



# Weekly Weather Crop Report



Mississippi  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending October 24, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 3.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 24, 2004**. Many farmers with cattle grazing on pastures have welcomed the rains that traveled throughout northern parts of the state this week. The rains delayed harvesting, and farmers are concerned about the quality of the remaining crops still in the field. Harvesting will resume once the crops have had time to dry. Recently planted ryegrass and winter forages benefitted from the moisture received, and should help the germination process. Soil moisture was rated 11 percent short, and 60 percent adequate and 29 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	100	99	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	78	72	81	77	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Harvested	99	98	98	96	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Harvested	97	96	91	86	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Planted	25	19	70	46	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	18	10	50	22	--	--	--	--	--
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	100	99	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	79	74	94	87	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						3	7	19	56	15
Pasture						10	19	39	29	3

## County Agent Comments

“Cotton producers are waiting on the sun to shine long enough to dry out the cotton. Not much loss yet, but we sure do need to get in there and harvest before a big storm front damages the crop.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“If we could get one week of pretty weather with dry soils, then harvest would be completed.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Although rains were generally needed to establish cool-season grazing crops, continued periodic rains have seriously hampered the progress of the cotton harvest. We need another 7 to 10 day break in rains to finish the cotton before significant quality losses occur.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Significant rains fell Saturday evening halting harvest operations for a few days. The latest planted soybeans and sweet potatoes are having a hard time completing reproduction stages with the cool temperatures.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Planting of winter forages is in full swing. Early planted ryegrass is up and going, thanks to the much needed rains.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“The light showers have added some moisture to the soil.”

— Thomas Brewer, Jefferson Davis

“Rain over the weekend was welcomed by farmers with winter grazing. However, harvest of soybeans will be interrupted for a few days as producers wait for fields to dry. Some winter grazing remains to be planted, and with adequate soil moisture most of it will now be seeded.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“Rains have stopped all harvesting. We still have some cotton to pick and soybeans to cut.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Rain and fog continue to hamper harvest efforts, and very little fieldwork has been done since October 8th. Crops are beginning to lose quality as a result of the weather.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Rain early in the week and fog everyday since has slowed down the cotton harvest. Four or five days of fogless, sunny weather should help!”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Rainfall and poor drying conditions have delayed harvest and fieldwork.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Around an inch of rain fell early Saturday morning. Harvest will be delayed for another week. Not much crop is left in the field, but short days will slow progress after it dries.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Continued rains have halted any fieldwork at a critical time for area farmers. We will need about a 7-10 day break in rains to finish the cotton harvesting before significant losses happen.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Winter forages have really taken off with the aid of recent showers. Some hay producers are hoping that they can get another cutting of hay since the rains have come and the temperatures are staying in the 80's.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Rains slowed harvest activity for the week, but were welcomed on pastures and timberland. Most row crop harvesting is complete.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Cool-season pastures are in critical need for rain. We finally received enough moisture to allow producers to plant ryegrass and small grains with the confidence that the seeds will germinate. We now have germinated ryegrass, oats, and wheat that desperately need significant rainfall to survive. Normally, we have beef and dairy producers with cool-season forages ready to graze in late October and early November, but this will not be the case this year.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthal

“We hope to get a rain this weekend. Ryegrass is getting off to a slow start. There is concern about the shortage of fertilizer and the increased cost. There have been increased calls and interest in timber. Projections for the fourth quarter show an increase in prices. Cotton and peanut harvests continue with yields looking good.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Livestock producers have a long time frame in which to wait on good quality forage to develop from winter forage crops. We need a good rain in order to speed up forage production.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

