



Weekly Weather Crop Report



In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending October 16, 2005

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 16, 2005**. Dry weather and very little rain for several weeks have caused problems with planting winter forages and slowed pasture growth. Grazing time for cattle has been minimal and hay is being fed early. Harvesting of row crops is progressing rapidly, and the extended time in the field has allowed for activities such as post-harvest clean-up to occur. Soil moisture was rated 41 percent very short, 41 percent short, and 18 percent adequate.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2004	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Harvested	100	99	100	99	--	--	--	--	--
Cotton	Open Bolls	99	98	99	99	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	74	52	71	63	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Harvested	97	93	98	93	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Shedding Leaves	100	99	100	98	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	95	91	96	80	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	80	70	73	73	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						10	20	34	26	10
Pasture						13	25	19	17	26

County Agent Comments

“Crop harvests continue with soybean yields in most areas above average for the county. Some of the cotton which threw bolls early in the season has yields below that of other varieties. Pastures planted for winter grazing could use moisture.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Weather wise, we had an excellent week for cotton harvest and fall tillage work. Due to high prices, fall applications of fertilizer have been slow.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Dry conditions have sped up harvest; in fact, enough machines have been involved to bring harvest to near completion. Some fieldwork for 2006 has been completed.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Dry! Ryegrass planting has been set back by the extremely dry weather and storm related issues. Soybean harvest continues, and some producers are making their last cuttings of hay. Cattle have held up well, but producers are feeding hay which may lead to a shortage this winter.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“Dry! Dairy and beef cattle producers are awaiting rainfall and financial relief from Hurricane Katrina before planting any cool-season pastures. If planted at all, ryegrass will be late. Many producers continue watching beef and dairy cattle market prices in anticipation of selling out in the next several weeks. Those planning to stay in business are beginning to seek sources of hay to purchase. Soybean harvest appears to be going fairly well with yields of roughly thirty-five to fifty bushels per acre.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Moisture is short and is causing problems all around. Peanut digging is getting very difficult, winter annual forage planting has stopped, but cotton harvest is in full swing.”

— Mike Steede, George

“With the count at 48 days, this is the longest I can remember going without any measurable rainfall. Pastures are parched, hay fields are stale, and the ground is too hard to break to prepare for ryegrass planting. Hay supplies will be close this winter. Some producers will have to share with others to get through this winter. It could be a tough winter with barns lost or damaged and fences downed by trees. Some cattlemen will be selling out.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Cotton harvest is progressing, but yields continue to run 700-900 pounds. One variety of cotton is picking very poorly across the county.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Harvesting is going well in most cases with some producers having problems getting leaves off cotton. Most late soybeans are ready for harvest and will be cut soon if good weather continues.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Winter planting has just about stopped because of extremely dry conditions. This weather is good for row crop harvest, but problems start to arise with the air filtration in equipment when it is this dry. Maybe we can get all of our crops out and then it will start raining on our winter grazing fields and wildlife food plots.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“This extended dry weather period is rapidly drying down beans. Harvest is rapidly coming to a close, but we really need a rain for fescue and winter grazing annuals.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“With the sunshine and bluebird days, the cotton harvest is almost complete. The soybeans are almost completely harvested as well. The dry weather, on the other hand, is having an effect on pastures and wheat. The winter grasses are showing major injury in many areas of the state. We need some rain on the grass crops in most parts of the state.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“Lack of rainfall continues to be a problem in the area for beef cattle and vegetable producers, however it is a plus for cotton and peanut producers. Custom pickers are 90 to 95 percent finished with cotton, and with soils being very dry and loose peanuts are being gathered with no delay in harvesting time. Beef cattle producers have delayed ryegrass planting and have begun to feed hay as grazing is limited due to downed fences and dry pastures that, in some places, are grazed to the root system of existing grasses.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

Weather Summary from October 10, 2005 to October 16, 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	85	48	66	65	+1	0.04	-0.42	1	6.51				
Lambert	85	49	66			0.00	-0.63	0	3.40				
Tunica	81	51	64	64	0	0.00	-0.70	0	3.20				
Extreme/Average	85	48	65	64	+1	0.01	-0.65	0	4.37				
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	82	47	62	63	-1	0.00	-0.63	0	1.70				
Hickory Flat	84	43	61	62	-1	0.07	-0.63	1	2.00				
Independence	83	44	61	62	-1	0.00	-0.63	0	2.24				
Oxford	85	45	63	62	+1	0.01	-0.80	1	3.51				
Extreme/Average	85	43	62	63	-1	0.02	-0.68	1	2.36				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	80	52	64	62	+2	0.00	-0.70	0	4.46				
Iuka	79	40	60	59	+1	0.00	-0.70	0	2.07				
Ripley	81	46	61	61	0	0.00	-0.70	0	1.87				
Tupelo	85	50	65			0.00		0	4.25				
Verona	84	49	64	63	+1	0.00	-0.63	0	2.63				
Extreme/Average	85	40	63	62	+1	0.00	-0.70	0	3.06				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	86	51	67	67	0	0.02	-0.68	2	2.28				
Rolling Fork	86	51	67	66	+1	0.00	-0.85	0	3.88				
Stoneville	85	49	67	65	+2	0.00	-0.70	0	6.83				
Yazoo City	84	49	65	67	-2	0.00	-0.90	0	3.22				
Extreme/Average	86	49	67	66	+1	0.01	-0.76	1	4.05				
5. Central													
Canton	83	47	65	65	0	0.00	-0.71	0	4.39				
Carthage	84	48	65	64	+1	0.00	-0.70	0	2.40				
Eupora	82	47	63	63	0	0.00	-0.77	0	3.54				
Lexington	83	46	64	64	0	0.00	-0.74	0	3.87				
Extreme/Average	84	46	64	64	0	0.00	-0.75	0	3.55				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	82	49	64	63	+1	0.00	-0.81	0	5.21				
Houston	83	43	62	62	0	0.00	-0.68	0	2.64				
Philadelphia	85	49	66	64	+2	0.00	-0.70	0	2.96				
State University				64		0.00	-0.70	0	0.80				
Extreme/Average	85	43	64	64	0	0.00	-0.70	0	2.99				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	86	52	69	67	+2	0.00	-0.70	0	2.13				
Natchez	85	50	67	68	-1	0.00	-0.84	0	7.80				
Oakley	89	43	67	65	+2	0.00	-0.72	0	5.00				
Vicksburg	83	49	66			0.00		0	4.07				
Extreme/Average	89	43	67	66	+1	0.00	-0.77	0	4.75				
8. South-Central													
Collins				66		0.00	-0.77	0	0.17				
Columbia	87	53	70	67	+3	0.00	-0.71	0	0.64				
Tylertown	89	51	70	68	+2	0.00	-0.84	0	1.08				
Extreme/Average	89	51	70	66	+4	0.00	-0.76	0	0.63				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	91	50	71			0.00		0	0.21				
Hattiesburg	88	53	72	67	+5	0.00	-0.72	0	0.66				
Laurel	85	53	69	66	+3	0.00	-0.70	0	2.17				
Newton	86	43	64	64	0	0.00	-0.71	0	3.62				
Extreme/Average	91	43	68	65	+3	0.00	-0.68	0	2.90				
10.Coastal													
Gulfport	86	59	73	70	+3	0.00	-0.57	0	0.23				
Poplarville				68					0.00				
Waveland				68									
Extreme/Average	86	59		69									
State	91	40	66	65	+1	0.00	-0.72	0	3.21				

DFN = Departure from Normal.