



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# Weekly Weather Crop Report



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week ending August 20, 2006

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, August 20, 2006**. An early harvest has started for many corn and soybean operators across the state. There have also been a few reports of cotton beginning to be defoliated because the crop has shut-down earlier than normal due to the extreme heat. Some operators are getting a chance to bale hay to store for the winter and are hoping that there will be enough growth for another cutting this season. There have been no reports of extreme insect pressure from county agents for this report. Soil moisture was rated 47 percent very short, 36 percent short, and 17 percent adequate.

### Crop progress for week ending 08/20/06

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn, dough	100	100	99	100
Corn, dent	99	98	91	95
Corn, mature	94	82	59	70
Corn, harvested	44	19	14	19
Cotton, setting bolls	100	99	100	99
Cotton, open bolls	37	23	16	21
Hay-Warm Season, harvested	80	77	86	81
Rice, headed	98	93	97	98
Rice, mature	27	13	10	26
Sorghum, coloring	99	98	98	96
Sorghum, mature	91	82	70	63
Sorghum, harvested	68	52	10	12
Soybeans, setting pods	100	99	100	98
Soybeans, turning color	77	68	53	49
Soybeans, dropping leaves	60	46	31	31
Soybeans, harvested	40	25	7	9
Watermelons, harvested	100	99	100	98

### Crop condition for week ending 08/20/06

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn	23	21	23	30	3
Cotton	15	21	25	34	5
Hay	27	30	26	17	0
Livestock	15	15	34	31	5
Pasture	24	31	29	16	0
Peanuts	3	14	27	53	3
Rice	1	9	22	60	8
Sorghum	1	14	31	53	1
Soybeans	15	24	30	27	4
Sweet Potatoes	2	23	35	33	7
Watermelons	1	21	22	56	0

## County Agent Comments

“This has been the worst drought in a long time.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Winter forage fields have gotten dry again and it will take a considerable amount of rain to soften them to make a suitable planting environment. What little hay we have is being cut and baled with the hopes of another cutting.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Corn yields are running 60-70 bushels per acre and soybeans are in the 10-14 bushels per acre range. The sweetpotato harvest is beginning but it is too early to determine yield trends. Insect pressure remains moderate; however, growers aren't willing to spend any more money on this crop if problems do arise.”

— Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Drought conditions are still having an impact. Recent rainfall has not alleviated the conditions. Armyworms have been reported in some pastures in the county and are also posing a problem for livestock producers.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Rice and corn harvests are under way. We have harvested more than two thirds of our soybeans. Some cotton has been defoliated.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“We received scattered showers last week that may help pastures and hay fields. Corn, soybeans, and cotton have suffered from the hot and dry weather. Some soybeans are being cut for hay.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Rice and corn harvests are under way. We have harvested more than two thirds of our soybeans. Some cotton has been defoliated.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“The only crops that are holding up are the ones that are being irrigated. The soybean harvest is just about over and the yield ranges anywhere from 6 bushels to the low 30's.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“We received scattered showers last week that may help pastures and hay fields. Corn, soybeans, and cotton have suffered from the hot and dry weather. Some soybeans are being cut for hay.”

— Oatis, Benton

“The rain a week ago made things look green but there has been little growth. Cattlemen are feeding hay and looking for any ground that may be harvestable for hay. The first beans cut yielded 20-25 bushels.”

— Stephen R. Winters Grennda

“The corn and early soybeans are being harvested. Insect pressure in soybeans and cotton continues to be light.”

— Jay Phelps Pontotoc

“Corn and soybean harvests are moving forward at a rapid pace. Limited acreage of rice has been harvested. Limited acreage of cotton has been defoliated. Corn yields have been better than anticipated. Soybean yields continue to be below expectation. Irrigation continues for later maturing soybeans and cotton.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“There was scattered rainfall last Saturday that came too late to help crops. Defoliation of cotton is occurring and all mature soybeans and grains are being harvested.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“We are experiencing the worst symptoms of drought now. Most of the cotton is starting to open prematurely. Late planted corn is also maturing prematurely. Soybeans are losing 10 to 30 percent of their yield potential by popping out before combines can get in the field.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Row crops are extremely disappointing with corn yields coming in with a 50- 90 percent yield loss. Soybeans are sparsely set with pods and beginning to turn color. Cotton is cut out with low boll loads on them as well. Pastures are burning up and virtually all producers are short to very short on hay.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Spotted showers brought welcome relief to portions of the county. We are still in desperate need of a good general rain. Producers have taken advantage of the dry weather to harvest hay and corn. Yields are disappointing for both.”

— Victor Lee, Simpson

“The area had afternoon storms that brought rain to some communities but overall, we are still short of moisture.”

