvest is virtually at a standstill, with the frequent rains. Garden and lawn diseases are beginning to show up due to the wet weather.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“There is an increase of disease pressure in watermelons due to excessive moisture. Wet soil conditions will not allow melons to get ripe and they have also lowered the quality of blueberries. There has been no chance for curing hay in the past couple of weeks. Overall, pastures are doing great, especially those that were fertilized earlier. About the only field work going on at present is some pasture weed control and fertilization between showers.”

— Clayton Rouse, Lamar

“Rains over the weekend were very helpful. Crops look good with very few problems.”

— Don Respess, Bolivar

“Hay was harvested between showers. The quality of hay appears to be pretty high this year. Rain was welcomed the latter part of the week. Cotton showed signs of improvement with mid-season rains. The crop varies in size and age more than I can ever remember.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Rain from Tropical Storm Bill gave us 2 inches we really did not need right now. Cotton has really started blooming this week and Pix is going out right and left. We are using heavy rates of 12 to 16 ounces for our first shot. Some of this cotton has gotten big before blooming!”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Showers fell over much of the county over the weekend. Irrigation is still taking place, so that schedules can be met as it dries. Insect pressure has not been a major factor so far.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Rains over the weekend will likely cover the area. Weeds are getting out of hand in some areas because of heavy rains keeping equipment out of fields.”

— Sonia Hancock, Rankin

“Crop conditions vary throughout the county. Re-planted soybeans have emerged over the past week, while others are blooming. Wet conditions have made for a wide range in crop maturity. Hay harvest is behind schedule due to rains. The first cutting is over mature and some fields were lost after cutting. Pastures are green and growing, but there are still many muddy places in pastures.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“We have received over 5 inches of rain already in July. Rain storms usually don't last long but come quick and heavy.”

— Carolyn Conger, Covington

“Daily rains have stopped just about all farmwork. Loggers can't get into the woods due to wet conditions. One rain amounted to over six inches in some locations of the county. Some flash flooding has occurred. Rain needs to let up to allow weed control measures in cotton and peanuts. Some beef producers want to cut hay and some want to combine some seed. Some gardens have been lost to drenched soils.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Excessive rainfall is still a problem. The delay in hay harvest will reduce the quality of forage production.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Permanent summer hay fields need harvesting! Bahia and Bermuda hay are past the ideal cutting stage due to excessive rains.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Excessive rain from Tropical Storm Bill has delayed the cutting of summer hay and has caused major problems for watermelon producers getting melons out of the field.”

— 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 June 30, 2003 to July 6, 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				80		0.95	-0.17	3	3.24				
Cleveland	91	69	81	82	-1	1.44E	+0.50	3	4.41E				
Tunica				81		0.88	-0.15	1	4.47				0.26
Extreme/Average	91	69	81	82	-1	1.09	+0.11	2	4.04				0.26
2. North-Central													
Batesville				80		0.33	-0.76	2	4.77				
Calhoun City				79		1.18	+0.14	3	5.12				
Independence				79		0.35	-0.64	2	4.08				
Oxford	93	65	79	79	0	1.74	+0.76	3	3.27				
Extreme/Average	93	65	79	80	-1	0.90	-0.04	3	4.31				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	87	67	78	78	0	0.24	-0.74	2	3.55				
Corinth City				80		0.36E	-0.62	2	1.77E				
Iuka	91	60	74	76	-2	0.43	-0.55	4	2.49				
Ripley				78		0.16	-0.96	1	4.01				
Tupelo	91	68	78	79		0.52		4	5.98				
Extreme/Average	91	60	77	79	-2	0.34	-0.61	3	4.01				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	93	71	81	81	0	1.60	+0.50	2	6.17	100	83	95	
Rolling Fork	99	71	82	81	+1	1.20	+0.22	3	5.10	105	85	94	
Stoneville	93	70	80	82	-2	1.53	+0.57	4	7.32	100	77	87	0.26
Yazoo City	92	69	79	82	-3	0.93	+0.02	1	7.38				
Extreme/Average	99	69	81	82	-1	1.32	+0.30	3	6.49	105	77	92	0.26
5. Central													
Canton	90	67	78	81	-3	0.64	-0.16	3	7.21				
Carthage	90	67	77	80	-3	1.60	+0.68	3	8.				
Eupora				79		2.83	+1.85	3	6.56				
Extreme/Average	90	67	78	80	-2	1.69	+0.70	3	7.31				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	92	66	78	79	-1	1.20	+0.25	2	5.09				0.30
Houston	89	64	76	79	-3	1.45	+0.38	4	9.29				
Louisville	89	67	77	79	-2	4.18	+3.02	5	9.90				
State University	91	66	78	81	-3	1.64	+0.66	3	5.26	87	76	81	0.18
Extreme/Average	92	64	77	80	-3	2.12	+1.01	4	7.39	87	76	81	0.22
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	91	68	78	81	-3	4.43	+3.28	5	11.32	97	72	82	
Natchez	91	70	79	81	-2	0.70	-0.28	3	5.85				
Oakley	96	70	81	81	0	0.04	-0.91	1	6.70	100	80	90	
Vicksburg	92	71	80			0.70		3	6.09				
Extreme/Average	96	68	79	81	-2	1.47	+0.43	3	7.49	100	72	86	
8. South-Central													
Collins	89	70	79	80	-1	4.17	+3.14	5	9.41				
Columbia	93	71	78	81	-3	4.37	+3.12	5	10.64				
Tylertown	90	69	79	80	-1	6.17	+4.87	4	11.57				
Extreme/Average	93	69	79	81	-2	4.90	+3.80	5	10.54				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont						9.49E		4	15.21E				
Hattiesburg				81		9.20E	+8.02	4	15.41E				
Laurel	91	70	78	81	-3	5.68	+4.54	6	9.99				
Newton	92	66	77	80	-3	5.17	+4.10	6	12.14	83	73	77	0.21
Extreme/Average	92	66	78	81	-3	7.39	+6.27	5	13.19	83	73	77	0.21
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	91	69	78	82	-4	8.89	+7.43	3	14.34				
Gulfport	90	73	83	82	+1	7.44	+5.97	6	16.01				
Pascagoula				80		10.84E	+9.30	5	14.82E				
Poplarville	92	69	78	81	-3	9.46	+8.10	7	14.86	90	72	80	
Waveland	87	71	79	81	-2	8.37	+6.93	6	14.63				
Extreme/Average	92	69	79	82	-3	9.00	+7.68	5	14.93	90	72	80	
State	99	60	79	81	-2	3.03	+1.98	4	8.13	105	72	83	0.24

DFN = Departure from Normal.