



# 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 September 19, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 4.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending September 19, 2004**. Hurricane Ivan brought heavy rains into parts of Mississippi, resulting in isolated crop and structural damage. Eastern Mississippi experienced the worst part of the storm with extensive timber damage reported. Damage to row crops appears to be minimal throughout the state as harvesting continues. Cotton continues to be defoliated and harvested with producers reporting good results from the late blooming crop. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 29 percent short, 49 percent adequate and 21 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	Harvested	93	87	90	89	---	---	---	---	---
Cotton	Open Bolls	84	78	80	92	2	6	23	51	18
	Harvested	7	2	15	18					
Rice	Mature	95	91	92	92	0	1	11	59	29
	Harvested	73	57	61	55					
Sorghum	Mature	100	99	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	94	85	90	89					
Soybeans	Turning Color	98	96	91	90	0	5	15	45	35
	Shedding Leaves	91	85	76	76					
	Harvested	73	65	56	44					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	86	85	94	92	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	17	12	39	36	2	9	40	39	10
Cattle						3	5	20	56	16
Pasture						5	9	29	52	5

## County Agent Comments

“We were very fortunate to miss the rain associated with Ivan. Corn harvest is complete, soybean harvest is nearing completion with some late MG V to be harvested, and cotton harvest is just beginning.”

— Robert Martin, Issaquena

“Rain is needed all over the county. The soil is very dry.”

— Thomas E. Brewer, Jefferson Davis

“Marion County was spared from the destruction of Hurricane Ivan. We have received very little rain. We were hoping for some rain following the storm.”

— Amanda Woods, Marion

“This past week was complicated by Hurricane Ivan. With varying degrees of damage across the county, one good thing that did come from the storm is the amount of rainfall. We definitely needed some moisture on forages, and the rainfall received was an adequate amount.”

— Lance Bruce, Lauderdale

“Remnants of Hurricane Ivan brought rain and wind to much of the county. The eastern side of the county (east of Hwy 15) suffered more wind damage with many trees either uprooted or blown down. Some structural damage was noted, but for the most part residents were very lucky. Loss of power east of Hwy 15 was minimal. Damage was more severe near the Lauderdale County line and into Meridian. Most of the county received some rain, but no flooding was reported.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“All but about 10% of warm season hay has been harvested. There is still corn to be harvested. Seed bed preparation for cool- season forages continue with about 40% already completed. Cattle continue to be in great shape. Hurricane Ivan caused some timber damage. The worst damage occurred in the eastern side of the county next to the state line of Alabama. I will be working with USDA Agencies to assist with damage assessment reports in the next couple of days.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

“Good harvest conditions have allowed growers to continue harvesting rice. Cotton harvest is in full swing and yields are variable.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Late soybeans are in need of rain, which isn’t likely to happen. Cotton and rice farmers are at full throttle and do not want it to rain.”

— Mark Young, Quitman

“Producers are harvesting corn and soybeans. Yields vary in range, but overall we should have a good harvest season. Cotton is opening and maturing later than normal.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“We missed Ivan! We had less than a quarter of an inch of rain and the winds peaked at around 30-35 mph. Cotton defoliation is going full swing now. Spittle bugs have killed a couple of hay fields.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Hurricane Ivan brought wind and rain to the area but had little effect on the crops. Corn and soybean harvests are progressing and cotton defoliation has been initiated.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Harvest continues to move forward. Some producers have completed soybean and/or rice harvests with good results. Cotton harvest is now moving at "full speed ahead".”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Cotton harvest is getting underway in the early-maturing varieties. Reports of very good yields have come into our office. Soybean and rice harvests are beginning to get close to completion. Excellent to good yields are reported.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Being missed by Hurricane Ivan was a real break for area farmers; we were out of the field for only about 3 days with little to no damage in the area. Conditions are good for all forms of fieldwork, and cotton producers are defoliating and beginning to harvest some of the earliest planted fields.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Hurricane Ivan went the other way. Conditions for all fieldwork look good. Defoliating and the beginning of harvest has begun in the early fields.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Corn harvest is nearing completion. Cotton and Group V soybean harvests began this week. We were fortunate with minimal crop damage reported from Hurricane Ivan.”

— Charlie Stokes, Monroe

“Sustained winds of 54 mph with gusts up to 72 mph caused damage to many buildings and a few grain bins. Rainfall varied from around 3 inches in Noxubee to 5 in portions of Oktibbeha county. Our cotton crop took most of the damage because of the maturity stage it was in when this storm hit east MS. Our pretty, open bolls are either on the ground or stretched out and ready to fall to the ground. The top crop that was more hard-locked and nappy stayed in the boll, but will cause problems when we get back in the field to harvest. We could see visual differences in cotton varieties in their storm tolerance in an on-farm demo.”

— Dr. Dennis B. Reginelli, Noxubee

“Hurricane Ivan came through on Wednesday and Thursday. Winds gusted above 50 mph, but for the most part damage was limited. There was damage to cotton that was open and some wind throw of timber. At this time, we have no account of human injury. We received about 2-3 inches of rain. Most wind damage occurred in the eastern half of the county. A full assessment has not been made at this time.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“We are still coping with terribly dry soil moisture conditions. Hurricane Ivan tracked well to the east of us, and we did not receive one drop of rain from the storm. Most farmers continue to delay planting their ryegrass and small grains for grazing until we get appreciable levels of rainfall. A small percentage of our total acreage of cool-season pastures have been planted, and will have to be replanted if we do not receive rain immediately to save fledgling seedlings. Fall armyworm pressure continues to be a problem.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Hurricane Ivan spared us as we received a glancing blow—just a lot of leaves, limbs and twigs. A few occasional diseased trees cracked over. Some cotton is leaning over due to wind. There was not much rain received; maybe a half inch or so of rain reported. We are very lucky.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“The wrath of Ivan was not as bad as it could have been. Our cotton crop is in bad shape, but the peanuts seem to have survived pretty well. We are very thankful!”

