



## USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas Field Office

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TX-CW1406

### **Texas Crop Weather**

Released April 3, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)

For the week of March 27 - April 2, 2006

**Agricultural Summary:** Scattered showers occurred in many areas of the state as drought stricken regions were given some relief. However, long term effects from the drought were still apparent and some locations worsened. The Upper Coast, Central and East Texas reported rainfall amounts ranging from ½ to 2 inches. Isolated locations in those regions received up to 5 inches of rain. Rain gauges along portions of the Red River in North Central Texas recorded rain amounts from ½ to 3 inches. Other districts reporting moisture included the South Plains, Edwards Plateau, South Texas, Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley. Totals in those regions ranged from a trace to over 1 inch. Springtime temperatures were in effect as highs in the 80's were common in all areas with some 90's reported in southern locations. Freeze damage from the previous week was noticed in some wheat fields that had headed out and in newly emerged corn and sorghum. Summer crop seeding as well as land preparations were ongoing as conditions permitted. Pasture green-up progressed northward as temperatures rose. Supplemental feeding decreased for the most part as forages began to grow, especially in eastern locations that have been receiving rain for the past few weeks. Stock tanks were filled where downpours occurred, easing pressure on cattle. Irrigation remained active where available. Effects of the long term drought remained and a pattern of increased precipitation would have to be established to break the dry weather cycle across the state.

### **Field Crops Report**

**Small Grains:** Wheat fields were beginning to green-up on the Panhandle but there was still not much production expected from dryland. Insurance adjustors were busy disastering failed wheat in the area. Some grazing was ongoing on irrigated land. For those fields still standing for grain harvest, crop dusters were spraying for greenbugs. In North Central Texas and the Blacklands, freeze damage was reported in headed fields. The effect on yield potential remained to be seen. Statewide, wheat condition was rated mostly poor to very poor. Statewide, oat condition was rated mostly very poor.

**Cotton:** Rain in the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend was very well received by cotton growers. For many fields, it was the first rain since before planting. Much more moisture will be needed to give the cotton crop a good start this season. Planting continued on the Blacklands. Preparations were ongoing on the South Plains and other northern regions. Irrigation was heavy in parts of South Texas.

**Corn:** Corn fields on the Blacklands were hurt by the freeze received the previous week. Most fields were expected to recover, but there was acreage that needed to be replanted.

Planting progressed northward as field preparation was active on the Panhandle. Corn in southern regions was 4 to 5 inches tall in early planted fields. Irrigation in those regions was active where available. Statewide, corn condition was rated mostly fair to good.

**Sorghum:** Fields were burned back by the freeze. Most should recover but some replanting was necessary. Growers in the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend welcomed the much needed rain. Much more would be needed for adequate crop stands. Irrigation was active where possible.

**Rice:** Planting continued on the Upper Coast. Fields were emerging and more growers were flooding fields.

**Soybeans:** Planting was ongoing but there were delays along the Upper Coast, Blacklands and Northeast Texas due to rain.

### **Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, rain was beneficial to all agriculture. Spring onion harvest gained momentum. Producers continued to harvest sugarcane, vegetables, and citrus

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, potato development was good and harvest was expected in the next few weeks. Cabbage harvest continued.

In **East Texas**, there was some freeze damage in early planted watermelons, but they were expected to recover.

**Pecans and peaches** that budded out and bloomed were damaged by the freeze. The full effect on yield was unknown. A hail storm in the Trans Pecos damaged pecan orchards.

**Grape** vineyards on the Trans Pecos and Edwards Plateau were hurt by the previous week's freeze. Most of the damage occurred on the top vines.

### **Livestock, Pasture and Range Report**

Pastures continued to green-up and were beginning to provide more grazing opportunities for cattle. Drought stricken rangeland in South Texas responded well with the first significant rain in quite some time. Supplemental feeding decreased somewhat but was still necessary in most areas. Hay was still very scarce and expensive as importation continued. Cattle body condition was rated slightly better with the improvement of forages but still behind where it should be. Most calves were on the ground as spring cattle work continued. Horn flies were an increasing problem in most regions. Sheep producers continued to shear and sell fall lambs.

**Crop Progress Table - April 2, 2006**

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	60	54	49
	Emerged	42	30	32
Cotton	Planted	13	10	10
	Rice	58	23	34
Rice	Emerged	30	3	8
	Sorghum	45	31	33
Soybeans	Planted	23	18	16
Sunflowers	Planted	13	4	2
Winter Wheat	Headed	9	7	7
Oats	Headed	34	--	--

**Top Soil Moisture by District – April 2, 2006 \***

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	61	41	39	34	8	4	4	9	55	33	49	82	0	63	67
Short	34	48	50	44	36	17	12	25	27	47	27	18	14	31	30
Adequate	5	11	11	22	54	72	71	59	15	18	24	0	60	6	3
Surplus	0	0	0	0	2	7	13	7	3	2	0	0	26	0	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.

**Crop Condition Table – April 2, 2006**

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	5	32	45	12	6	65	--
Wheat	1	6	17	26	50	26	85
Oats	1	8	17	30	44	28	--
Range & Pasture	0	8	27	29	36	--	--

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Mar 27 – Apr 2) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 2) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.15	1.35	1.50	18.87	70
Low Rolling Plains	0.22	1.58	2.05	23.78	60
North Central Texas	0.60	3.56	6.97	34.00	104
East Texas	0.88	3.89	11.18	45.69	105
Trans Pecos	0.10	0.65	0.84	12.96	72
Edwards Plateau	0.39	1.61	2.64	24.01	73
South Central Texas	0.50	1.50	2.93	34.48	48
Upper Coast	1.43	1.64	4.51	47.63	50
South Texas	0.19	0.40	0.49	23.49	16
Lower Valley	0.16	0.40	0.69	25.34	19

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

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:  
[www.srh.noaa.gov/fcshare/precip\\_analysis\\_new.php](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fcshare/precip_analysis_new.php) and [www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html)

**Cooperating Agencies:**

- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- National Weather Service

