

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending July 30, 2000**. Lack of rain continues to be a problem throughout some parts of the state. Armyworms continue to be a problem in many parts of the state. Soil moisture was rated 43 percent very short, 40 percent short, 16 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	1999	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Dough	97	89	96	92	8	20	33	32	7
	Dent	83	70	81	68					
	Mature	32	23	20	18					
Cotton	Setting Bolls	98	93	97	96	4	10	30	48	8
Rice	Heading	50	31	46	60	1	4	25	55	15
Sorghum	Heading	96	93	90	92	1	8	32	55	4
	Turning Color	48	41	42	43					
	Mature	2	--	5	2					
Soybeans	Blooming	95	89	96	84	7	17	27	41	8
	Setting Pods	83	73	82	61					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	60	58	71	70	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Harvested	75	64	73	76	6	19	38	35	2
Sweetpotatoes						7	15	37	33	8
Cattle						3	17	34	41	5
Pasture						36	23	26	14	1

County Agent Comments

If a fire started the entire area might potentially burn off, including pastures, hay fields, and woodlands. Local agriculture is totally at the mercy of the weather right now. Those few with capability for irrigation are pumping water at the maximum rate in an effort to salvage the crop. Home gardens are very poor, with most crops damaged by drought. Livestock producers are being forced to sell off cattle, and are feeding hay that should be saved for winter feeding. Water supplies are getting short. This area is not prepared for a drought of this severity.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala County

“We have had an increase in cotton pests in the north part of the county. Scattered showers have helped some crops but more moisture is needed.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah County

“Rainfall has been spotty, but the coast is receiving occasional showers and thunderstorms. Armyworms are causing extensive damage to bermuda grass. A tropical system may move into the Gulf later this week and provide some relief to the drought.”

— Chance McDavid, Harrison County

“Dry, hot weather is upon us again. We are really dry, and are in need of some water to start growing hay for this fall. Most pastures are really getting short and tough. Cotton and peanuts are hanging in, although some of them are being irrigated. Restrictions have been put on persons using the rivers or creeks for irrigation purposes. Some ponds have dried up. Local feed stores have sold a lot of water tanks.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest County

Weather Summary from July 24, 2000 to July 30, 2000 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													
Clarksdale	95	66	80	82	-2	E1.00	+0.20	1	1.68	91	77	84	0.40
Cleveland	97	62	79				0.82	1	0.88				
Tunica				82									
Extreme/Average	97	62	80	82	-2	E0.91	+0.09	1	1.28	91	77	84	0.40
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs	97	57	77	79	-2	0.45	-0.52	1	0.66	93	76	85	0.27
Memphis	97	65	81	83	-2	1.86	+1.02	2	2.23				
Oxford	95	59	79	80	-1	0.69	-0.22	1	1.58				
Extreme/Average	97	57	79	81	-2	1.00	+0.10	1	1.49	93	76	85	0.27
3. Northeast													
Booneville	91	62	77	80	-3	0.60	-0.27	2	1.45				
Corinth				81									
Iuka	94	55	75				0.39	2	2.33				
Pontotoc	94	62	77	80	-3	0.93	+0.07	2	2.27	85	76	81	0.26
Tupelo	95	62	79	81	-2	0.24	-0.67	3	0.24				
Verona	95	63	80				0.62	2	1.97	96	73	84	0.32
Extreme/Average	95	55	78	80	-2	0.56	-0.35	2	2.01	96	73	83	0.29
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				82		E0.60	-0.50	1	0.62				
Greenwood	95	57	78	82	-4	0.06	-0.78	1	0.15				
Rolling Fork	98	63	80	82	-2	0.59	-0.28	1	1.17	106	85	96	0.24
Stoneville	97	63	80	82	-2	0.55	-0.21	1	0.55	99	80	90	0.27
Yazoo City	96	60	80	83	-3	0.00	-1.00	0	0.06				
Extreme/Average	98	57	80	82	-2	E0.36	-0.55	1	0.51	106	80	93	0.23
5. Central													
Carthage				81		E0.03	-1.03	1	0.16				
Jackson	97	62	80	82	-2	1.07	+0.03	1	1.83				
Winona	96	56	77	79	-2	0.38	-0.61	1	0.48				
Extreme/Average	97	56	79	81	-2	E0.49	-0.54	1	0.32				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville						E0.20	-0.75	1	1.28				
Columbus	97	61	80			E0.10		1	1.43				
State University	98	63	80	81	-1	0.22	-0.83	1	0.63	94	83	88	0.27
Extreme/Average	98	61	80	81	-1	E0.17	-0.92	1	0.96	94	83	88	0.27
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	97	65	80			0.90		1	2.64	100	77	89	
Natchez	96	60	80	82	-2	0.19	-0.83	1	0.59				
Oakley	100	61	81	81	0	0.49	-0.43	1	1.72	105	80	91	
Vicksburg	97	63	80			0.00		0	1.74				
Extreme/Average	100	60	80	81	-1	0.40	-0.65	1	1.67	105	77	90	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	95	64	80	82	-2	0.10	-1.21	1	1.61				
McComb	97	65	80	81	-1	0.00	-1.26	0	1.21				
Extreme/Average	97	64	80	81	-1	0.05	-1.15	1	1.61				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont						E2.01		2	3.12				
Hattiesburg				82									
Laurel	96	62	81	82	-1	0.00	-1.21	0	1.54				
Meridian	98	61	80	81	-1	0.50	-0.62	1	0.97				
Newton	99	58	80	81	-1	1.67	+0.56	2	3.46	92	71	83	0.26
Extreme/Average	99	58	80	81	-1	E0.72	-0.50	1	1.99	92	71	83	0.26
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	98	64	82			0.90		1	1.76				
BiloxiAFB	95	73	85			0.23		1	2.30				
Gulfport	91	68	81	83	-2	0.10	-1.37	1	1.91				
Pascagoula	92	65	80			0.27		2	1.48				
Poplarville	98	64	81	81	0	0.20	-1.27	2	0.75	101	74	87	0.26
Extreme/Average	98	64	82	82	0	0.34	-1.14	1	1.68	101	74	87	0.26
State	100	55	80	81	-1	E0.49	-0.57	1	1.33	106	71	87	0.26

DFN = Departure from Normal.

'E' = Estimated Values.