

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending August 1, 2004

Released: 3:00 P.M., August 2, 2004

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending August 1, 2004**. Throughout much of the state, producers took advantage of continued good weather to make advances with hay harvest and begin harvesting corn and soybeans. Although most row crops are being reported in good condition, many producers are hoping for a few sporadic rain showers to help the crops along. Moreover, cattle producers are content with current to report high market prices for livestock. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent very short, 37 percent short, 59 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Dough	95	90	96	97	1	4	19	50	26
	Dent	84	68	76	82					
	Mature	30	6	13	27					
	Harvested	1	--	--	--					
	Silage Harvested	62	42	60	46					
Cotton	Squaring	99	97	99	100	0	6	25	51	18
	Setting Bolls	91	81	86	95					
Rice	Heading	65	45	79	64	0	1	11	63	25
Sorghum	Heading	99	96	97	96	0	1	13	67	19
	Turning Color	71	45	66	58					
	Mature	5	--	11	9					
Soybeans	Blooming	99	96	94	96	0	5	20	54	21
	Setting Pods	95	90	84	84					
	Turning Color	25	10	11	10					
	Shedding Leaves	5	--	--	--					
	Harvested	1	--	--	--					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	55	51	72	70	7	7	23	51	12
Sweetpotatoes						1	7	35	48	9
Watermelons	Harvested	95	89	97	85	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						1	6	16	58	19
Pasture						2	5	20	58	15

County Agent Comments

“The quality of hay may be poor this year, but producers are busy baling the excessive growth while it is dry enough to finally harvest. Fieldwork is focused on: insect control in the cotton, waiting for corn to complete maturity, and soybean weed control before harvest.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“If we can get a rain this weekend it would be nice. We have some moisture, but we are running out in places. A lot of hay has been cut and we could use a rain to get a good second cutting.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Corn looks very good overall and is starting to dry down. Soybeans have looked great but some late-planted fields are losing some pods. Frog eye hit a week ago and hasn't slowed yet. Sweetpotato fields are showing zinc deficiencies and chlorotic leafspot virus. A slow, general rain is needed in most areas.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Hay is being cut, but rain is expected this weekend. Cotton and peanuts look good but some fields were planted late. Cattle is in good shape and beef producers are enjoying very good prices. Most gardens have been lost to weeds and grass.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Armyworm activity is picking up! Most commercial vegetable crops were cut out this past week. Yield on area commercial tomato fields were good despite weather and disease pressure. Some producers reported record yields on tomatoes. Beef producers are moving calves to market earlier than normal due to current high prices.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Growers are still watering all that they can. Soybean harvest should get started this week and rice will be drained.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Producers were busy cutting hay last week. We finally got a break from the rain and the crops are benefitting from the sunlight.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“The dry weather has helped cotton bounce back – the leaves are green and looking better. Leaf blight on corn will hopefully not hurt yields. Most producers baled hay with no rain on cuttings. Insect pressure has been light.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Dry weather has kicked off irrigation, but some showers have saved pumping in limited areas. Insect pressure is low in most areas of the county.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Some parts of the state received much needed rain on Saturday; however, most areas remain on the dry side. Corn in general needed one more rain to get the highest yield, however many fields have still reached physiological maturity with the dry soil. Beans are in a similar condition with dryland soybeans needing moisture. Cotton is tolerating the somewhat dryer weather fairly well, but will need moisture within the next week.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala

“I never thought I would be saying that we are in need of rain. All crops in Madison County, especially late-planted soybeans, are in need of a good general rain. Most of all the crops are in good growing conditions.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“Rain is needed in some areas. Cotton loves the dryer weather, but will need moisture in the coming week.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Dry weather has allowed lots of hay to be harvested this past week, but has slowed the growth of pasture grasses. Two weeks ago, we were in a wet spell and two weeks from now we will be in a drought if it doesn't rain soon. Results of silage harvesting are generally favorable with the low areas in the fields not producing too much tonnage and the hill areas in the fields producing a top quality crop and more tonnage.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“The first half of the past week was marked by cooler than average temperatures with lower humidity. A lot of hay was harvested and producers are finished with most of the first cutting and about one fourth are on the second cutting. Dry weather allowed fieldwork with some nitrogen going over cotton and pastures.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Farmers are harvesting hay at every opportunity the sunshine brings, but quality is way down. Dairy farmers have started harvesting silage.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“This has been a good week for hay harvest with little rain in the county. There is a great supply of hay this year compared to the past years with summer drought.”

— Amanda Woods, Marion

“Corn silage harvest is complete. Summer hay harvest continues with high yields; however, the feeding quality of a considerable amount of hay will be poor due to excessive growth. We could use a good rain as hot, windy weather conditions this past week have caused significant loss of soil moisture. We will need periodic rain showers over the next several weeks to help fallowed acreage, prepared for cool- season forages, absorb moisture and develop into desirable seed beds.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Row crops are doing very well and livestock are in great condition. Hay production is hit and miss around the afternoon showers.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“In the past few weeks most forages have been harvested. Of those that have been tested, several have come back with poor results due to the late timing of harvesting. Cattle are looking great and there is still plenty of grass for grazing.”

