

<b>NWS FORM E-5</b> (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)	<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> <b>NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION</b> <b>NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE</b>	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)	
		<b>NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LA</b>	
<b>MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS</b>		REPORT FOR:	YEAR
		<b>APRIL</b>	<b>2012</b>
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		SIGNATURE	
		KENNETH GRAHAM METEOROLOGIST-IN-CHARGE	
		DATE <b>MAY 15, 2012</b>	

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

An X inside this box indicates that no flooding occurred within this hydrologic service area.

*...April Rainfall Helped Soil Moisture Except over Coastal Mississippi...*

A series of rain events developed during the first two weeks of April over southeastern Louisiana, southwestern Mississippi, and coastal Mississippi. Severe weather and copious rainfall occurred by April 7<sup>th</sup>, particularly over the southeast agricultural region of Louisiana and coastal Mississippi. Morgan City measured 7.59 inches for the week; Terrytown totaled 7.21 inches; and New Orleans/Lakefront reported 6.18 inches. As the weather week ended on April 8<sup>th</sup>, areal average rain totals ranged from 3.22 inches up to 5.34 inches over southeast Louisiana.

More rainfall developed over Louisiana the next week after a cold front stalled along the Gulf Coast, though rainfall was spotty over southern Mississippi. Areal average rainfall totals were less than 0.1 inch over Mississippi, though amounts ranged from 0.1 inch to 0.25 inch by April 15<sup>th</sup> over southeastern Louisiana.

Two significant weather systems produced downpours from April 16<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>. Many areas measured between 1.0 inch and 3.0 inches for the week, with the heaviest rains over the coastal regions. Every region, except the Florida Parishes had above normal rainfall. Areal average rain totals were generally from 0.8 inch over east central Louisiana to around 3.0 inches over southeast Louisiana.

Little to no rainfall developed across southeastern Louisiana, southwestern Mississippi, and coastal Mississippi as the month ended. After dry, sunny days up to April 29<sup>th</sup>, isolated showers on April 30<sup>th</sup> produced spotty rain amounts of around 0.2 inch or less.

**Flooding...**

Flooding that started in late March continued into April at Bogalusa and Pearl River on the Lower Pearl River; on the Pascagoula River near Graham Ferry; and at Morgan City on the Atchafalaya River. Flooding ended on the Pascagoula River on April 1<sup>st</sup>. All flooding had ended on the Lower Pearl River by April 11<sup>th</sup>. Flood water receded at Morgan City by April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Monthly Reports by Agricultural Region	Areal Average	Departure from Normal
Southwest Mississippi (2 Sites)	3.88	N/A
South Central Mississippi (2 Sites)	3.65	-2.08
Coastal Mississippi	4.96	-0.18
Central Louisiana (2 Sites)	2.88	-2.52
East Central Louisiana	4.35	-1.26
South Central Louisiana (7 Sites)	4.83	+0.02
Southeast Louisiana	8.53	+3.79

**Extreme Rainfall for the Month (Inches and Departure from Normal)**

New Orleans/Lakefront, LA	11.11	Morgan City, LA	9.58	+5.36
Stennis Airport, MS	9.90	New Orleans/Audubon, LA	9.56	+4.57
Terrytown, LA	9.62	Galliano, LA	7.91	+3.48

**Drought...**

By the beginning of April, soil moisture deficits had been eroded by heavy March rainfall. Throughout the month of April, soils across most of the region were normal to abnormally dry (D0). The exception was a small area of coastal Mississippi in Jackson County, where moderate drought (D1) conditions persisted into April. The soil moisture contents further deteriorated by the end of April; moderate drought spread over all of Jackson County.