



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 26 – April 1, 2007

Agricultural Summary: Continued rains across the state have given many producers a positive outlook on this growing season. Wheat producers anticipate this growing season to be one of the most productive in several years. Most areas of the state received moderate to heavy amounts of moisture. In Central Texas, heavy downpours dropped from 2.0 to 8.0 inches, causing flooding in a few areas. Eastern Texas and the Panhandle both received mostly 0.50 to 2.0 inches of rainfall. The Trans-Pecos area and South Texas both received mostly 0.01 to 1.0 inches of rainfall, as isolated showers brought as much as 1.5 inches to small sections. The Lower Valley received mostly 0.01 to 0.25 inches of rainfall. In most areas of the state, soils dried enough to allow farming activities to continue, but in a few areas such as the Blacklands additional rainfall kept soils too wet for field work. Supplemental feeding continued to decline considerably across most areas of the state as forage growth increased.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Recent moisture and warm weather continued to improve wheat conditions in the Plains, Cross Timbers, Blacklands, and South Texas. Insect activity remained light in the Northern High Plains, but weed spraying continued. Also in the Northern High Plains, producers continued to pull cattle off wheat fields intended for grain or hay. Wheat continued to progress in the Southern Low Plains, and some fields have even shown signs of early heading. Statewide, wheat and oat condition was mostly fair to good.

Cotton: Land preparations were halted in the Southern High Plains due to the increase in moisture. Producers in the Southern Low Plains reported good levels of underground moisture as they continue to prepare for planting.

Corn: “Standing water” in some fields damaged corn acreage in isolated areas of the Blacklands. Poorly drained fields in South Texas were showing some signs of yellowing.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Producers in North East Texas continued to prepare land for planting of tomatoes, squash, and watermelons. Harvest of cabbage, spinach, and broccoli continued during the

beginning of the week in the Edwards Plateau. There were also a few reports of cabbage and potatoes being harvested in South Texas.

Pecans: Producers finished trimming trees and continued to prepare orchards for watering.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pastures continued to “green up” in the Northern Low Plains. Native pastures also continued to improve in the Southern Low Plains. Recent rains have helped range and pasture conditions in the Blacklands, increasing forage available to cattle. In North East Texas, pastures were “greening up” with ryegrass, clovers, with some warm season forages emerging. Some producers in North East Texas still remained concerned about the high costs of fertilizer. Range and pastures in the Edwards Plateau have shown a dramatic change over the last month as many are “greening up” and growing. There have been a few reports of toxic spring plants in rangelands along the Coastal Bend. Included in these reports are some problems of lobelia. In South Texas, native range and pasture conditions continued to improve, providing forage for livestock. Livestock body conditions continue to improve as the availability of high quality forage increases. Statewide, range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good.

Crop Progress Table – April 1, 2007

Crop	Stage	2007	2006	Average 2002 - 2006
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	56	59	53
	Emerged	47	40	34
Cotton	Planted	9	12	10
Rice	Planted	31	55	38
Sorghum	Planted	49	43	35
Soybeans	Planted	10	22	16
Winter Wheat	Headed	7	8	6
Oats	Headed	30	32	--

Crop Condition Table – April 1, 2007

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2007	2006
Corn	7	65	23	4	1	81	65
Wheat	23	44	26	6	1	82	26
Oats	10	31	38	11	10	65	28
Range & Pasture	8	32	34	17	9	--	--

^{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 – April 1, 2007 *

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	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	2	28	6	0	0	1	2	10
Short	2	9	11	6	7	12	22	18	41	15	1	5	1	11	27
Adequate	72	60	53	75	61	49	71	53	31	64	68	85	66	82	60
Surplus	26	31	34	19	32	37	6	27	0	15	31	10	32	5	3

* 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 (Mar 26 – April 1) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – Apr 1) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Dec - Feb) Percent of Normal
High Plains	1.16	3.91	4.71	18.87	150
Low Rolling Plains	1.27	3.24	4.26	23.78	64
North Central Texas	4.07	5.65	8.90	34.00	95
East Texas	2.23	4.24	11.82	45.69	120
Trans Pecos	0.11	1.16	2.09	12.96	110
Edwards Plateau	1.59	4.45	6.54	24.01	87
South Central Texas	2.09	5.13	9.83	34.48	103
Upper Coast	2.94	7.36	14.36	47.63	109
South Texas	0.52	1.90	5.11	23.49	152
Lower Valley	0.15	1.89	4.14	25.34	117

^{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

