



# Weekly Weather Crop Report



Mississippi  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

Phone:601-965-4575  
Facsimile:601-965-5622  
www.nass.usda.gov/ms/  
nass-ms@nass.usda.gov/

Week Ending August 31, 2003

Released: 3:00 P.M., September 2, 2003

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending August 31, 2003**. Harvesting activities continued to make good strides despite scattered showers across most of the State. Cotton harvest has begun. Soil moisture was rated 6 percent very short, 15 percent short, 61 percent adequate and 18 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	Dent	100	97	100	100	0	2	12	46	40
	Mature	89	72	96	93					
	Harvested	42	18	46	61					
	Silage Harvested	100	97	94	93					
Cotton	Setting Bolls	100	98	100	100	2	6	14	48	30
	Open Bolls	45	22	59	69					
	Harvested	1	--	0	1					
Rice	Heading	100	98	100	97	0	2	8	38	52
	Mature	49	32	63	52					
	Harvested	15	5	9	13					
Sorghum	Turning Color	100	98	100	99	0	0	6	58	36
	Mature	87	70	88	86					
	Harvested	35	15	34	49					
Soybeans	Setting Pods	100	99	100	100	0	5	16	36	43
	Turning Color	60	52	51	60					
	Shedding Leaves	45	32	36	41					
	Harvested	26	12	14	13					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	87	85	88	84	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	18	3	5	13	0	10	25	25	40
Cattle						0	1	13	70	16
Pasture						0	3	20	63	14

## County Agent Comments

“Late beans and cotton are the only crops that will benefit from rain. Forty percent of the cotton is ready to defoliate and most of it will be defoliated next week. Early bean harvest will be completed in the next week.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Crops continue to respond to the very generous rains that we are getting. Some diseases are showing in soybeans, but potential looks good. Pastures are the best that I can ever remember for this time of the year.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

“Corn harvest is over half-way complete. Rains have delayed hay harvest again this week.”

— Mark Mowdy, Franklin

“Corn harvest is nearing completion and yields are good. Some corn was affected by rust. Cotton producers will begin defoliating by the end of the week. Peanut yield and quality are excellent. Late soybeans are showing signs of stress due to lack of moisture. Cattle are in good condition.”

— Jon Kilgore, Lawrence

“Continued scattered showers and thunderstorms are hampering hay harvest and other field operations. Hay crops are over mature as producers wait for good weather to harvest. Much of our hay has been cut and rained on at least once. Some silage corn is still in the field due to wet weather preventing harvest.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“A good rain toward the end of the week helped to finish out some of the crops. High winds blew down some cotton and rice in the area, but it didn't look too severe.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“We have received almost four inches of rain since Wednesday. It has stopped everything. The cotton is turning quickly now. Very little of it is attracting insects.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“We are in the last stages of crop progress now, and weather is dominating the situation. Corn harvesting is being interrupted by very heavy scattered thunderstorms. Soybeans nearing maturity are developing seed rot as a result of too much rain and high humidity just as they did during the last two seasons. Many cotton fields can still benefit from rains but will soon be ready for defoliation.”

— Pam Lee, Carroll

“Rain continues to dominate the crop and livestock picture with rain showers occurring almost daily in the afternoon and evening hours. Corn is drying and maturing slowly but harvest should begin in about a week. Hay continues to be a problem due to wet weather and once again we were stalled most of the week. Some hay was cut, but was rained on. Cattle are thriving well on green pastures but we could come up short in stored hay if we can't get more breaks from the rain.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Most of the county is in need of a good rain. Beef and dairy producers continue to deep plow fields in preparation to plant cool season forages in the next couple of weeks. However, we need rainfall to get seedbeds in ideal condition for acceptable levels of germination. Rising costs of nitrogen fertilizer are beginning to make beef cattle producers put the pencil to the costs of establishing ryegrass pastures while exploring alternatives such as feeding various commodities. Dairy producers are beginning to breathe a little easier as milk prices have improved significantly in recent weeks.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Daily rains have returned and is making it hard to get much done on the farm. Hay cutting is not possible due to the rain showers. Cotton and peanuts look good, but drier conditions would help. Some peanuts are ready to dig but need drier conditions so the soil won't stick to the peanuts. Cattle look good and producers are encouraged by higher prices.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Summer hay harvest is almost complete. Winter pasture preparations have started, corn harvest has started, and cattle continue to look good.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

“If conditions hold, producers will be able to get a second cutting of hay. Commercial vegetable producers have begun to plant leafy vegetables for the fall market. With high soil moisture content they should be able to have leafy vegetables ready for the market by the third week of September.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Early corn is being harvested. According to growers, "It's good corn". There is much hay to be harvested yet. Blueberries are putting on much new growth with good potential for the 2004 crop. Lots of hardwood tracts of timber are being cut. Cattle are in good-to-excellent condition. Seed beds for cool season forages are being prepared, however, forage producers are being cautious as a result of last year's "blast" problem in ryegrass. There is a high number of wildlife food plots being planted.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

