



CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



HERB VANDERBERRY, DIRECTOR
USDA/NASS ALABAMA FIELD OFFICE

RON SPARKS, COMMISSIONER
ALABAMA DEPT. OF AG. AND INDUSTRIES

PO Box 240578, Montgomery, AL 36124-0578

● 1 (800) 832-4181

● RELEASED: May 15, 2006 -- 3:00 P.M.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: [HTTP://WWW.NASS.USDA.GOV/AL](http://www.nass.usda.gov/al)

ISSUE 7

Julie Schmidt, Ag. Statistician

Recent Rains Improve Soil Condition

CROP PROGRESS	Sunday, May 14, 2006			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	97	96	96	99
Corn Emerged	80	75	79	81
Cotton Planted	75	63	71	74
Soybeans Planted	39	34	30	22
Soybeans Emerged	25	na	9	8
Peanuts Planted	36	23	37	41

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION	Friday, May 12, 2006				
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
	Percent				
Corn	0	1	22	69	8
Cotton	0	4	38	56	2
Winter Wheat	4	13	15	68	0
Pasture	1	7	35	50	7

TOP SOIL MOISTURE	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	1.4	0	0	61	39
District 20	2.2	0	0	50	50
District 30	4.2	0	3	72	25
District 40	4.5	0	4	93	3
District 50	4.1	0	10	83	7
District 60	3.8	0	12	83	5
State: Current Week	3.2	0	4	73	23
State: Previous Week	4.9	12	26	55	7

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

Statewide, Alabama received much needed rain with upwards of six inches falling in areas of the Coastal Plains. These rain storms have pushed precipitation totals in a few areas to above normal. However, most of the state is still experiencing below average moisture levels. Ron Weeks, Extension Specialist at Auburn, reported that counties in the Wiregrass area of the state received rainfall amounts of 3 to 6 inches. Franklin County Extension Agent, Tim Reed, stated that just over 6 inches of rain has fallen since May 5th. Donald E. Mann, Extension Agent in Jackson County, reported that cold weather and heavy rainfall has prevented farmers from completing some much needed fieldwork. The average temperatures recorded for last week were mostly below normal, with highs ranging from the low 70's to upper 80's and lows varying from the upper 30's to mid 50's.

Dale Monks, Cotton Agronomist at Auburn University, reported that early season conditions have not been kind to this year's cotton crop in areas of central and southeastern Alabama. Very dry soils, combined with heavy thrips and grasshopper pressure, have hurt the crop in many fields. Planting in these same areas has been sporadic due to rainfall and questionable soil moisture. Mr. Monks also stated that some much needed rainfall was delivered to these areas over the past week. Mr. Reed indicated that disease problems are becoming more common in areas of Franklin County, and that approximately 1,000 acres of the counties best crop land may not be planted due to extremely wet fields. Autauga County Extension Agent, Leonard Kuykendall, reported that after receiving 2 to 3 inches of rain mid-week, farmers are side dressing cotton with nitrogen fertilizer and herbicide applications. A few fields are receiving an insecticide overspray. Mr. Weeks stated that growers are continuing to plant cotton, and that some producers have to replant due to poor stands. Etowah County Extension Agent, T.H. Gregg reported that many pastures in the county are overgrown. Jimmy Smitherman, Montgomery County Extension Agent, indicated that the recent rains were very beneficial to soil conditions, as well as helping livestock and pasture conditions.

Research Horticulturist, Bobby Boozer, reported that a light volume of early variety peaches – Empress, Earligal, Goldcrest and Queencrest – are being harvested in central Alabama. Pest pressure from leaf-footed bugs and grasshoppers has been increasing. Plum curculio numbers are down, but the first field generation of adults is expected to begin emerging during the coming week. Doug Chapman, Regional Extension Agent in northwest Alabama, indicated there has been some bacterial spot beginning to show up in the peach crop. Research Horticulturist, Monte Nesbitt, stated that the pecan crop in Baldwin and Mobile counties is very light. Many growers had made no fungicide application for scab or downy spot control as of the first week in May. Pecan nut casebearer damage began on May 12th, and was expected to be significant from May 12th to the 15th. Satsuma growers on the Gulf Coast are facing a lighter crop this year due to late season stress from hurricane Katrina and drought conditions in March and April. Producers are applying a second fertilizer application for Satsumas, as well as a fungicide application to fight Melanose and Greasy Spot. Mr. Nesbitt also reported that citrus leafminer has begun to emerge and attack young citrus foliage. Mr. Chapman reported that the wet weather is making strawberry harvest difficult, and that vegetable growers are waiting for better weather to begin planting. Mr. Weeks stated that peanut planting will be in full swing during the coming week. Jeff Knotts of the Pike and Bullock County FSA offices indicated that peanut and soybean planting should resume as soon as fields allow. Mr. Kuykendall reported that the emerged corn in Autauga County was being side dressed with nitrogen fertilizer, in conjunction with an herbicide application.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather For the Period: Monday May 8, 2006 To: Sunday May 14, 2006

