



Weekly Weather Crop Report



Mississippi
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending July 27, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending July 27, 2003**. Insect pressure remains light but producers are watching and ready to spray if needed. Hot temperatures are maturing crop rapidly and soil moisture is fading fast. Soil moisture was rated 6 percent very short, 21 percent short, 65 percent adequate and 8 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	Dough	92	87	94	94	1	2	11	53	33
	Dent	63	55	73	74					
	Silage Harvested	51	26	39	37					
Cotton	Squaring	96	93	100	100	2	6	17	50	25
	Setting Bolls	77	70	94	96					
Rice	Heading	68	43	50	47	0	2	13	58	27
Sorghum	Heading	94	82	98	95	0	0	15	58	27
	Turning Color	50	27	51	43					
Soybeans	Blooming	90	87	92	94	0	4	18	49	29
	Setting Pods	78	70	70	76					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	68	66	67	67	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Harvested	95	85	87	75	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes						1	3	29	23	44
Cattle						0	4	15	59	22
Pasture						0	2	16	61	21

County Agent Comments

“Ninety percent of the county is in need of a rain. Everyone who can irrigate is pumping water. Some areas have been dry since the first week of July.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“It has been two weeks since the last rain. Some yards are starting to show drought stress. The cotton is looking good except for some that does not want to straighten up after the wind storm two weeks ago.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Most of the county needs rain. Irrigation systems are being run at capacity. Non-irrigated cotton is wilting at mid-day because of shallow roots resulting from excessive rains during early season. The oldest corn is approaching black layer, but needs more moisture for higher yields. Soybeans that can be irrigated are receiving water, but non-irrigated fields are beginning to show signs of moisture stress.”

— Ernie Flint, Carroll

“Temperatures moderated during the past week, heating up somewhat Friday through Sunday. Soybeans are podding and corn is progressing well. Cattlemen are still very concerned about a short hay crop. Many are still on their first cutting due to wet weather. Calves are beginning to be readied for weaning and marketing. Some have already been marketed for winter and early spring. Timber is growing well this year. It is as green as it gets for late July in our area.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Recent rains are still delaying the total harvest of watermelons as well as preventing producers from cutting and baling hay. Producers have reported that they are two to three weeks behind in cutting and baling hay. After being cut some hay has been lost due to heavy rains.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“There has been so much rain this growing season that there are some producers in the county just now putting out poly pipe. They just haven't needed to water until now. Crops are looking good overall, but the growth stages are so variable.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“We need a rain. Everybody who can will be watering today. Insect numbers increased last week.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Bollworms are creating a need for spraying in cotton on a fairly big basis. Irrigation is in full swing on soybeans and cotton. Corn and grain sorghum are maturing rapidly. I expect corn and grain sorghum harvests to start in about two weeks.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Some areas have received rain while others remain dry. Crops are being stressed by lack of moisture in many parts of the area since early season rains discouraged development of deep roots. This condition has also adversely affected uptake of fertilizers.”

— Karen Benson, Attala

“A break in the rain showers has allowed producers to put up summer hay. Corn silage harvest is all but complete, and the yields look to approach 12-14 tons per acre. Armyworms have been reported in the county, so producers will be on the lookout over the next few weeks.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“Farmers are hustling to get hay off the ground to prevent further quality loss due to rain. Watermelons are playing out. Produce is still available by truck croppers.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Widely scattered afternoon thunderstorms continued to pop up in the early days of the week. Rainshowers have caused problems with summer hay harvest and slowed down corn silage harvest, but neither have come to a complete standstill. Corn silage harvest is approximately 80 percent complete with good yields being experienced by all producers. A few reports of fall armyworm damage in pastures are beginning to surface.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Hot weather is beginning to dry things out. Farmers are beginning to think about trying to cut some hay. Some fields are getting over mature since the rain did not allow any hay harvest. Cotton and peanuts look good. Cattle are enjoying plentiful grazing opportunities.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Farmers finally got a break in the weather and were able to get some work done in the field. Hay harvest resumed with the few days without rain we were glad to get. Cattle are in good shape with plenty of grass. Corn silage harvest should be completed this week.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

