



## Weekly Weather Crop Report



In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending September 18, 2005

Released: 3:00 P.M., September 19, 2005

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending September 18, 2005**. Mississippi farmers continue post-hurricane clean-up, repairing fences and other structures damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Harvesting is going full-force with acres being harvested as quickly as possible. Rice harvesting is progressing at a slow rate due to the additional effort needed to harvest rice that was blown over. Sweetpotato growers welcomed a brief shower late in the week and diggers were out in the fields all weekend. The gusty winds that blew through the state caused extensive nut loss on pecan trees. Soil moisture was rated 19 percent very short, 26 percent short, 47 percent adequate, and 8 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2004	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Dent	100	99	100	100					
	Mature	99	98	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	87	79	92	87					
Cotton	Open Bolls	89	75	83	89	6	14	30	37	13
	Harvested	8	2	6	13					
Rice	Mature	85	74	94	92	4	13	10	55	18
	Harvested	28	16	71	55					
Sorghum	Harvested	96	87	93	87	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Turning Color	97	92	98	90					
	Shedding Leaves	89	79	90	77	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	67	54	72	49					
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	38	27	16	31	0	8	48	44	0
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	97	96	86	90	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						9	15	35	32	9
Pasture						14	30	40	15	1

### County Agent Comments

“With the exception of one afternoon shower in some parts of the area, weather has been very dry and favorable for harvesting the large amount of wind-damaged corn. This weather has also promoted the rapid maturation of both soybeans and cotton.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“We finally got our internet service back this morning. We are still trying to clean up and recover from Katrina. Rain is badly needed.”

— Michael Howell, Covington

“Surveying cattlemen after Katrina, there are lots of fences down, hay is questionable at this point until producers can check for mold, and they need large quantities of feed, posts and barbed wire. This information is being processed for MSU specialists, Cattlemen's Association and some breed associations.”

— Judith Breland, Stone

“Conditions are VERY dry! There has not been any rain since the hurricane. Livestock producers continue to repair fences, barns, equipment sheds, and other farm items damaged by the hurricane. Livestock stock producers are feeding some of their winter hay. Cattle producers are waiting on a rain to prepare fields to plant winter forages. Fields that have any moisture to speak of are being prepared as I make this report.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

“We need rain; pastures are dry. Farmers are still rebuilding downed fences and trying to salvage downed timber! Electricity has been restored to most of the county!”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Rains on Friday halted all fieldwork. Hopefully, harvest will resume Monday. Yield reports are good, but not as good as last year.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Corn and grain sorghum are virtually out of the field with yields being fair. Soybean harvest will wind down this week. Some cotton was picked last week and a good many acres were defoliated, so we'll see several pickers hit the fields this week. Cattlemen are getting their last hay gathered for the winter.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Defoliants are going out now. The cotton does not look good; there is no top crop and there is a significant skip in the middle of the plant. The corn cut about 100 dryland and the irrigated cut 170.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Corn and soybean harvests are continuing with good conditions. Cotton defoliation has been initiated and some acreage should be harvested within a few days.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Soybean harvest continues with above average yields. Some cotton is straightening as bolls begin to open. Corn is still on the ground and will not straighten up. Rains greatly improved pasture condition.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Dry weather prevailed for the week with some scattered thunderstorms delivering one-half to three- fourths of an inch of rain in parts of the county. Crops continue to mature on schedule and hay harvest is entering its final stages. Some corn harvest has begun, but is slow due to the lodging of stalks from Katrina.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Heavy rains Friday, in some areas, caused most of the harvest activities to be stopped. We will resume as soon as the fields will hold the equipment. There is rain in the forecast for Tuesday.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“Dry! Late summer pastures are parched. Because Hurricane Katrina dealt widespread damage to fences, many dairy and beef producers are forced to group cattle into smaller pastures with fences they were able to patch up. The lack of rainfall is adding further insult to heavy grazing and traffic pressure injury to grasses. Producers are seeking ways to get immediate financial assistance to plant cool-season pastures. Without immediate help in the form of emergency low interest loan and/or cost share programs, many dairy and beef producers in our area will be forced to cut their losses by selling out. Producers need rain and they need immediate financial assistance to rebound from the storm with any hope to remain in business.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Fences are still down everywhere and the poor pasture condition has continued with no rain for over 21 days. The salvage of timber is in full swing with time and temperature closing fast on the window of opportunity. The greatest natural and economic resource of south Mississippi is going to waste!”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Hurricane Katrina caused extreme damage to agricultural enterprises all over the county. Barns storing hay have lost roofs and square bales of hay were blown over the area. Fencing is down on 95 percent of the beef cattle operations in the county due to trees falling on fences. The cotton crop suffered severe damage as bolls were open and wind gust of 145 mph and sustained winds of 105 to 110 mph blew cotton down. The pecan crop is a total loss, and this is the most devastation that Perry County agriculture has suffered since Hurricane Frederic in 1979.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