— Lance Bruce, Lauderdale

“Corn silage harvest continues. At least one grower is harvesting corn that did not fully develop. There seems to be a problem with this variety across the south from what our grower has been told by his seed representative. Hay harvest has been interrupted by repeated afternoon showers and thunderstorms. Beans and cotton are still looking pretty good at this stage.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“A warm, dry weather pattern this week continues to allow producers to cut and bale hay. If the weather holds through the weekend, producers will complete this process. Excessive rainfall predicted for the next week due to tropical conditions in the Gulf could pose problems for producers in this county.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.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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Mississippi Cooperative
Extension Service
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Mississippi Agricultural
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Weather Summary from July 26, 2004 to August 1, 2004 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	95	61	75	81	-6	1.62	+0.76	3	6.04				
Cleveland				82		0.24	-0.24	2	0.81				
Tunica				82		0.35	-0.32	2	1.65				0.19
Extreme/Average	95	61	75	82	-7	0.93	+0.19	3	3.43				
2. North-Central													
Hickory Flat	91	58	74	80	-6	0.00	-0.94	0	4.73				
Calhoun City	89	61	76	81	-5	0.79	-0.04	4	1.91				
Independence	92	56	73	80	-7	0.24	-0.52	1	1.33				
Oxford	93	59	76	80	-4	0.19	-0.65	2	3.20				
Extreme/Average	93	56	75	81	-6	0.31	-0.54	2	2.79				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	90	62	77	80	-3	0.51	-0.34	2	4.21				
Iuka	89	54	73	78	-5	3.03	+2.02	4	6.24				
Ripley	90	59	74	80	-6	0.69	-0.21	1	5.75				
Tupelo	92	62	77			0.25		3	3.94				
Verona				81		0.36	-0.41	2	2.20				0.24
Extreme/Average	92	54	75	81		1.12	+0.28	3	5.04				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	91	66	77	83	-6	2.55	+1.68	4	4.42				
Rolling Fork	95	65	79	82	-3	0.39	-0.40	2	1.63		76	90	
Stoneville	93	63	78	83	-5	0.21	-0.47	2	1.86				0.20
Yazoo City	94	63	78	82	-4	0.15	-0.76	1	1.52				
Extreme/Average	95	63	78	83	-5	0.83	-0.01	2	2.36		76	90	0.20
5. Central													
Canton	93	61	76	82	-6	1.09	+0.26	1	4.83				
Carthage	94	61	78	81	-3	0.00	-0.96	0	2.72				
Lexington	92	60	76	80	-4	0.00	-0.76	0	3.17				
Eupora				80		0.51	-0.29	2	3.91				
Extreme/Average	94	60	77	81	-4	0.40	-0.56	1	3.66				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	94	63	78	81	-3	0.79	+0.04	2	2.39				0.26
Houston	91	57	76	80	-4	0.86	+0.11	3	2.04				
Louisville				80		0.24	-0.83	2	0.67				
State University	96	61	79	81	-2	0.00	-0.89	0	2.09	87	78	82	0.19
Extreme/Average	96	57	77	81	-4	0.47	-0.44	2	1.80	87	78	82	0.23
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	95	67	79	82	-3	0.81	-0.03	2	3.33	99	75	85	
Natchez	94	64	79	82	-3	1.61	+0.77	2	2.17				
Oakley				81		0.24	-0.60	2	2.73				
Vicksburg	93	64	78			0.14		1	1.50				
Extreme/Average	95	64	78	82	-4	0.70	-0.27	2	2.43	99	75	85	
8. South-Central													
Collins	94	68	80	81	-1	1.66	+0.61	4	4.77				
Columbia	97	69	81	82	-1	1.02	-0.18	2	2.88				
Tylertown	95	67	81	81	0	0.59	-0.69	3	3.13				
Extreme/Average	97	67	81	82	-1	1.09	-0.07	3	3.59				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	97	68	81			0.68		1	2.80				
Hattiesburg	95	68	80	82	-2	0.38	-0.87	1	2.72				
Laurel	96	69	82	82	0	2.12	+0.96	2	3.54				
Newton	94	62	78	81	-3	0.61	-0.44	2	1.31	90	75	82	0.20
Extreme/Average	97	62	80	81	-1	0.95	-0.19	2	2.59	90	75	82	0.20
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis				82		0.53	-1.11	2	1.96				
Gulfport				83		0.75	-0.75	2	2.37				
Poplarville	97	68	81	82	-1	1.09	-0.35	3	3.97	103	78	90	0.52
Waveland	93	72	83	82	+1	1.87	+0.47	3	4.38				
Extreme/Average	97	68	82	82	0	1.06	-0.43	3	3.44	103	78	90	0.52
State	97	54	78	81	-3	0.75	-0.24	2	3.02		75	85	0.28

DFN = Departure from Normal.