

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: February 2, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CST)  
 For the week of January 26 - February 1, 2004  
 TX-CW0504

1-800-626-3142  
 www.nass.usda.gov/tx

**Crop Progress Table - February 1, 2004**

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1998-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
<b>Cotton</b>			
Harvested . . . . .	100	100	100
<b>Wheat</b>			
Emerged . . . . .	100	100	99
<b>Other Field Crops Harvested</b>			
Pecans . . . . .	100	99	98

**Crop Condition Table - February 1, 2004**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat . . . . .	2	9	29	31	29
Range & Pasture . .	3	14	37	28	18

**Agricultural Summary:** The early half of the week was dry, except for some light precipitation that moved through parts of the Panhandle. Some light snow occurred in the Northern Panhandle on Monday. High winds were experienced in the Plains and western Trans-Pecos. During the later part of the week, from 0.10 inches to 2 inches of rain fell east of a line running from halfway between Eagle Pass and Laredo north to the northeastern corner of the state. Precipitation was greatest along the Upper Coast. Most areas of the Trans-Pecos, Southern Plains, Edwards Plateau, and North Central Texas did not receive any rain during the week. Most areas away from the Gulf Coast saw nighttime freezing temperatures during the week. Some improvements were seen in small grains and pastures where rains had fallen in previous weeks. Areas with limited or no new moisture continued to suffer as soil moisture levels were extremely short. More precipitation was still needed in the western half of the state to increase and sustain soil moisture. The Coastal districts were an exception, because many fields and pastures remained saturated from recent rains. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued across the state. Timber harvest activities and pine tree planting were underway in East Texas.

**Field Crops Report**

**Small Grains:** Around the state, small grain conditions appeared to be improving in locations that received recent moisture. In the Plains, much of the wheat was stressed from freeze damage, lack of precipitation, or heavy stocker rates. Healthier wheat stands were aided by scattered rain and snow in the Panhandle. Top-dressing of wheat with fertilizer was observed in North Central Texas. Spring wheat planting was evident in some areas of South Central Texas. In some areas of the state, producers were treating fields for aphids, greenbugs and other pests.

Statewide wheat condition was rated at 37 percent of normal, compared with 75 percent last year.

**Corn:** Preparations for spring planting resumed in some southern and central areas. Producers in the Coastal Bend and the lower Rio Grande Valley were plowing and completing fertilization of fields and anticipating Spring planting.

**Cotton:** In the Plains, high winds, snow and freezing temperatures delayed harvest of last remaining fields. A few gins were still operating in the Plains. On the Edwards Plateau, some pre-watering of cotton started. Preparations were being made for planting cotton in the Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley.

**Sorghum:** Producers across most of the state, except the Coastal districts, were in need of more rain before planting. Fields in central and southern areas, where conditions were not too wet, were being prepared for Spring planting. The Upper Coast and the southern part of South Texas had very wet fields, which was delaying Spring planting preparations.

**Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**

In the **Rio Grande Valley** skies were overcast with mild temperatures during the day and cool night temperatures. Spring planting preparations and fertilization of fields continued. The onion crop progressed well and was about normal for this time of year.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, harvest of spinach and cabbage continued. Some land preparation for Spring planting had begun. Winter vegetables continued to develop.

**Pecans:** Harvest was completed in all areas of the state.

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report**

Vegetation showed signs of improvement on rangeland and pastures, especially those areas stressed by dry weather earlier this winter. More precipitation was still needed in western areas to improve soil moisture and to increase water levels in holding tanks used for livestock. Cattle body conditions were reported from fair to good for this time of year. In the Plains, most stockers have been pulled off fields due to short pasture and ranges. In very dry areas, some livestock were being sold off. Cattle were showing some signs of stress due to excess water in the pastures of the Upper Coast. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued around most of the state. Increased external parasite activity was observed in beef cattle herds in the Edwards Plateau. Lambing, kidding and calving has begun in some areas. Prices at cattle auctions remained steady to stronger. Poultry producers experienced higher utility costs because of the much colder night time temperatures. Deer season ended Sunday in South Texas, and landowners reported that wildlife was in excellent body condition.

**Weather Information Table <sup>1</sup>**

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Jan 26 - Feb 1) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Jan 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Feb 1) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Nov - Jan) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.92	0.92	18.87	77
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	1.43	1.43	23.78	83
North Central Texas	0.16	1.76	1.88	34.00	59
East Texas	0.65	3.25	3.58	45.69	78
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.91	0.91	12.96	90
Edwards Plateau	0.00	1.41	1.41	24.01	62
South Central Texas	0.15	2.08	2.11	34.48	61
Upper Coast	1.06	4.89	5.07	47.63	106
South Texas	0.00	0.90	0.90	23.49	61
Lower Valley	0.02	1.04	1.04	25.34	49



<sup>1</sup> Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

**Top Soil Moisture by District - February 1, 2004 \***

Condition	1-N	1-S	2-N	2-S	3	4	5-N	5-S	6	7	8-N	8-S	9	10-N	10-S
	Percent of Acreage														
Very Short	56	30	45	29	32	10	3	1	54	18	0	0	0	4	0
Short	29	28	41	53	51	29	38	1	35	54	31	0	0	37	13
Adequate	15	32	14	18	17	53	46	63	11	22	50	95	0	58	87
Surplus	0	10	0	0	0	8	13	35	0	6	19	5	100	1	0

\* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Plains: 3, 4; East Texas: 5-N, 5-S. Trans-Pecos: 6; Edwards Plateau: 7; South Central Texas: 8-N, 8-S; Upper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

**Cooperating Agencies:**

**Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service.**

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