



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 September 24, 2006

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, September 24, 2006**. Rainfall this week has caused mixed-feelings for cattle and crop producers. Row crops that were starved for water most of the season are now experiencing a delay in harvesting caused by the recent rains. Hay harvesting continues with a growth spurt in a few areas of the state. Armyworms are still a concern for farm operators who plan on planting cool-weather crops. Soil moisture was rated 24 percent very short, 24 percent short, 43 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus.

### Crop progress for week ending 09/24/06

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn, harvested	99	97	93	92
Cotton, open bolls	97	95	93	92
Cotton, harvested	43	30	17	18
Hay-Warm Season, harvested	94	93	98	94
Peanuts, harvested	15	10	--	--
Rice, mature	98	93	95	97
Rice, harvested	84	64	55	68
Sorghum, mature	100	100	100	100
Sorghum, harvested	100	99	99	95
Soybeans, turning color	99	98	99	95
Soybeans, dropping leaves	97	93	93	86
Soybeans, harvested	87	82	76	62
Sweet Potatoes, harvested	40	31	44	40
Winter Wheat, planted	8	2	--	6

### Crop condition for week ending 09/24/06

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Cotton	12	20	29	30	9
Livestock	17	19	29	30	5
Pasture	20	29	28	22	1
Peanuts	2	5	34	59	0
Sweet Potatoes	2	24	39	29	6

## Comments

“Most cattlemen have started feeding some hay to their herds. I look for supplies to be low in mid to late winter. Showers have brought enough moisture to start some winter grazing crops for the cattle. Corn harvesting is over, there are some mid to late season soybeans that are still in the field, and cotton producers are hoping that the rainfall will hold off until they get their crop out.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Group V soybean yields have been better than expected. Most irrigated Group V soybean yields have been running from 45 to 70 bushels per acre. Most irrigated cotton yields have also been better than expected. Furrow irrigated cotton yields have consistently produced over two bales per acre.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Much needed rain came for some on Saturday night. Much more rain is needed to obtain the necessary soil moisture.”

— Ruby Rankin, Kemper

“Cotton harvesting is in full swing! The yields in many fields are going to surprise those who dared an early production. Final yields will be determined when cotton is in the modules. The soybean harvest is progressing well but yields are varied. We will see when the harvest has been completed.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“Hay harvesting continues. The ground is being prepared for cool season forages; however, farmers remain tentative about planting. Many operators are afraid of armyworms, dry conditions, and blast disease. Additional rains will improve their confidence.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

“Rains that are moving through this weekend will supply much needed moisture to hay fields, pastures, and fields being planted to cool season crops. However, these same rains are causing problems for row crop farmers who are already hurt by this year’s drought. Harvesting operations will be halted, and further crop losses will be the result.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Weekend rains will keep growers out of the field for several days. Cotton yields are good on irrigated ground. Rice yields continue to be good. Some wheat has been planted.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Rains continue to halt harvest progress. We have sufficient moisture to plant wheat and planting will probably start around October first.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“We received some scattered showers this past week, but producers were able to continue harvesting corn and soybeans in some areas. Harvest aid chemicals have been applied to cotton and the harvest is expected to begin soon.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Cool weather and rain is making defoliation of cotton difficult. Yields are still holding at about one bale per acre. It is not good.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Rains have delayed all harvesting operations. Cotton defoliation is progressing and picking should restart this week.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Row crop harvesting continues between showers. Yields are varied depending on irrigation type and if irrigation is possible.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“The row crop harvest is winding down and winter forage planting is on hold. As usual, some areas around us received rain but we weren't so fortunate.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“More rain fell over the weekend. It was needed for sweet potatoes and forages but will slow down the cotton harvest. Grasses have been greener in October than in July. What a year.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Cooler weather last week slowed late summer pasture and hay growth. One to two inches of rain fell over the weekend.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Most of the county received at least some rain this week. Rain Saturday and early Sunday morning seemed to be rather widespread. More rain is needed. Many producers took advantage of the moisture and began planting winter grazing crops.”

