



Weekly Weather Crop Report



Mississippi
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending October 17, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 17, 2004**. Rain received at the end of the week delayed harvesting for many farmers throughout the state. The precipitation was welcomed by cattle producers who have been struggling with over-grazing of pastures. Producers planted winter annuals ahead of the rains to allow for proper germination. Cotton harvesting was delayed due to the rain, but is expected to resume early this week. Soil moisture was rated 10 percent very short, 10 percent short, and 67 percent adequate and 13 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Cotton	Open Bolls	99	97	99	100	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	72	62	68	67	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Harvested	98	97	96	93	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Harvested	96	95	87	78	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Planted	19	10	51	31	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	10	--	36	14	--	--	--	--	--
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	99	98	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	74	64	88	75	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						1	5	17	59	18
Pasture						4	22	39	32	3

County Agent Comments

“Recent rains have halted harvest in the county. Producers were trying to plant wheat and rye pastures ahead of the rain because of the dry conditions. Farmers are waiting for dry weather to continue harvest.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Three to five inches of rainfall stopped the last of the harvest from being completed. Cool, dry weather will enable harvesting to begin again early next week. Yield reports remain near record levels or above for all crops.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Much needed showers were welcomed by all cattlemen this past week. Winter annuals will begin germinating and growth of existing stands should be noticed soon.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Rains on October 8th through the 10th were a welcomed relief for drought-stricken soils. Early planted ryegrass and small grains for grazing have perked up and are looking good. Cool-season forage planting has been in full swing everyday this past week as beef and dairy producers have taken advantage of the beautiful soil moisture. Summer hay harvest is essentially complete. Soybean harvest is well underway with disappointing yields on the majority of our small acreage.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Winter forage crops received much needed rain this week.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Cool nights have slowed grass production. Most producers have been providing hay to cattle. Ryegrass is looking good thus far. Timely rains before and after planting have made grass germinate quickly.”

— Lance Bruce, Lauderdale

“We received much needed rain, but not enough to begin refilling ponds. What we received was a good, soaking rain that helped the pastures. We are still well below the usual rainfall amount.”

— Judy Breland, Stone

“We need a few days of sunshine to finish harvesting.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Rains have stopped harvesting this week. We received 2-3 inches of rain, but should not cause a problem when harvest resumes due to the dry soils. As soon as the crops dry, cotton pickers and combines will be back in the field.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Slow rains totaling 2 inches over the weekend stopped cotton harvesting. Showers on Thursday and Friday ended the week with little to no cotton being picked. The rain was a welcome sight for cattlemen who planted winter grazing, and for producers who had planted wheat.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Rain stopped all field activities. The cotton gins have been busy all week. There are still plenty of cotton modules at the gin.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Daily sprinkles are keeping us out of the cotton fields. The weekend looks like we may be able to harvest a couple of days. The showers have really perked up our pastures and winter grazing. We needed the rain, but we now need about a week of good cotton harvesting weather.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Rainfall and cloudy conditions have slowed harvest operations. Anticipation of temperatures falling into the 40 degree range caused some cotton producers to initiate cotton termination on late maturing cotton. Fall field preparation has been delayed.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Rains last week helped to reduce harvest damage on sweetpotatoes. Moisture was needed for growth to continue, but temperatures are too low for additional root sizing. Corn harvest is complete. Soybean harvesting will be complete after the fields planted in late June/early July are complete.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Harvesting of spring and summer crops should be completed soon. Most cattlemen report ample quantities of hay harvested for expected needs. Rains from last week helped establish ryegrass and wheat pastures for fall and winter grazing.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Rains this past weekend really helped. A lot of ryegrass has been planted. Beef producers were really getting concerned about winter grazing. Cotton and peanut harvests are proceeding well. Cotton looks good.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Rain from the recent tropical storm helped to alleviate some of the dry conditions that have plagued producers for the last twenty-two days. Rye grass and over-grazed pastures benefitted from the rainfall.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

