

NWS FORM E-5 (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)	
		NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LA	
MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS		REPORT FOR:	YEAR
		MAY	2012
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	
		JUNE 15, 2012	

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.

...Spring Weather Dried Out in May...

Stormy weather developed over southeastern Louisiana, southwestern Mississippi and coastal Mississippi early in May. By May 6th, impacts were greatest across East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and Ascension Parishes. Bayou Manchac reported 7.97 inches over the week. Flash flooding developed at several locations. Areal average rainfall totals for the week ending May 6th ranged from 0.5 inch to around 1.2 inches.

Severe weather and heavy rain episodes developed again during the second week of May, especially over southeastern Louisiana. Areal average rain totals ranged from 0.75 inch up to 1.75 inches for the weather week ending May 13th.

After episodes of heavy rain during the first half of May, rain was scarce during the second half of May. Where scattered showers and thundershowers occurred, amounts were generally light. Around May 23rd, the weather pattern became more volatile across southeastern Louisiana, southwestern Mississippi and coastal Mississippi, as a slow-moving front moved through the region. Even though the front produced three days of severe weather, very little rainfall accumulated. For the two week period, rainfall generally remained well below normal. For the weather week ending May 20th, areal average rainfall was around 0.12 inch or less. For the following week, areal rain totals averaged 0.15 inch or less.

Tropical Storm Beryl made landfall near the Florida-Georgia border and directly impacted the pressure pattern over this region on May 29th. However, "Beryl" only produced scattered thunderstorms across the region from May 28th through May 31st, with more widespread tropical rains on May 31st and into June. Where rainfall occurred after May 28th, totals were generally less than 0.5 inch, with local amounts over 2 inches in stronger storms.

Monthly Reports by Agricultural Region	Areal Average	Departure from Normal
Southwest Mississippi (2 Sites)	2.58	N/A
South Central Mississippi (2 Sites)	2.46	-3.09
Coastal Mississippi	3.69	-2.05
Central Louisiana (2 Sites)	3.03	-2.15
East Central Louisiana	2.95	-2.67
South Central Louisiana (7 Sites)	3.07	-1.85
Southeast Louisiana	2.51	-2.62

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

Bayou Manchac Point, LA	8.25		Ansley, MS	0.03	
Killian, LA	6.41		Abita Springs, LA	0.00	-5.86
Galliano, LA	5.22	-0.53	New Orleans/Algiers, LA	0.00	-6.01
Denham Springs, LA	5.00	-0.31	Pine Grove, LA	0.00	-6.36

Drought...

At the start of May, soils across most of the region were normal to abnormally dry (D0). The only exception – moderate drought (D1) conditions persisted over most of Jackson County. By May 8th, soil conditions improved over all of southeastern Louisiana and coastal Mississippi. Normal soil moisture contents returned over all of coastal Mississippi

except Jackson County. That area and extreme southeast Louisiana continued to have abnormally dry soil conditions. After below rainfall over most of the second half of May, soils dried out again. By May 29th, the lack of significant rain allowed abnormally dry conditions to reestablish over much of the region. Only southwestern Mississippi, east central Louisiana, and parts of the Atchafalaya River Basin retained normal soil moisture contents.