— Victor Lee, Simpson

“Dry weather continues. Producers are scrounging for hay. Parts of the county received up to 1.5 inches of rain.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Scattered showers late last week were welcomed but there was not enough to increase soil moisture to last long. Ryegrass field preparation is in full swing and planting will follow. Cattlemen are still looking for hay. Hay supply will be too short to get everyone through the winter.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“One inch or more of rainfall has had an impact on pastures and grazing. Producers are cutting more hay and some hay is available for sale in areas of the county where rainfall totals have been higher. Some producers are using this opportunity to overseed ryegrass in pastures that have been over-grazed.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

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

**Mississippi Weather Summary for Week Ending 09/24/06**

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	96	51	74	73	1	2.48	1.83	4	3.40				
Lambert	97	52	75			1.53	0.78	4	5.18				
Tunica	93	53	72	72		1.87	1.24	4	2.72				
<b>North-Central</b>													
Calhoun City	90	46	71	72	-1	3.17	2.36	2	9.66				
Hickory Flat	89	46	67	70	-3	3.01	2.10	3	5.66				
Independence	89	46	68	71	-3	2.93	2.12	5	4.55				
Oxford	91	47	71	71		2.12	1.27	4	6.03				
<b>Northeast</b>													
Booneville	90	47	72	70	2	2.55	1.71	4	4.73				
Iuka				68		0.60	-0.38	1	2.27				
Ripley	88	46	68	70	-2	3.13	2.22	3	7.27				
Tupelo	91	49	70			1.06	0.00	3	3.58				
Verona	92	46	71	72	-1	3.97	3.02	4	8.02				
<b>Lower Delta</b>													
Moorhead	93	53	74	74		4.65	3.81	4	5.31				
Rolling Fork	95	52	75	74	1	1.47	0.74	4	1.86				
Stoneville	97	51	75	73	2	2.53	1.73	3	2.78				
Yazoo City	93	51	75	75		2.70	2.01	2	3.08				
<b>Central</b>													
Canton	91	49	73	74	-1	1.96	1.26	4	4.03				
Carthage	92	48	70	73	-3	1.14	0.33	3	2.63				
Eupora	90	47	69	71	-2	2.09	1.18	4	7.74				
Lexington	92	49	72	73	-1	2.43	1.73	2	4.30				
<b>East-Central</b>													
Aberdeen	92	50	72	72		1.98	1.07	3	5.07				
Houston	90	45	70	71	-1	3.05	2.12	3	11.25				
Philadelphia	96	49	72	73	-1	0.46	-0.31	1	2.57				
State University	93	42	71	73	-2	1.05	0.22	3	7.74				
<b>Southwest</b>													
Crystal Springs	92	53	75	75		2.40	1.36	4	4.49				
Natchez	92	53	76	75	1	1.35	0.51	4	3.45				
Oakley	93	55	76	74	2	0.93	0.23	3	2.24				
Vicksburg	92	52	75			1.74	0.00	4	2.51				
<b>South-Central</b>													
Collins	91	52	74	74		3.90	2.92	3	4.80				
Columbia	91	54	76	75	1	2.70	1.75	4	4.10				
Tylertown	89	53	75	76	-1	2.13	1.22	5	5.91				
<b>Southeast</b>													
Beaumont						0.00	0.00	0	0.00				
Hattiesburg	96	55	77	76	1	2.01	1.04	2	3.17				
Laurel	92	51	76	74	2	0.86	-0.14	3	2.51				
Newton	94	44	72	73	-1	0.90	0.06	2	3.38				
<b>Coastal</b>													
Gulfport				78		2.15	0.74	2	5.86				
Pascagoula 3 NE				76		0.41	-1.08	1	5.62				
Picayune				76		0.00	-1.19	0	1.60				
<b>State</b>	97	42	73	73		2.13	1.27	4	4.89				

DFN = Departure from Normal.