



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 24 - 30, 2008

Agricultural Summary: Scattered showers were observed in some parts; however, much of the state remained dry last week as producers hoped for any amount of moisture. North East Texas observed up to 2 inches of rain, but most of the state did not receive the rainfall needed. Edwards Plateau, South Central, and parts of South Texas received up to 1.5 inches of rain. Only a few locations, Cross Timbers and the Blacklands, saw improvement in wheat condition. Pre-watering of cotton fields continued in the Northern High Plains, while other growers in the Coastal Bend waited to plant in hopes of rain. Corn planting resumed in some parts of the Blacklands following several weeks of very wet fields; and planting continued in South Central areas. Planting of sorghum continued in the Southern High Plains, South Central, and South Texas. Rice and soybean planting picked up in the Upper Coast due to dry weather conditions. Top soil moisture was mostly short to adequate statewide. Summer grasses started to green up in the Cross Timbers and South East Texas, but supplemental feeding of livestock continued in much of the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Only a few locations, Cross Timbers and the Blacklands, saw improvement in wheat condition. In those areas, the light precipitation amounts only provided a slight green-up. Wheat condition was mostly poor to fair statewide. Oat condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Cotton: Pre-watering continued in the Northern High Plains, while other growers waited to plant in hopes of rain in the Coastal Bend.

Corn: Planting resumed in some parts of the Blacklands following several weeks of very wet fields, and planting continued in South Central areas. Corn condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Sorghum: Planting continued in the Southern High Plains, South Central, and South Texas. Sorghum condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Rice: Planting resumed in the Upper Coast due to dry weather conditions.

Soybeans: Planting picked up in the Upper Coast as growers benefitted from the dry weather.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Peach trees continued to bloom in East Texas. Harvest of citrus and vegetables continued, while harvest of sugarcane came to a close in the Lower Valley. Irrigation of cabbage and green beans continued in South Texas. Potato fields continued to develop and started to move into the flowering stage in South Texas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Summer grasses continued to green up in the Cross Timbers and South East Texas, but supplemental feeding of livestock continued in much of the state. Range and pasture condition was mostly poor to fair statewide.

Crop Progress Table – March 30, 2008

Crop	Stage	2008	2007	Average 2003 – 2007
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	47	55	51
	Emerged	23	41	31
Cotton	Planted	7	8	9
Rice	Planted	38	27	30
Sorghum	Planted	43	47	36
Soybeans	Planted	20	9	13
Winter Wheat	Headed	4	6	5
Oats	Headed	10	24	15

Crop Condition Table – March 30, 2008

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2008	2007
Corn	0	50	38	9	3	70	81
Sorghum	1	36	50	11	2	66	--
Wheat	2	17	34	29	18	46	82
Oats	7	31	30	17	15	59	65
Range & Pasture	2	24	36	26	12	--	--

^{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 30, 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	63	51	40	14	1	1	0	0	61	27	8	95	0	71	30
Short	34	37	42	45	22	8	6	6	31	42	58	5	5	27	58
Adequate	3	12	18	41	75	79	67	80	8	31	34	0	73	2	12
Surplus	0	0	0	0	2	12	27	14	0	0	0	0	22	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 24 - 30) Accumulation	Month-to-date (March 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Mar 30) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Dec, Jan, Feb) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.11	0.34	18.87	61
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	1.08	1.40	23.78	31
North Central Texas	0.05	4.50	6.01	34.00	49
East Texas	0.99	4.48	9.91	45.69	75
Trans-Pecos	0.00	0.15	0.32	12.96	41
Edwards Plateau	0.04	2.05	2.27	24.01	14
South Central Texas	0.07	1.46	3.87	34.48	50
Upper Coast	0.29	2.68	9.02	47.63	80
South Texas	0.06	0.48	1.06	23.49	24
Lower Valley	0.00	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/rfcs/share/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