— Judith Breland, Stone

“Isolated showers in parts of Wayne County have provided enough moisture to stimulate the growth of grasses. This grass is growing at a slow rate. It will likely be of low quality. Beef cattle farmers are fighting armyworms. Fields have to be checked frequently. One producer indicated that when he visited the field four days prior, he discovered that he had lost 30 tons to armyworms. Fall wildlife food plots are being prepared. Beef producers are planting fall ryegrass slowly.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

(Additional comments appear 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:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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Southern Regional Climate Center  
Louisiana State University  
Dr. Kevin Robbins  
Director

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural  
Statistics Service - Mississippi FO  
Thomas L. Gregory, Director

**Mississippi Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/20/06**

Division/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Plan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
<b>Upper Delta</b>													
Cleveland	99	69	86	81	5	0.00	-0.29	0	1.54				
Lambert	100	69	86			0.00	-0.65	0	1.56				
Tunica	99	71	85	80	5	0.00	-0.53	0	0.35				
Extreme/Average	100	69	86	80	6	0.00	-0.56	0	0.95				
<b>North-Central</b>													
Calhoun City	97	67	83	79	4	0.00	-0.70	0	1.92				
Hickory Flat	97	68	82	78	4	0.00	-0.77	0	5.06				
Independence	98	66	82	79	3	0.01	-0.64	1	1.11				
Oxford	100	68	85	79	6	0.00	-0.77	0	1.11				
Extreme/Average	100	66	83	79	4	0.00	-0.70	0	2.70				
<b>Northeast</b>													
Booneville	100	69	85	78	7	0.32	-0.43	1	1.30				
Iuka	95	62	79	76	3	0.00	-0.84	0	3.09				
Ripley	97	67	82	78	4	0.00	-0.63	0	2.88				
Tupelo						0.00	0.00	0	0.74				
Verona	101	68	85	80	5	0.00	-0.85	0	0.98				
Extreme/Average	101	62	82	79	3	0.16	-0.54	1	3.09				
<b>Lower Delta</b>													
Moorhead	99	70	86	81	5	0.02	-0.47	1	0.87				
Rolling Fork	102	71	86	81	5	0.07	-0.49	2	0.98				
Stoneville	99	69	85	81	4	0.00	-0.42	0	1.49				
Yazoo City	100	67	84	82	2	1.22	0.47	2	2.27				
Extreme/Average	102	67	85	81	4	0.43	-0.13	1	1.88				
<b>Central</b>													
Canton	104	66	84	81	3	0.41	-0.29	2	0.81				
Carthage	102	66	83	80	3	0.00	-0.77	0	0.48				
Eupora	98	67	83	79	4	0.00	-0.63	0	2.63				
Lexington	99	66	83	79	4	0.00	-0.63	0	1.85				
Extreme/Average	104	66	83	80	3	0.14	-0.59	1	1.85				
<b>East-Central</b>													
Aberdeen	98	71	85	79	6	0.00	-0.63	0	2.32				
Houston	99	66	84	78	6	0.00	-0.65	0	1.18				
Philadelphia	100	67	84	80	4	1.52	0.72	3	1.82				
State University	101	65	83	80	3	0.00	-0.70	0	1.04				
Extreme/Average	101	65	84	80	4	0.00	-0.70	0	1.75				
<b>Southwest</b>													
Crystal Springs	103	72	87	81	6	0.00	-0.79	0	2.99				
Natchez	100	72	86	81	5	0.15	-0.75	1	1.04				
Oakley				80		0.00	-0.85	0	4.44				
Vicksburg	101	71	85			0.00	0.00	0	1.94				
Extreme/Average	103	71	85	81	4	0.08	-0.83	1	1.04				
<b>South-Central</b>													
Collins	101	71	85	80	5	0.30	-0.59	1	2.34				
Columbia	99	73	85	81	4	0.71	-0.29	2	7.15				
Tylertown	100	71	84	81	3	0.30	-0.75	1	3.93				
Extreme/Average	101	71	84	81	3	0.44	-0.54	1	4.75				
<b>Southeast</b>													
Beaumont						0.00	0.00	0	0.00				
Hattiesburg				82		0.10	-0.95	1	4.19				
Laurel	99	71	84	81	3	0.35	-0.54	2	6.38				
Newton	99	65	82	80	2	0.42	-0.42	2	3.82				
Extreme/Average	99	65	83	81	2	0.39	-0.44	2	3.82				
<b>Coastal</b>													
Gulfport	93	73	83	82	1	2.66	1.40	5	4.38				
Pascagoula 3 NE				81		0.41	0.00	0	0.00				
Picayune	97	73	85	81	4	0.00	-1.15	0	2.70				
Extreme/Average	97	73	83	82	1	2.66	1.43	5	0.00				
<b>State</b>	104	62	84	80	4	0.37	-0.42	1	2.42				

DFN = Departure from Normal.