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 July 21, 2003 to July 27, 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				82		0.00	-0.92	0	3.60				
Cleveland	95	62	79	82	-3	0.07	-0.50	1	2.66				
Tunica	92	64	79	82	-3	0.04	-0.70	2	2.59	102	75	86	0.29
Extreme/Average	95	62	79	82	-3	0.04	-0.83	1	2.95	102	75	86	0.29
2. North-Central													
Batesville	91	60	78	81	-3	0.00	-0.85	0	2.34				
Calhoun City	91	59	76	81	-5	0.02	-0.87	1	2.27				
Independence	89	59	76	81	-5	0.27	-0.53	1	2.62				
Oxford	93	59	78	81	-3	0.06	-0.81	1	2.12				
Extreme/Average	93	59	77	81	-4	0.09	-0.85	1	2.34				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	90	63	76	80	-4	0.94	+0.04	2	3.81				
Corinth City				82		1.43	+0.50	2	2.46				
Iuka	92	54	73	78	-5	1.19	+0.14	2	3.20				
Ripley				80		0.26	-0.73	2	3.49				
Tupelo	92	63	79			0.10		1	2.63				
Extreme/Average	92	54	76	80	-4	0.62	-0.33	2	3.28				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				82		0.00	-1.15	0	2.34				
Rolling Fork	97	65	81	82	-1	0.34	-0.51	1	3.85	103	82	92	
Stoneville	95	63	80	83	-3	0.00	-0.79	0	1.81	99	80	88	0.24
Yazoo City	93	63	79	82	-3	0.00	-0.92	0	1.45				
Extreme/Average	97	63	80	82	-2	0.09	-0.87	0	2.36	103	80	90	0.24
5. Central													
Canton	94	61	78	82	-4	1.36	+0.52	1	2.06				
Carthage	93	62	79	81	-2	0.40	-0.63	1	3.09				
Lexington				80									
Eupora	92	59	77	80	-3	0.11	-0.76	1	4.58				
Extreme/Average	94	59	78	81	-3	0.62	-0.45	1	3.24				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	93	63	78	81	-3	0.03	-0.79	1	3.65				0.21
Houston	91	55	75	80	-5	0.02	-0.79	1	2.03				
Louisville				79		0.44	-0.76	2	6.43				
State University	94	62	78	81	-3	0.09	-0.87	1	3.22	87	80	84	0.19
Extreme/Average	94	55	77	81	-4	0.15	-1.00	1	3.83	87	80	84	0.20
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	93	67	80	82	-2	1.58	+0.69	2	7.49	90	80	84	
Natchez	91	67	79	82	-3	0.94	+0.05	2	3.40				
Oakley	94	64	81	81	0	0.20	-0.64	1	0.94	99	83	92	
Vicksburg	92	66	81			1.27		2	2.78				
Extreme/Average	94	64	81	81	0	1.00	-0.05	2	3.65	99	80	88	
8. South-Central													
Collins				81		1.90	+0.79	2	7.82				
Columbia	93	69	81	82	-1	1.55	+0.30	3	7.01				
Tylertown	91	68	80	81	-1	3.38	+2.05	3	14.09				
Extreme/Average	93	68	80	81	-1	2.28	+1.05	3	9.64				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	93	61	79			1.73		3	10.73				
Hattiesburg	92	66	79	82	-3	1.69	+0.39	3	12.16				
Laurel	92	67	80	82	-2	2.07	+0.83	3	9.21				
Newton	92	62	78	81	-3	2.33	+1.22	4	10.62	88	73	80	0.24
Extreme/Average	93	61	79	81	-2	1.96	+0.71	3	10.68	88	73	80	0.24
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	94	67	81	82	-1	3.94	+2.22	2	12.88				
Gulfport	91	72	81	83	-2	0.87	-0.72	2	10.56				
Pascagoula				81		1.29	-0.39	3	13.43				
Poplarville	92	69	80	82	-2	3.93	+2.41	4	15.50	92	78	81	
Waveland	92	71	81	82	-1	2.81	+1.33	2	13.87				
Extreme/Average	94	67	81	82	-1	2.57	+1.08	3	13.20	92	78	81	
State	97	54	79	81	-2	0.95	-0.15	2	5.47	103	73	85	0.23

DFN = Departure from Normal.