

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 8, 2000**. Rain fell across much of the state, but not enough to relieve the drought conditions. Farmers in areas that didn't receive any rain are hoping to receive some soon so that their winter crops can begin the emergence process. Soil moisture was rated 46 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 20 percent adequate.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	1999	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Cotton	Harvested	76	63	63	56	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Mature	99	96	95	98	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	84	72	91	92					
Soybeans	Turning Color	99	98	95	95					
	Shedding Leaves	94	92	97	85	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	70	62	66	54					
Wheat	Planted	11	7	15	19	3	56	23	18	0
	Emerged	2	1	6	4					
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	62	50	57	57	--	--	--	--	--
Hay (warm season)	Harvested	95	93	96	99	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						4	17	43	31	5
Pasture						41	26	21	12	0

County Agent Comments

“Producers are waiting on a rain to plant wheat and winter grazing. The wheat already planted is starting to die from lack of moisture. Hay will be shorter because producers are already feeding to keep cows in good shape. We need a good general rain! Hopefully, the agricultural situation will get better, but, in general, we are in serious trouble.”

— Ronnie Jones, Marshall County

“The rain missed us. Fall planted crops are not emerging for lack of soil moisture. The frost should speed up soybean harvest.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss County

“Producers are hoping for a cold winter to kill bugs and hoping for rain to recharge soil profiles. A lack of recharging rains this winter may cause producers to rethink their production plans for the coming year.”

— Tim W. Pepper, Yazoo County

“A few people are still baling some low quality hay. Cattlemen are still selling off herds because of low feed supplies; some are selling out completely. Cotton harvest is making good progress, with the lowest yields overall than most can recall.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala County

“Widespread rainfall has come just in time to aid winter pasture plantings. Producers have been busy getting in a final hay cutting and working cows and calves. Quite a few producers weaned and marketed calves earlier than normal this year.”

— Don Bales, Wilkinson County

“The unseasonable cold weather greeted the Coast over the weekend. Wind chill readings fell to the lower thirties on Sunday. Drought stress on hardwoods and isolated pine beetle infestations are still evident. Fungal diseases on turf seem to be on the decline from a few weeks ago.”

— Chance McDavid, Harrison County

Weather Summary from October 2, 2000 to October 8, 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				68		E0.10	-0.52	1	0.67				0.36
Cleveland	92	34	69			0.20		1	2.09				
Tunica	90	34	68	66	+2	0.08	-0.55	1	1.05	57	42	51	0.18
Extreme/Average	92	34	68	68	0	0.13	-0.53	1	1.27	57	42	51	0.26
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs				64		E0.10	-0.64	1	1.09				0.23
Memphis	91	36	67	67	0	0.45	-0.19	1	1.45				
Oxford	91	30	67	65	+2	0.10	-0.67	1	1.05				
Extreme/Average	91	30	67	66	+1	0.22	-0.48	1	1.20				0.23
3. Northeast													
Booneville	90	35	68	65	+3	0.00	-0.74	0	0.40				
Corinth	90	48	74	65	+9	0.00	-0.72	0	0.83				
Iuka	88	29	63			0.00		0	1.66				
Pontotoc	89	32	67	66	+1	0.44	-0.33	1	1.01	79	60	73	0.22
Tupelo	92	35	65	67	-2	0.55	-0.22	1	1.07				
Verona	91	35	68			0.35		1	1.43	85	55	74	0.21
Extreme/Average	92	29	67	66	+1	0.22	-0.54	1	1.07	85	55	73	0.22
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	92	39	71	68	+3	E0.62	-0.15	2	1.92	90	74	83	
Greenwood	90	32	65	68	-3	0.25	-0.52	1	1.11				
Rolling Fork	93	37	70	68	+2	0.31	-0.45	2	0.58	95	57	80	0.19
Stoneville	91	36	69	68	+1	0.61	-0.04	2	2.63	86	54	74	0.22
Yazoo City	89	39	70	70	0	1.74	+0.90	2	3.04				
Extreme/Average	93	32	69	69	0	0.71	-0.03	2	1.86	95	54	79	0.20
5. Central													
Carthage	91	37	66	68	-2	E0.11	-0.59	2	3.47				
Jackson	88	41	66	69	-3	1.46	+0.76	2	4.71				
Winona	89	35	64	65	-1	0.72	-0.01	2	6.07				
Extreme/Average	91	35	65	68	-3	0.76	-0.01	2	4.75				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville						1.11	+0.41	2	1.52				
Columbus	91	36	65			0.69		1	1.56				
State University	93	35	67	68	-1	1.66	+0.88	2	2.05	83	61	76	0.20
Extreme/Average	93	35	66	67	-1	1.15	+0.39	2	1.71	83	61	76	0.20
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	88	40	70			1.08		1	2.77	90	57	77	
Natchez	90	42	69	71	-2	1.39	+0.55	1	1.82				
Oakley	92	42	70	68	+2	1.75	+1.05	2	4.67	93	65	80	
Vicksburg	89	40	70			1.36		3	3.80				
Extreme/Average	92	40	70	70	0	1.40	+0.63	2	3.27	93	57	78	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	89	45	71	70	+1	1.94	+1.26	2	3.81				
McComb	91	56	73	70	+3	1.20	+0.41	1	3.83				
Extreme/Average	91	45	72	69	+3	1.57	+0.83	2	3.82				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont						E0.80		1	2.00				
Hattiesburg	90	46	71	70	+1	1.28	+0.60	2	3.98				
Laurel	90	44	68	69	-1	1.32	+0.65	1	2.57				
Meridian	92	40	65	68	-3	1.39	+0.69	1	2.79				
Newton	94	49	70	67	+3	E1.20	+0.43	1	2.21	93	68	77	0.18
Extreme/Average	94	40	69	69	0	1.30	+0.59	1	2.89	93	68	77	0.18
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	89	47	68			0.00		0	0.28				
Biloxi AFB	91	50	72			2.01		1	2.62				
Gulfport	87	48	71	73	-2	1.13	+0.25	2	1.36				
Pascagoula	89	47	69			0.74		1	1.76				
Poplarville	92	46	72	71	+1	0.58	-0.22	1	1.07	92	65	79	0.20
Extreme/Average	92	46	70	72	-2	0.89	+0.08	1	1.42	92	65	79	0.20
State	94	29	68	68	0	0.90	+0.16	2	2.52	95	42	75	0.20

DFN = Departure from Normal.

'E' = Indicates Estimated Value.