



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 31, 2008

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, August 31, 2008**. Many crop producers rushed to harvest as much as they could before the rain and wind from Hurricane Gustav arrived in Mississippi. Scattered showers throughout the State have benefited crops still developing. Armyworms continue to be a concern for those in the northeast. Some sweet potato producers have begun harvesting. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 4 percent short, 50 percent adequate and 45 percent surplus.

Crop progress for week ending 08/31/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, dent	100	99	100	99
Corn, mature	93	82	99	93
Corn, harvested	35	15	68	59
Corn Silage, harvested	90	85	99	99
Cotton, setting bolls	100	100	100	100
Cotton, open bolls	25	12	69	55
Hay-Warm Season, harvested	83	82	85	85
Peanuts, harvested	0	0	6	--
Rice, headed	95	88	100	100
Rice, mature	40	25	85	59
Rice, harvested	2	1	16	13
Sorghum, heading	100	99	100	100
Sorghum, coloring	95	87	99	100
Sorghum, mature	59	40	90	92
Sorghum, harvested	22	11	48	55
Sorghum, silage harvested	41	10	--	--
Soybeans, setting pods	99	98	100	100
Soybeans, turning color	59	39	78	76
Soybeans, dropping leaves	29	15	59	61
Soybeans, harvested	5	2	26	37
Sweet Potatoes, harvested	1	0	9	9

Crop condition for week ending 08/31/08

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	8	12	20	39	21
Cotton	6	8	21	42	23
Hay	2	8	26	40	24
Livestock	3	5	25	53	14
Pasture	3	9	33	40	15
Peanuts	0	0	4	75	21
Rice	0	3	14	46	37
Sorghum	1	5	16	50	28
Soybeans	6	8	27	41	18
Sweet Potatoes	0	5	23	63	9

Comments

“Some corn and soybeans will be harvested this week if the hurricane leaves us alone. Hay harvest is winding up. Non-irrigated cotton is pretty much cutting out.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Pasture work and hay harvest have been brought to a stand still as Gustav threatens to saturate soils and create poor drying conditions. Fertilizer prices rose again this week with nitrogen at \$600 per ton. Producers are worried about the cost of planting cool season grasses, which is less than three weeks away. Worms continue to infest northeast Mississippi pastures.”

— Mike Howell, Lee

“Producers are spraying for leaf hoppers. Heavy infestations are being found on late beans. Several producers have sprayed for armyworms. The corn harvest has begun.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Rain continues to delay corn and soybean harvesting. The entire county is already very wet and next week we are expected to get more rain.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“Rain from the hurricane will hurt cotton and affect mature grains still in field. The rain will help late planted corn and soybeans.”

— Randy Smith, Covington

“Rainfall from Tropical Storm Fay provided additional rainfall that was needed for pastures and crops. Producers have higher yields for hay and forage crops than last year.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Rain this morning will stop all harvesting activity. We need this system to move out so we can get our crops out of the field. Mature corn and soybeans are the main concern. Good weather last week helped, but we need some sunshine.”

— Don Respass, Coahoma

“We could use a little dry weather now. Rains are delaying our harvest of corn, milo and early beans. If rain continues we could start seeing quality problems.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“We've had cooler than normal weather the past few weeks which has slowed the growth of pastures and hay fields. The crops have benefited from the scattered showers we received last week.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Corn harvesting started here Thursday. It appears to be about 100 bushels on burned up dry land. Hopefully, this is the worst part. Fall armyworms are in millet and pastures.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Scattered rains have delayed second cuttings of hay for the most part. Across the board crops are looking good.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“Corn growers are pushing hard to harvest as much corn as possible before more wet weather comes our way. Mature soybeans are beginning to decay along with more boll rot in cotton.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Sunshine has been welcomed by combines getting back into corn fields. It is very important for us to miss this next tropical storm so crops can dry down for harvest. Some insect spraying is taking place in wheat beans.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Much of the crop has been damaged by recent heavy rains and wind. The impending hurricane suggests more severe damage to come. Harvesting has progressed slowly in recent days, and most of the corn and soybeans are yet to be harvested.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Gustav rains and wind will add to the delay of hay and row-crop harvesting. We were blessed to have avoided severe property damage.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“We are busy trying to get the corn crop out. We have had rain almost every weekend since we started the corn harvest. Well, guess what, there is rain and a big wind in this weekend's forecast. We are running combines as fast as we can to beat a possible storm. I guess we will have to see how this weekend plays out. We will keep trying!”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“Hurricane Gustav dumped tremendous rain and some fields will be affected by the excess moisture to come.”

— Amanda Walker, Lawrence

“Gustav dumped over three inches in George County and it's still raining.”

— Mike Steede, George

“As a result of heavy winds and rain from the hurricane, corn harvesting will be hampered. Pastures are saturated and ponds are full.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

(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:

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Mississippi Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/31/08 is unavailable at this time.