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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:**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Mississippi Cooperative  
Extension Service  
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Louisiana State University  
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**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
Thomas L. Gregory, Director**

Weather Summary from September 12, 2005 to September 18, 2005 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													
Cleveland	93	64	79	75	+4	1.15	+0.48	2	1.26				
Lambert	91	61	77			0.12	-0.65	2	1.07				
Tunica	92	61	78	74	+4	0.45	-0.18	2	3.76				
Extreme/Average	93	61	78	75	+3	0.45	-0.29	2					
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	90	60	77	74	+3	0.17	-0.67	1	1.23				
Hickory Flat	90	59	76	72	+4	1.55	+0.60	2	7.01				
Independence	89	61	75	73	+2	0.47	-0.37	1	4.00				
Oxford	92	63	78	73	+5	0.99	+0.09	2	5.25				
Extreme/Average	92	59	78	73	+5	0.99	+0.15	2					
3. Northeast													
Booneville	90	58	75	72	+3	1.28	+0.38	2	2.79				
Iuka	88	54	73	70	+3	1.92	+0.91	2	10.13				
Ripley	89	60	75	72	+3	1.11	+0.20	2	6.07				
Tupelo	92	61	78			0.15		2	4.72				
Verona				74		0.47	-0.51	2	5.94				
Extreme/Average	92	54	76	73	+3	1.04	+0.06	2	7.43				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead				76		1.93	+1.10	4	5.80				
Rolling Fork				75	+6	0.09	-0.61	1	1.44		95	80	
Stoneville	97	63	81	75	+7	0.26	-0.51	2	3.95				
Yazoo City	92	65	79	76	+3	0.40	-0.23	1	7.90				
Extreme/Average	97	63	82	76	+6	1.10	+0.39	3	5.80				
5. Central													
Canton	93	59	77	76	+1	4.50	+3.80	2	5.53				
Carthage	93	59	77	75	+2	0.30	-0.54	1	2.67				
Eupora	92	59	77	73	+4	0.19	-0.72	1	0.94				
Lexington	91	60	77	74	+3	0.05	-0.65	1	1.55				
Extreme/Average	93	59	77	75	+2	0.30	-0.54	1					
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	93	62	78	74	+4	0.80	-0.10	2	6.93				
Houston	91	57	76	73	+3	0.00	-0.98	0	1.61				
Philadelphia				75		0.08	-0.69	1	0.11				
State University				74		0.84	-0.00	1	3.71		88	64	
Extreme/Average	93	57	78	75	+3	0.82	-0.07	2					
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	95	64	80	76	+4	1.20	+0.14	1	1.67		98	79	
Natchez				77		0.20	-0.66	1	0.32				
Oakley	95	60	78	75	+3	0.31	-0.39	1	1.37		92	84	
Vicksburg	94	64	81			0.02		1	1.19				
Extreme/Average	95	60		76		0.20	-0.71	1					
8. South-Central													
Collins				76					0.72				
Columbia	94	64	80	77	+3	0.08	-0.90	1	6.66				
Tylertown				77		0.01	-0.95	1	1.43				
Extreme/Average	94	64	80	77	+3	0.08	-0.90	1	6.66				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont									2.31				
Hattiesburg				77		0.00	-1.03	0	2.08				
Laurel	94	62	79	76	+3	0.00	-1.05	0	0.87				
Newton	94	51	74	75	-1	0.02	-0.82	1	0.02		83	74	
Extreme/Average	94	51	74	76	-2	0.02	-0.96	1					
10.Coastal													
Gulfport				79		0.00	-1.54	0	0.08				
Poplarville				78					2.61				
Waveland				78					0.00				
Extreme/Average				78									
State	97	51	78	75	+3	0.51	-0.37	2	6.59				

DFN = Departure from Normal.