---

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:**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Mississippi Cooperative  
Extension Service  
Dr. Joseph H. McGilberry, Director**

**Southern Regional Climate Center  
Louisiana State University  
Elizabeth Mons  
Service Climatologist**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Mississippi Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
Thomas L. Gregory, State Statistician**

Weather Summary from August 25, 2003 to August 31, 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				78		3.43	+2.6	2	5.07				
Cleveland				79		0.42E	+0.0	3	1.60E				
Tunica				78		0.03	-0.53	1	2.61				0.25
Extreme/Average				79		1.29	+0.6	2	2.11				0.25
2. North-Central													
Batesville	94	67	81	77	+4	0.47	-0.17	2	1.03				
Calhoun City	92	67	79	78	+1	0.54	-0.20	2	2.81				
Independence	92	67	79	77	+2	0.04	-0.68	1	4.29				
Oxford	94	68	82	77	+5	0.31	-0.50	3	1.76				
Extreme/Average	94	67	80	78	+2	0.34	-0.41	2	1.87				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	89	68	79	77	+2	1.25	+0.4	2	5.15				
Corinth City	93	68	80	78	+2	0.56	-0.22	1	3.98				
Iuka	92	62	78	75	+3	0.85	-0.04	2	2.62				
Ripley	92	66	78	76	+2	1.20	+0.5	2	4.53				
Tupelo	94	66	82	78	+2	1.85		1	11.00				
Extreme/Average	94	62	80	78	+2	1.14	+0.4	2	4.26				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				79		0.50E	-0.06	1	1.57E				
Rolling Fork	98	71	84	79	+5	0.90	+0.3	3	1.55	102	85	92	
Stoneville				79		0.30	-0.19	2	0.97				0.26
Yazoo City	96	71	83	80	+3	1.24	+0.5	4	4.23				
Extreme/Average	98	71	84	80	+4	0.74	+0.1	3	2.08	102	85	92	0.26
5. Central													
Canton	94	69	82	80	+2	2.21	+1.5	5	4.33				
Carthage	95	69	82	79	+3	0.85	+0.0	3	4.74				
Lexington	95	67	81	78	+3	0.50	-0.13	3	1.46				
Eupora	96	68	82	77	+5	0.43	-0.29	2	2.70				
Extreme/Average	96	67	81	79	+2	1.00	+0.2	3	3.31				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	96	70	82	78	+4	0.09	-0.59	2	3.91				0.17
Houston	93	66	79	77	+2	1.32	+0.5	1	5.13				
Louisville	93	69	80	77	+3	2.12	+1.4	3	4.38				
State University	94	70	81	78	+3	1.32	+0.5	3	6.12	93	80	85	0.12
Extreme/Average	96	66	81	79	+2	1.21	+0.4	2	4.89	93	80	85	0.15
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	95	70	83	80	+3	0.00	-0.91	0	1.95	100	84	91	
Natchez				80		1.30	+0.3	2	4.16				
Oakley	100	71	84	79	+5	0.20	-0.63	2	2.31	101	81	92	
Vicksburg	96	73	84			0.66		2	1.56				
Extreme/Average	100	70	84	80	+4	0.54	-0.30	2	2.50	101	81	92	
8. South-Central													
Collins	94	72	82	79	+3	0.91	-0.00	3	2.79				
Columbia	96	73	84	80	+4	0.96	-0.02	2	1.95				
Tylertown	95	72	83	80	+3	1.06	+0.0	4	1.66				
Extreme/Average	96	72	83	80	+3	0.98	-0.04	3	2.13				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont						0.30E		1	10.69E				
Hattiesburg				81		0.60E	-0.45	2	5.38E				
Laurel	95	70	82	79	+3	0.37	-0.55	4	3.35				
Newton	95	67	80	78	+2	1.43	+0.6	4	5.33	87	74	80	0.23
Extreme/Average	95	67	81	79	+2	0.70	-0.21	3	6.46	87	74	80	0.23
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	95	70	82	81	+1	1.93	+0.6	4	3.05				
Gulfport	90	75	82	82	0	2.56	+1.1	3	5.17				
Pascagoula	89	70	81	80	+1	2.03	+0.5	3	4.45				
Poplarville				81		0.30E	-0.75	2	4.41E				0.19
Waveland	91	73	82	80	+2	1.45	+0.0	4	3.88				
Extreme/Average	95	70	82	81	+1	1.65	+0.2	3	4.19				0.19
State	100	62	82	79	+3	0.91	+0.0	3	3.48	102	74	87	0.19

DFN = Departure from Normal.