

South Mississippi CoCoRaHS Newsletter



Welcome to Summer

The past couple of months have been busy with record flows on the Mississippi River. The deployment of both the Bonnet Carre and Morganza Spillways in southeast Louisiana was the first time since 1973. While the volume of water was similar to the Great Flood of 1927, the flood controls and fortified levee system worked as designed to really limit impacts to a fraction of the magnitude experienced in past major events. Meanwhile, sparse rain in May and the early part of June exacerbated the long term drought the region has been experiencing.

As of the latest Drought Monitor assessment, much of the Gulf Coast region is in either a D3 or D4 drought classification, the highest rating for a drought. A more normal rainfall pattern has evolved in the latter part of June to ease some stresses on grasses and gardens. I did miss issuing a June letter, but will catch everyone up for May and June in this issuance. Also, be mindful that we are now in the early stages of the Atlantic Hurricane Season.

Drought Conditions Persist along the Coast

U.S. Drought Monitor Mississippi

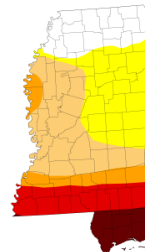
July 5, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-Ext	D4
Current	16.23	83.77	58.65	30.74	22.23	8.08
Last Week (06/29/2011 map)	16.23	83.77	58.65	30.74	22.23	8.08
3 Months Ago (04/05/2011 map)	31.41	68.59	31.48	7.28	0.05	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (1/2/2010 map)	6.57	93.43	71.28	28.88	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (05/29/2010 map)	7.57	92.43	68.96	5.38	0.10	0.00
One Year Ago (06/28/2010 map)	73.67	26.33	8.79	1.61	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
 D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Drought - Extreme
 D1 Drought - Moderate D4 Drought - Exceptional
 D2 Drought - Severe

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, July 7, 2011
Richard Helm, NOAA/NESDIS/National Climatic Data Center

The National Drought Monitor continues to indicate D4- exceptional drought conditions for the coastal counties of Mississippi. The interior southern counties are indicated to be in D3-Extreme drought. Some localized daily rainfall has taken place recently to help the situation in the short-term, but long term rainfall deficits remain rather large.

June Statistics

- **Wettest Month State**
MS-OK-22 Maben 6.0 SSE
8.48" on 6 reports
- **Wettest Month Local**
MS-HC-8 Diamondhead 0.4 E
7.56" on 29 reports
- **Number of Rain Days: 22**
- **Wettest Day State**
MS-LY-8 Oxford 10.7 W
3.36" on June 25th
- **Wettest Day Local**
MS-HC-8 Diamondhead 0.4 E
3.20" on June 22nd
- **Driest Month Local**
MS-JC-8 Ocean Springs 3.2SE
0.34" on 30 reports
- **Hail Days: 3**
6/7 330 pm: pea to grape in Pike
Co MS-PK-2 Jayess 5.6 SW 6/13
grape hail in Tate Co.
6/15 pea hail in Pontotoc Co.

May Statistics

- **Wettest Month State**
MS-DS-4 Olive Branch 3.2 SW
5.32" on 11 reports
- **Wettest Month Local**
MS-JC-22 Gautier 4.9 N
5.28" on 9 reports
- **Number of Rain Days: 13**
- **Wettest Day State/Local:**
MS-JC-16 Gautier 5.1 N
5.02" on May 27th
- **Driest Month Local**
MS-PR-4 Picayune 5.6 NNE
0.14" on 31 reports
MS-HR-7 Gulfport 4.3 NNW
0.00" on 17 reports
- **Hail Days: 0**

We're on the Web!

www.cocorahs.org

Robert J. Ricks, Jr.

NWS Forecast Office
62300 Airport Road
Slidell, LA 70460

Phone: (985) 649-0429
Phone: (504) 522-7330
E-mail: robert.ricks@noaa.gov
E-mail: robricks86@hotmail.com



"Because every drop counts"

Comment of the Month: Kiln 6.6 N (MS-HC-13) on June 29th

At 4:39 pm the first storm intensified with strong gusts that lasted about a minute. Winds were sufficient to rip some leaves from my wife's brugmansias and knock over a small potted plant. Temperature at time of observation was 76 degrees Fahrenheit. Skies were partly cloudy with cirrus clouds.

Hurricane Season is Upon us

Once again, summer time in the Gulf South is synonymous with the Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Season. The Gulf of Mexico already had the first storm of the season with the formation of Tropical Storm Arlene. This early starter made landfall in Mexico and produced extensive inland flooding from torrential rains. Now is a great time to review your personal preparedness plans for the season. Please remember, if you are requested or ordered to evacuate during a landfall threat, heed your local official's recommendations. We will be more than happy to get your rainfall report upon your return, assuming your gauge is unaffected.

Reporting Statistics (May)

- **Stations reporting: 139**
- **Number of reports: 3644**
- **Average daily reporting: 117.5**

Busiest Reporting Day

- **Date: May 26th**
- **Number of Reports: 124**
- **Average reported rainfall: 0.32"**
- **Max amount: 1.89"**

Wettest Reporting Day

- **Date: May 14th**
- **Number of Reports: 112**
- **Average reported rainfall: 0.42"**
- **Max amount: 3.52"**

Reporting Statistics (June)

- **Stations reporting: 144**
- **Number of reports: 3483**
- **Average daily reporting: 116.1**

Busiest Reporting Day

- **Date: June 22nd**
- **Number of Reports: 126**
- **Average reported rainfall: 1.10"**
- **Max amount: 3.20"**

Wettest Reporting Day

- **Date: June 22nd**
- **Number of Reports: 126**
- **Average reported rainfall: 1.10"**
- **Max amount: 3.20"**

Keep those rainfall and hail reports coming!