

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending October 31, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 4.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 31, 2004**. Harvesting activities resumed late in the week with farmers concerned about crop quality due to soggy soils and not being able to harvest the crop in a timely manner. The moisture has allowed for winter wheat and ryegrass pastures to grow, and herbicides are being used to control winter and summer annual weeds. Several county agents in southern Mississippi have received reports from farmers about blast showing up in early planted ryegrass fields. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 16 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 19 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	Harvested	85	78	90	85	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Harvested	100	99	100	97	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Harvested	99	97	96	91	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Planted	34	25	82	60	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	21	18	64	34					
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	83	79	96	94	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						3	7	20	55	15
Pasture						10	21	37	29	3

County Agent Comments

“Rain stopped all field activities this past week. The cotton gin was at a standstill because there were no modules being hauled.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Rainfall continues to delay harvest completion of cotton and soybeans. Warm temperatures have promoted growth of summer annual weeds in fields following harvest. Herbicides are being applied to control summer and winter annual weeds. Fall field preparation and wheat plantings have been delayed.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Weekly rains are preventing harvesting and it looks as though we are about to have more rains. Most of the cotton has been harvested in the county.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Crop harvest is virtually complete. Hay supplies are thought to be adequate for a normal year, although the quality of early cut hay has been an issue. Corn and soybean yields were good and cotton was variable.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Blast has been showing up in early planted ryegrass.”

— Shelby Bearden, Copiah

“We really need a good rain. Winter grazing is off to a slow start. Moisture is needed to allow seeds in some fields to germinate. Summer pastures are getting short and tough. Cotton harvest and peanut harvest continues. Some beetle activity is showing up in pines.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Blast has hit several ryegrass fields in the county. These fields will have to be reseeded. Pastures are in fair-to-poor condition. Hay and other supplemental feed will be necessary for cattle until ryegrass is grazeable. We need some rain and cool weather to grow ryegrass.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Unusually warm and dry temperatures are a plus to some producers who are harvesting cotton and peanuts, but they have been a problem for cattle producers who have cool-season grazing planted. The temperatures have also been a plus to vegetable producers who had a second crop of warm-season vegetables planted.”

Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Bolivar County growers still have some cotton to pick and a few acres of soybeans to harvest. We need about 5 days of sunshine.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Producers have been able to get into the fields a couple of days this week to harvest cotton and soybeans. Both crops are going to suffer quality losses.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Cotton is progressing slowly. Fog and heavy dews are making it hard to start harvesting until dinner time.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Saturated fields have made harvest attempts unsuccessful. Rain over the weekend did not help conditions. Winter wheat and pastures have really begun to grow with added moisture.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“The late planted, late maturing cotton and some scrapping is all that is left to harvest for this cotton season.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“During this week, a little harvesting has taken place on the remaining acres left in the field. Not much wheat has been planted at this point. Cotton gins are still running full-time with several more weeks needed to complete ginning.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“The biggest problem right now is that weekly rains are preventing the completion of cotton harvesting. The amount of rain received has not been excessive and fields are still supporting equipment. However, cotton moisture levels have been too high for harvesting. We need to have a week without rain in order to make good progress with cotton harvesting.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“It looks like “BLAST” hit this morning with several calls already coming into this office. The recent weather cycle of moisture and heat has the ryegrass growing extremely fast, with conditions being conducive for blast growth.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Reports of 6 inches of rain fell on localized areas Friday morning. Water overflowed for a few hours into fields, pastures and some low-lying houses. Luckily, most fields had already been harvested.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Roughly one-half inch of rain fell over most of the county on Sunday, October 31, bringing much needed relief to dry soils and suffering cool-season grazing crops. Dairy and beef producers continue to need additional soil moisture to allow cool-season forages to grow enough to begin grazing. Producers will be running later than usual this year in placing cattle on cool-season pastures.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Ryegrass is off to a good start. After a few more weeks, limited grazing will be possible. Most producers with ample ryegrass will be able to cut supplement costs this winter. With the price of cattle remaining steady, most producers have culled low production animals for a premium price. Many producers are not wanting to replace culled cattle until spring when summer forages start producing.”

