

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending October 27, 2002

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 2.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 27, 2002**. Soil moisture was rated 30 percent adequate, and 70 percent surplus.

Excessive soil moisture has been the rule since Hurricanes Isidore and Lili. Many sweetpotato growers are discovering extensive rot in fields remaining for harvest. We have adjusted the percent harvested estimate in anticipation that many remaining fields will be abandoned.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2001	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Harvested	100	99	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
Cotton	Harvested	52	42	74	88	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Harvested	93	90	98	98	--	--	--	--	--
Sorghum	Silage Harvested	100	98	100	100					
Soybeans	Harvested	75	70	88	88	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	90	55	92	88	40	43	17	0	0
Wheat	Planted	27	24	48	56	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	6	0	27	28					
Cattle						1	5	15	66	13
Pasture						1	2	24	61	12

County Agent Comments

“Quitman County has sustained sizable crop losses due to flooding. We have lost approximately 500-600 acres of rice, 2,000-2,500 acres of soybeans, and 400-500 acres of cotton. The greatest loss to cotton growers will be in quality. Most grades will be down 2-3 levels.”

— Mack Young, Quitman County

“Rain has run us out again. Cotton picking is about all that is left, but it is ugly! Cotton is picking tough and we are leaving a lot in the field. We have spent a lot of time digging pickers out of the mud with backhoes in part of the county. Wheat planting is on hold until the ground can dry out enough to hold the tractors up.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada County

“Fieldwork is still lagging behind due to excessive moisture. Beans for the most part are still too wet (in the pod) to harvest. Corn harvest is finally finishing up. Hay is in surplus and ryegrass planting is progressing. Scattered showers this weekend might delay harvests again this week.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn County

“About an inch of rain fell Saturday night and stopped all harvest efforts. Cotton grades have not deteriorated as much as expected from the earlier rains. Losses are being measured in pounds per acre. As much as 300 pounds per acre are being reported county-wide.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower County

“The prolonged wet soils have all but destroyed the sweetpotato crop. Producers are trying to harvest what is left, but rot from water damage is the name of the game in 2002.”

— Bill Burdine, Chickasaw County

“Cloudy skies and rain showers continue to hamper harvest operations. Too much rain and too little sunshine is also holding winter grazing back. Low lying areas have yellow grass with some areas succumbing to root rots. Army worms are still a problem on higher ground.”

— Victor Lee, Newton County

“Farmers are rushing to get winter grazing planted. Rain showers have slowed activities somewhat. Early planted ryegrass has had a few armyworm problems, but hot weather has slowed growth and caused a few fields to die back. Some farmers should start grazing in the next 10 days.”

— Mike Keene, Perry County

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Weather Summary from October 21, 2002 to October 27, 2002 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				61		0.20	-0.59	1	6.77				
Cleveland	71	51	60	61	-1	0.14	-0.55	2	8.19				
Tunica	71	50	61	60	+1	0.05	-0.80	1	6.94	66	56	61	0.05
Extreme/Average	71	50	61	61	0	0.13	-0.65	1	7.30	66	56	61	0.05
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs				57		0.20	-0.72	1	8.88				0.06
Memphis	71	50	62	61	+1	0.05	-0.77	2	7.90				
Oxford	76	46	62	58	+4	0.14	-0.77	1	7.76				
Extreme/Average	76	46	62	59	+3	0.13	-0.65	1	8.18				0.06
3. Northeast													
Booneville	73	52	61	58	+3	0.19	-0.63	2	5.35				
Corinth				60		0.35	-0.43	1	5.45				
Iuka	71	47	59	55	+4	0.22	-0.61	3	4.35				
Pontotoc				60		0.15	-0.61	1	5.54				
Tupelo	70	49	62	59	+3	0.26	-0.54	4	5.70				
Verona				59		0.17	-0.53	3	6.47				0.04
Extreme/Average	73	47	61	59	+2	0.24	-0.56	3	5.46				0.04
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				62		0.10 E	-0.83	1	6.50 E				
Rolling Fork	71	54	64	62	+2	1.37	+0.42	3	6.61	73	67	71	0.08
Stoneville	73	51	62	61	+1	0.71 E	-0.09	4	6.82 E	70	60	65	0.09
Yazoo City	71	54	64	63	+1	1.99	+0.97	3	7.32				
Extreme/Average	73	51	63	62	+1	1.36	+0.50	3	6.92	73	60	68	0.09
5. Central													
Carthage	74	53	65	60	+5	1.80	+0.99	3	6.14				
Greenwood	74	53	65	62	+3	0.19	-0.65	3	6.31				
Jackson	75	55	67	62	+5	2.48	+1.65	4	5.76				
Winona	71	49	63	57	+6	1.12	+0.33	1	5.96				
Extreme/Average	75	49	65	61	+4	1.40	+0.59	3	6.04				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville	75	47	62			0.00	-0.74	0	5.60	67	59	64	
Columbus	72	54	64	61	+3	0.55	-0.23	3	3.76				
State University	72	52	64	60	+4	0.72	-0.08	3	5.48	68	64	67	0.05
Extreme/Average	75	47	63	60	+3	0.42	-0.34	2	4.95	68	59	66	0.05
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	77	58	66	63	+3	1.28	+0.55	3	3.96	72	68	69	
Natchez	75	60	67	64	+3	3.96	+3.01	5	6.48				
Oakley	77	56	68	61	+7	2.25 E	+1.38	5	7.35 E	73	68	70	
Vicksburg	75	56	65			3.64		4	9.77				
Extreme/Average	77	56	66	63	+3	2.78	+1.93	4	6.89	73	68	70	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	78	59	69	63	+6	2.54	+1.74	3	5.35				
McComb	77	61	69	64	+5	4.45	+3.66	5	9.37				
Extreme/Average	78	59	69	63	+6	3.50	+2.76	4	7.36				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	82	58	70			2.10 E		4	7.91 E				
Hattiesburg	80	49	68	64	+4	3.01	+2.16	3	6.10				
Laurel	77	58	68	62	+6	0.80	+0.07	4	4.91				
Meridian	76	56	68	62	+6	1.49	+0.73	4	6.34				
Newton	78	54	67	60	+7	1.07 E	+0.22	5	6.52 E	72	63	67	0.05
Extreme/Average	82	49	68	62	+6	1.69	+0.98	4	6.36	72	63	67	0.05
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	82	61	69	65	+4	0.63 E	-0.11	3	4.96 E				
Biloxi AFB	77	64	71			2.66		4	6.17				
Gulfport	78	64	72	67	+5	1.95	+1.38	4	6.26				
Pascagoula	82	62	71			3.12		4	6.48				
Poplarville	79	61	69	65	+4	2.32	+1.52	5	3.60	74	68	71	
Extreme/Average	82	61	70	66	+4	2.14	+1.50	4	5.49	74	68	71	
State	82	46	65	62	+3	1.46	+0.69	3	6.48	74	56	67	0.06

DFN = Departure from Normal.