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Weather Summary from October 11, 2004 to October 17, 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					63	4.34	+3.75	3	6.74				
Cleveland	79	42	62	64	-2	1.93	+1.46	4	5.20				
Tunica	74	44	60	63	-3	1.58	+0.87	3	2.58				0.15
Extreme/Average	79	42	61	64	-3	2.62	+1.95	3	4.84				0.15
2. North-Central													
Hickory Flat	75	37	59	61	-2	1.02	+0.32	2	1.57				
Calhoun City	74	38	60	63	-3	0.67	+0.04	4	1.22				
Independence	75	37	58	62	-4	2.51	+1.88	5	3.21				
Oxford	77	38	60	61	-1	0.78	-0.04	2	1.18				
Extreme/Average	77	37	59	62	-3	1.25	+0.54	3	1.80				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	75	40	59	61	-2	3.20	+2.50	4	3.38				
Iuka	75	38	57	59	-2	1.64	+0.93	4	1.75				
Ripley	71	38	57	60	-3	2.06	+1.36	3	2.31				
Tupelo						2.83		3	3.19				
Verona	75	41	62	62	0	2.10	+1.47	3	2.47				0.12
Extreme/Average	75	38	59	62	-3	2.37	+1.67	3	2.62				0.12
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	78	44	63	66	-3	1.35	+0.65	4	4.16				
Rolling Fork	83	41	64	65	-1	1.34	+0.48	1	3.17	80	58	71	
Stoneville	75	44	62	65	-3	2.38	+1.68	3	5.54	75	55	66	0.13
Yazoo City	81	45	65	66	-1	2.60	+1.68	2	4.45				
Extreme/Average	83	41	63	65	-2	1.92	+1.14	3	4.33	80	55	69	0.13
5. Central													
Canton	83	37	63	65	-2	1.87	+1.15	2	3.25				
Carthage						1.37	+0.67	1	1.51				
Lexington	82	37	62	64	-2	1.11	+0.36	1	1.74				
Eupora	74	38	61	62	-1	1.28	+0.51	2	1.68				
Extreme/Average	83	37	62	64	-2	1.41	+0.65	2	2.05				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	76	41	61	63	-2	1.13	+0.32	3	2.04				0.06
Houston	74	35	60	61	-1	2.46	+1.78	5	3.08				
Louisville				63		2.11	+1.34	3	2.66				
State University	72	41	61	64	-3	2.44	+1.74	2	2.79	72	63	68	0.13
Extreme/Average	76	35	61	64	-3	2.04	+1.34	3	2.64	72	63	68	0.09
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	84	43	64	67	-3	2.25	+1.55	1	8.38	81	58	69	
Natchez	81	42	64	67	-3	0.90	+0.06	1	6.16				
Oakley				65		4.67	+3.94	2	8.52				
Vicksburg	81	48	64			4.34		2	7.37				
Extreme/Average	84	42	64	66	-2	3.04	+2.27	2	7.61	81	58	69	
8. South-Central													
Collins	84	41	66	65	+1	1.31	+0.54	2	2.83				
Columbia	85	43	65	67	-2	0.73	+0.02	2	2.40				
Tylertown	83	42	65	68	-3	0.84	-0.00	1	3.43				
Extreme/Average	85	41	65	66	-1	0.96	+0.20	2	2.89				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	86	42	65			1.00		3	2.37				
Hattiesburg	86	43	64	67	-3	2.69	+1.96	1	3.20				
Laurel	82	41	64	65	-1	2.00	+1.30	2	2.38				
Newton	80	36	61	63	-2	2.98	+2.26	2	3.22	72	59	66	0.10
Extreme/Average	86	36	64	65	-1	2.17	+1.49	2	2.79	72	59	66	0.10
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis				68					0.22				
Gulfport	81	48	68	70	-2	1.00	+0.45	4	2.89				
Poplarville	84	51	68	68	0	1.59	+0.87	1	4.53	80	66	71	0.15
Waveland	83	45	66	68	-2	0.25	-0.25	2	3.67				
Extreme/Average	84	45	67	68	-1	0.95	+0.32	2	4.10	80	66	71	0.15
State	86	35	63	65	-2	1.90	+1.18	2	3.58	81	55	68	0.12

DFN = Departure from Normal.