— Lance Bruce, Lauderdale

“Winter grazing responded to rain throughout most of the county last week. Many producers applied their first applications of nitrogen, and the ryegrass responded with a growth spurt. Rains did hamper the harvesting of soybeans. Combines were rolling again by the end of the week. Depending upon the weather, bean harvest should be completed this week.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

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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Weather Summary from October 25, 2004 to October 31, 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	86	64	76	58	+18	0.70	-0.20	4	11.57				
Cleveland	86	60	75	59	+16	0.68	-0.16	3	7.33				
Tunica	85	62	74	58	+16	0.24	-0.69	2	4.24				0.18
Extreme/Average	86	60	75	59	+16	0.54	-0.37	3	7.71				0.18
2. North-Central													
Hickory Flat	85	55	71	56	+15	1.04	+0.14	3	5.81				
Calhoun City	85	61	73	58	+15	0.25	-0.52	1	3.86				
Independence	84	56	72	57	+15	0.88	+0.06	3	6.80				
Oxford	86	61	74	57	+17	0.40	-0.58	2	2.66				
Extreme/Average	86	55	73	57	+16	0.64	-0.27	2	4.78				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	84	59	72	56	+16	0.82	-0.09	3	6.36				
Iuka	83	55	70	54	+16	1.20	+0.29	3	6.36				
Ripley	84	55	71	55	+16	0.51	-0.39	2	5.01				
Tupelo	85	61	74			0.33		2	7.02				
Verona				58		0.33	-0.43	2	7.15				0.12
Extreme/Average	85	55	72	57	+15	0.64	-0.25	2	6.38				0.12
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	86	64	76	61	+15	0.00	-0.89	0	4.28				
Rolling Fork	90	65	77	60	+17	0.00	-0.98	0	3.52	83		60	
Stoneville	88	63	77	60	+17	0.04	-0.84	1	7.15	82	70	76	0.14
Yazoo City	86	64	76	61	+15	0.10	-0.95	1	5.05				
Extreme/Average	90	63	77	61	+16	0.04	-0.92	1	5.00	83		68	0.14
5. Central													
Canton	87	62	75	60	+15	0.00	-0.96	0	3.27				
Carthage	85	60	74	59	+15	0.00	-0.90	0	2.46				
Lexington	85	59	74	59	+15	0.00	-0.96	0	3.38				
Eupora	85	61	74	58	+16	0.14	-0.78	1	2.89				
Extreme/Average	87	59	74	59	+15	0.04	-0.90	0	3.00				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	85	62	74	58	+16	0.06	-0.84	2	3.14				0.09
Houston	84	49	70	56	+14	0.15	-0.69	3	5.31				
Louisville				59		0.00	-0.88	0	4.59				
State University	86	63	74	59	+15	0.21	-0.65	2	4.69	75	71	73	0.12
Extreme/Average	86	49	73	59	+14	0.11	-0.78	2	4.43	75	71	73	0.10
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	87	64	76	62	+14	0.20	-0.59	1	9.73	86	73	79	
Natchez	86	65	76	63	+13	1.40	+0.39	1	7.20				
Oakley	88	63	76	60	+16	0.87	-0.07	1	9.60	79	75	77	
Vicksburg	85	67	76			0.08		2	7.47				
Extreme/Average	88	63	76	62	+14	0.64	-0.28	1	8.50	86	73	78	
8. South-Central													
Collins				61		0.60	-0.28	2	3.54				
Columbia	87	65	76	62	+14	0.44	-0.43	1	2.83				
Tylertown	86	62	75	63	+12	0.03	-0.92	1	3.68				
Extreme/Average	87	62	75	62	+13	0.36	-0.51	1	3.35				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	89	61	76			0.00		0	2.75				
Hattiesburg	88	61	76	62	+14	0.00	-0.93	0	3.32				
Laurel	87	61	75	61	+14	0.04	-0.78	2	2.51				
Newton				59		0.00	-0.92	0	6.59	75	70	72	0.10
Extreme/Average	89	61	76	61	+15	0.01	-0.83	1	3.79	75	70	72	0.10
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis				64									
Gulfport	84	65	76	66	+10	0.00	-0.66	0	2.14				
Poplarville				64		0.00	-0.86	0	5.28				0.12
Waveland	85	65	76	64	+12	0.15	-0.54	1	4.02				
Extreme/Average	85	65	76	64	+12	0.05	-0.71	0	4.65				0.12
State	90	49	75	60	+15	0.29	-0.60	1	5.06	86		73	0.12

DFN = Departure from Normal.