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

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

Weather Summary from October 18, 2004 to October 24, 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	85	42	71	60	+11	4.13	+3.43	5	10.87				
Cleveland				62		1.45	+0.84	4	6.65				
Tunica	84	47	66	61	+5	1.42	+0.62	3	4.00				0.06
Extreme/Average	85	42	68	61	+7	2.33	+1.57	4	7.17				0.06
2. North-Central													
Hickory Flat	78	50	67	59	+8	3.20	+2.46	5	4.77				
Calhoun City	83	51	70	60	+10	2.39	+1.73	4	3.61				
Independence	81	52	67	59	+8	2.71	+2.01	6	5.92				
Oxford				59		1.08	+0.21	3	2.26				
Extreme/Average	83	50	68	60	+8	2.35	+1.56	5	4.14				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	77	52	67	59	+8	2.16	+1.39	5	5.54				
Iuka	77	46	65	56	+9	3.42	+2.63	5	5.16				
Ripley	79	50	66	58	+8	2.20	+1.45	4	4.50				
Tupelo	80	53	69			3.50		5	6.69				
Verona				60		4.35	+3.69	4	6.82				0.07
Extreme/Average	80	46	67	59	+8	3.13	+2.36	5	5.74				0.07
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	87	57	76	64	+12	0.40	-0.35	4	4.56				
Rolling Fork				63		0.35	-0.57	2	3.52				0.10
Stoneville	89	57	74	62	+12	1.57	+0.83	3	7.11				0.12
Yazoo City	88	59	76	64	+12	0.50	-0.49	2	4.95				
Extreme/Average	89	57	75	63	+12	0.71	-0.15	3	5.04				0.12
5. Central													
Canton	89	55	75	62	+13	0.02	-0.79	2	3.27				
Carthage	86	52	73	61	+12	0.95	+0.19	3	2.46				
Lexington	86	54	74	61	+13	1.64	+0.80	3	3.38				
Eupora	85	55	72	60	+12	1.07	+0.25	3	2.75				
Extreme/Average	89	52	73	61	+12	0.92	+0.11	3	2.97				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	81	53	71	60	+11	1.48	+0.64	5	3.52				0.04
Houston	83	55	69	59	+10	2.08	+1.36	5	5.16				
Louisville				61		1.93	+1.14	3	4.59				
State University	86	52	71	61	+10	1.69	+0.93	4	4.48	73	65	70	0.07
Extreme/Average	86	52	70	61	+9	1.80	+1.03	4	4.44	73	65	70	0.06
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	89	55	77	64	+13	1.15	+0.45	2	9.53	85	65	77	
Natchez	89	65	78	65	+13	0.02	-0.90	1	5.80				
Oakley				62		0.21	-0.60	2	8.73				
Vicksburg	87	65	78			0.02		1	7.39				
Extreme/Average	89	55	77	64	+13	0.35	-0.47	2	7.86	85	65	77	
8. South-Central													
Collins	88	55	76	63	+13	0.11	-0.68	3	2.94				
Columbia	90	58	77	64	+13	0.00	-0.77	0	2.39				
Tylertown	89	56	77	66	+11	0.30	-0.57	3	3.65				
Extreme/Average	90	55	77	64	+13	0.14	-0.64	2	2.99				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	91	52	76			0.38		2	2.75				
Hattiesburg	90	61	76	65	+11	0.12	-0.68	1	3.32				
Laurel	88	56	75	63	+12	0.09	-0.61	2	2.47				
Newton	90	61	74	61	+13	3.37	+2.57	3	6.59	76	63	71	0.13
Extreme/Average	91	52	75	63	+12	0.99	+0.27	2	3.78	76	63	71	0.13
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis				66		0.00	-0.69	0	0.00				
Gulfport	88	71	78	68	+10	0.08	-0.44	1	2.19				
Poplarville	87	62	76	66	+10	0.75	-0.02	1	5.28	82	65	75	0.15
Waveland	90	52	77	66	+11	0.20	-0.30	3	3.87				
Extreme/Average	90	52	77	66	+11	0.34	-0.30	2	4.58	82	65	75	0.15
State	91	42	73	62	+11	1.22	+0.45	3	4.79	85	63	73	0.10

DFN = Departure from Normal.