



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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For the week of: March 8 - 14, 2010

Agricultural Summary: The Trans-Pecos received little to no precipitation while the majority of the State received 0.01 to 2.0 inch of rainfall. Winter wheat in the Northern High Plains was progressing well with adequate soil moisture and is beginning to green up with warmer weather. Oat fields were really beginning to grow after all the recent moisture in the Northern Low Plains. Corn planting was behind schedule in the Blacklands due to the recent precipitation experienced across the area. In the Coastal Bend, the favorable weather conditions led to an increase in sorghum field activity. Continued rain and snow accumulation have increased moisture levels for cotton growers in the Southern Low Plains. Another week without significant rainfall in South Texas has prompted irrigation activity to onions, spinach, and cabbage. Livestock conditions appeared to be improving in North East Texas from a cold, wet winter, however, feral hogs remain active in pastures. Supplemental feeding of livestock have slowed down significantly in the Edwards Plateau but continued in South Central Texas. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate to surplus across the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Winter wheat in the Northern High Plains was progressing well with adequate soil moisture and is beginning to green up with warmer weather. More rain in the Blacklands has made it difficult for wheat crops to make progress. Wheat condition was mostly fair to good statewide. Oat fields were really beginning to grow after all the recent moisture in the Northern Low Plains. Another week without significant rainfall in South Texas has prompted irrigation activities to oat fields. Oat condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Corn: Corn planting was behind schedule in the Blacklands due to the recent precipitation experienced across the area. However, the warmer, drier weather towards the end of the week allowed for corn planting getting underway in the Coastal Bend.

Sorghum: Sorghum planting has started in South Texas. In the Coastal Bend, the favorable weather conditions led to an increase in sorghum field activity.

Cotton: Continued rain and snow accumulation have increased moisture levels for cotton growers in the Southern Low Plains. In the Trans-Pecos, cotton land was being prepared, furrowed, and irrigated while planting was active in South Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Another week without significant rainfall in South Texas has prompted irrigation activity to onions, spinach, and cabbage. The warmer temperatures have slowed down the spinach crop progress.

Livestock, Range and Pasture Report

Livestock conditions appeared to be improving in North East Texas from a cold, wet winter, however, feral hogs remain active in pastures. Supplemental feeding of livestock have slowed down significantly in the Edwards Plateau but continued in South Central Texas. Producers were trying to complete their tillage between rain falls in the Southern High Plains. Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good.

Crop Progress Table – March 14, 2010 *

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2010	2009	Average 2005 – 2009
Corn	Planted	11	29	28
Sorghum	Planted	8	16	18

* Visit our web site to view the crop progress regional maps, available the following working day of this release at www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Texas/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/maps/index.htm.

Crop Condition Table – March 14, 2010

Crop	Percent					Index ^{1/}	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2010	2009
Wheat	11	44	32	10	3	74	37
Oats	15	42	35	7	1	77	21
Range & Pasture	5	30	39	19	7	-	-

1/ The formula for the condition index is $I = (5V + 25P + 60F + 90G + 110E)/100$ where I=crop condition Index and V, P, F, G, E = percentage of crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good, excellent.

Top Soil Moisture by District – March 14, 2010

Condition	Percent of Acreage, by District ^{1/}														
	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
Very Short	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	3	0	0	3	2	0
Short	17	9	6	0	1	0	0	2	46	11	0	2	6	14	10
Adequate	72	75	83	72	69	45	42	73	27	71	71	65	78	82	90
Surplus	9	16	11	28	30	55	58	25	0	15	29	33	13	2	0

1/ High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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.

Precipitation Table – March 14, 2010 ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions ^{2/}	Inches of Accumulation				Percent
	Previous Week (March 8 – 14)	Month-to-Date (March 1 – 14)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Mar 14)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months of Normal (Dec - Feb)
High Plains	0.29	0.40	3.54	19.64	200
Low Rolling Plains	0.15	0.37	3.66	24.51	146
North Central Texas	0.65	1.13	6.55	35.23	102
East Texas	0.91	1.44	7.46	48.08	83
Trans-Pecos	0.01	0.04	1.90	13.19	137
Edwards Plateau	0.15	0.25	4.60	24.73	150
South Central Texas	0.11	0.15	6.72	36.21	141
Upper Coast	0.22	0.61	7.76	50.31	114
South Texas	0.02	0.03	4.18	24.08	166
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	4.25	25.43	201

1/ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

2/ High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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.

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:

www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis_new.php and www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

Cooperating Agencies:

Texas AgriLife Extension Service
 Texas Department of Agriculture
 National Weather Service