— Mike Steede George

“Cotton, soybeans and corn will be difficult to harvest after the high winds from Ivan. Crops such as pumpkins and fall tomatoes were destroyed. Repair to poultry houses and other farm structures, including fences, are well underway. County wide timber loss estimates are in the 5% to 7% range.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“There was damage to crops from Hurricane Ivan, but the rainfall did improve soil moisture. Armyworms are a problem in some areas of the county at this time. Producers are gearing up to make final preparations for planting ryegrass in fall and winter pastures.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Stone County did not get much rain from Ivan. Ponds are still low with some drying up. There was mostly limb and tree damage, but no structure damage, and the cleaning up process has begun. No reported livestock losses from the hurricane.”

— Judy Breland, Stone

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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:**

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Dr. Joseph H. McGilberry, Director**

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

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

Weather Summary from September 13, 2004 to September 19, 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				74		0.00	-0.77	0	3.10				
Cleveland	91	57	77	74	+3	0.04	-0.64	1	1.60				
Tunica				74		0.52	-0.11	2	1.73				0.19
Extreme/Average	91	57	77	74	+3	0.19	-0.56	1	2.14				0.19
2. North-Central													
Hickory Flat	89	52	73	72	+1	0.56	-0.38	2	1.54				
Calhoun City	87	53	73	73	0	0.63	-0.21	3	2.44				
Independence	88	51	73	73	0	0.00	-0.84	0	2.69				
Oxford	88	54	75	73	+2	0.20	-0.70	1	2.19				
Extreme/Average	89	51	74	73	+1	0.35	-0.49	2	2.22				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	86	57	73	72	+1	1.15	+0.26	4	3.29				
Iuka				70		4.90	+3.90	4	12.44				
Ripley	87	53	72	72	0	0.64	-0.27	3	1.54				
Tupelo	89	58	76			1.80		4	3.82				
Verona	91	59	76	74	+2	3.14	+2.16	4	5.13				0.27
Extreme/Average	91	53	74	73	+1	1.68	+0.70	4	3.45				0.27
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	94	61	79	76	+3	0.00	-0.84	0	1.27				
Rolling Fork	93	57	79	75	+4	0.00	-0.70	0	1.11	97	78	88	
Stoneville	93	57	79	75	+4	0.00	-0.78	0	1.23	97	76	86	1.85
Yazoo City	92	58	78	76	+2	0.00	-0.64	0	0.79				
Extreme/Average	94	57	79	76	+3	0.00	-0.72	0	1.10	97	76	87	1.85
5. Central													
Canton	91	55	77	76	+1	0.01	-0.69	1	1.68				
Carthage	88	56	75	75	0	0.02	-0.82	1	4.49				
Lexington	89	54	75	74	+1	0.00	-0.70	0	1.62				
Eupora	90	56	75	73	+2	0.78	-0.13	3	3.31				
Extreme/Average	91	54	75	75	0	0.20	-0.64	1	2.78				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	88	60	76	74	+2	2.03	+1.12	3	3.88				0.16
Houston	88	52	73	72	+1	1.06	+0.08	3	2.22				
Louisville				73		2.15	+1.24	2	4.82				
State University	90	56	74	74	0	4.79	+3.95	4	8.27	82	75	78	0.17
Extreme/Average	90	52	74	75	-1	2.51	+1.62	3	4.80	82	75	78	0.17
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	92	60	78	76	+2	0.00	-1.06	0	1.70	96	78	86	
Natchez	91	57	78	77	+1	0.00	-0.85	0	1.33				
Oakley	91	59	76	75	+1	0.00	-0.70	0	0.71	91	79	86	
Vicksburg	91	59	77			0.00		0	2.10				
Extreme/Average	92	57	77	76	+1	0.00	-0.91	0	1.46	96	78	86	
8. South-Central													
Collins	92	56	77	75	+2	0.38	-0.60	3	1.43				
Columbia	94	57	79	76	+3	0.25	-0.73	1	1.41				
Tylertown	93	60	78	77	+1	1.29	+0.34	2	4.10				
Extreme/Average	94	56	78	76	+2	0.64	-0.34	2	2.31				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	95	55	78			1.75		2	4.86				
Hattiesburg	93	64	79	77	+2	1.57	+0.55	2	3.28				
Laurel	91	58	78	76	+2	0.92	-0.13	2	3.38				
Newton				75		1.66	+0.82	2	4.91	84	70	75	0.15
Extreme/Average	95	55	78	76	+2	1.48	+0.50	2	4.11	84	70	75	0.15
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	96	63	79	78	+1	0.89	-0.40	2	3.39				
Gulfport				79		2.75	+1.23	3	4.67				
Poplarville	88	68	77	77	0	0.93	-0.07	3	4.15	88	71	79	0.24
Waveland	94	64	79	77	+2	2.52	+0.93	2	4.20				
Extreme/Average	96	63	78	78	0	1.45	+0.06	2	3.91	88	71	79	0.24
State	96	51	76	75	+1	0.84	-0.08	2	2.85	97	70	81	0.47

DFN = Departure from Normal.