



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 17 - 23, 2008

Agricultural Summary: Much of the Blacklands, Cross Timbers, and Edwards Plateau received showers with up to 5 or 6 inches of rainfall in some areas. Fire danger remained a concern in Trans-Pecos and South Texas as very dry and windy conditions were observed. Trans-Pecos, South Texas, and the Lower Valley received very little rainfall, about 0.01 to 0.25 inches. The Low Plains received up to 1.5 inches of rain; however, the High Plains received very little to no rainfall. Small grains fields improved after recent rains across much of the state. Pre-irrigating of some cotton fields occurred in the Southern High Plains, while some planting of cotton was delayed due to rain in the Coastal Bend. Corn planting was still delayed due to wet fields in the Blacklands. Dry planting of sorghum continued in the Coastal Bend. Top soil moisture was mostly short to adequate across the state. Hay consumption remained constant as pastures continued to green up in the Edwards Plateau and the Northern Low Plains.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Small grains fields improved after recent rains across much of the state. Irrigated wheat continued to improve; and dryland wheat started to improve with the small amounts of rain received. Wheat condition was mostly poor to fair statewide. Oat condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Cotton: Pre-irrigating of some cotton fields occurred in the Southern High Plains, while some planting of cotton was delayed due to rain in the Coastal Bend.

Corn: Corn planting was still delayed due to wet fields in the Blacklands. Corn planting continued in South Central and South Texas. Early planted fields started to emerge in South Central.

Sorghum: Dry planting of sorghum continued in the Coastal Bend. After the rain last week, sorghum producers resumed planting activities in South Texas. Sorghum condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Sugarcane, citrus, and cabbage continued to be harvested in the Lower Valley and South Texas. Peach trees continued to bloom in North East Texas. Potato fields continued to develop in South Texas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Hay consumption remained constant as pastures continued to green up in the Edwards Plateau and the Northern Low Plains. Some producers experienced some improvement in pasture condition, but supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Range and pasture condition was mostly poor to fair statewide.

Crop Progress Table – March 23, 2008

Crop	Stage	2008	2007	Average 2003 – 2007
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	40	51	39
	Emerged	12	22	16
Cotton	Planted	5	6	6
Rice	Planted	19	15	14
Sorghum	Planted	38	42	28
Soybeans	Planted	6	4	5
Winter Wheat	Headed	3	4	3
Oats	Headed	7	8	4

Crop Condition Table – March 23, 2008

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2008	2007
Corn	0	52	45	2	1	74	--
Sorghum	0	34	54	11	1	66	--
Wheat	1	15	32	29	23	42	77
Oats	4	29	36	16	15	57	62
Range & Pasture	2	21	35	28	14	--	--

^{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 23, 2008 *

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	66	43	32	18	3	0	0	0	48	23	10	88	0	54	30
Short	28	45	52	45	24	1	7	5	39	44	56	12	3	42	58
Adequate	6	12	16	36	62	55	54	60	13	33	33	0	76	4	12
Surplus	0	0	0	1	11	44	39	35	0	0	1	0	21	0	0

* 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.

Weather Information Table ^{1/ 2/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (March 17 - 23) Accumulation	Month-to-date (March 1 - 23) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Mar 23) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Dec, Jan, Feb) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.07	0.11	0.34	18.87	61
Low Rolling Plains	0.80	1.08	1.40	23.78	31
North Central Texas	2.21	4.45	5.96	34.00	49
East Texas	0.95	3.49	8.92	45.69	75
Trans-Pecos	0.15	0.15	0.32	12.96	41
Edwards Plateau	1.49	2.01	2.23	24.01	14
South Central Texas	0.23	1.39	3.80	34.48	50
Upper Coast	0.11	2.39	8.73	47.63	80
South Texas	0.00	0.42	1.00	23.49	24
Lower Valley	0.01	0.05	1.93	25.34	52

^{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 Agricultural Extension Service
 Texas Department of Agriculture
 National Weather Service