Weather Station	Air Temperatures				Precipitation			Precipitation since Jan 1			Avg. 4" Soil Temp	GDD Base 50		GDD Base 60	
	High	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	% Normal		Total	DFN	Total	DFN
District 10 Northwest Alabama - Tennessee Valley 25% of Corn Acreage, 32% of Cotton Acreage, 41% of Soybean Acreage.															
Muscle Shoals	80	48	64	-4	1.84	0.65	4	21.92	0.37	102	67	99	-23	29	-24
Russellville	82	43	62	-3	1.94	0.61	4	22.04	-1.72	93		86	-15	21	-17
Belle Mina	81	39	60	-8	1.55	0.43	4	19.06	-4.02	83		71	-44	11	-38
Huntsville Ag	78	48	63	-4	1.76	0.57	4	18.30	-5.63	76		93	-25	23	-29
Hamilton	81	42	62	-4	1.77	0.44	4	22.20	-2.81	89		91	-15	24	-16
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 22% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 23% of Soybean Acreage.															
Anniston AP	77	51	67	-2	1.99	1.01	4	22.39	-1.38	94	67	121	-6	51	-8
Cullman Ag	76	44	61	-6	1.86	0.67	4	25.27	0.25	101		83	-33	18	-31
Sand Mountain	73	45	61	-4	1.60	0.48	5	19.69	-3.67	84		82	-22	17	-23
Gadsden AP	75	45	63	-5	1.83	0.72	3	18.22	-6.51	74		92	-26	25	-26
Bridgeport	75	42	61	-4	2.31	1.12	5	21.72	-3.07	88		88	-13	21	-16
Guntersville	75	46	63	-6	1.80	0.66	5	19.55	-3.36	85	94	-32	27	-32	
District 30 North Central Alabama - 10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	79	48	66	-4	2.14	1.24	3	18.45	-5.98	76	71	128	-2	58	-2
Talladega	76	48	63	-5	2.63	1.53	4	23.21	-1.43	94		101	-22	31	-23
Birmingham AP	76	51	65	-4	1.69	0.54	3	28.78	5.52	124		107	-20	37	-22
Alabaster	77	50	65	-3	2.96	1.98	4	24.83	-0.58	98		111	-12	41	-14
Pinson	76	45	64	-3	1.66	0.54	3	22.93	-1.68	93		119	8	49	4
Opelika Wtr Plt	80	44	64	-4	3.35	2.48	4	21.18	-3.69	85	106	-16	38	-15	
Alexander City	82	47	64	-4	2.87	1.89	4	19.21	-5.44	78	108	-16	38	-18	
Tuscaloosa AP	80	47	66	-4	3.03	2.04	3	22.35	-1.77	93	114	-23	44	-23	
Jasper	80	47	63	-4	2.70	1.53	3	28.32	3.38	114	96	-15	27	-17	
District 40 South Central Alabama - Black Belt 9% of Corn Acreage, 12% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybeans Acreage, 21% of Pecan Trees.															
Union Springs	83	47	68	-3	3.15	2.27	4	14.28	-8.32	63	73	137	0	67	0
Marion Junction	82	50	68	-2	2.34	1.45	3	16.31	-7.31	69		130	-4	60	-4
Montgomery AP	83	49	69	-2	2.59	1.68	4	18.22	-4.51	80		132	-12	62	-12
Livingston	83	49	67	-3	2.54	1.54	2	21.49	-3.00	88		129	-7	59	-7
District 50 Southwest Alabama - Coastal Plain 11% of Corn Acreage, 20% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybean Acreage, 51% of Pecan Trees.															
Bay Minette	83	52	71	-3	2.49	1.26	3	17.87	-6.74	73	75	152	-9	82	-9
Brewton AG	87	51	73	3	6.40	5.32	4	19.96	-4.71	81		174	29	104	29
Thomasville	84	52	70	-1	4.37	3.29	3	20.14	-4.16	83		142	0	72	0
Mobile Bates	85	52	72	-2	1.21	-0.11	3	11.94	-11.72	50		158	-6	88	-6
District 60 Southeast Alabama - Wiregrass 23% of Corn Acreage, 27% of Cotton Acreage, 4% of Soybean Acreage, 96% of Peanut Ac., 23% of Pecan Trees.															
Eufaula Wildlife	81	49	68	-2	2.99	2.08	5	19.07	-1.89	91	78	132	-5	62	-5
Troy Municipal	84	49	69	-2	4.42	3.58	4	18.34	-3.50	84		132	-8	62	-8
Highland Home	81	45	66	-5	5.60	4.62	3	20.18	-3.79	84		119	-22	50	-21
Geneva Ag	86	47	69	-3	5.27	4.45	4	19.56	-1.79	92		141	-11	71	-11
Headland	86	53	71	-2	3.49	2.51	6	14.05	-8.90	61		85	152	-1	82
Dothan	85	54	71	0	3.22	2.38	4	15.90	-6.86	70	149	-2	79	-2	

*DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
Air and Soil Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. PCT of Norm : Cumulative Rainfall since January 1 as a percent of normal (using 1961-90 normals period) , 2006 Weather data prepared By AWIS, Inc.*

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
at MONTGOMERY, AL



CROP WEATHER (UPS 421-930) IS
 PUBLISHED WEEKLY APR - MID NOV
 BY ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
 4121 CARMICHAEL RD, STE 200, MONTGOMERY, AL 36124.
 POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO
 CROP WEATHER, POB 240578 MONTGOMERY, AL 36124-0578