



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 31 – April 6, 2008

Agricultural Summary: Scattered showers were prevalent in the Eastern half of Texas, while the rest of the state observed little to no rainfall. Parts of East Texas received up to an inch of rain last week. The Cross Timbers and Blacklands observed up to an inch and a half of rain, and parts of South Central and the Edwards Plateau received up to an inch of rain. Small grains started to improve due to the recent rains in the Blacklands. Cotton planting continued in the Blacklands and South Texas, while pre-watering continued in the High Plains. Corn planting was still delayed in several parts of the Blacklands and North East Texas due to the rain over the last two weeks. Sorghum planting continued in the Upper Coast and South Central. Some soybean planting was delayed due to wet conditions in North East Texas. Pecan trees started to break out of dormancy in both the Edwards Plateau and the Trans-Pecos. Top soil moisture in the eastern regions of the state was mostly adequate, while the top soil moisture in the rest of the state was mostly very short to short. Pastures continued to green up in many areas of the state; however, supplemental feeding of livestock continued.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Small grains benefitted from the recent rains in the Blacklands. Irrigated wheat thrived in the High Plains, while most wheat had already headed in South Central and South Texas regions. Wheat condition was mostly poor to fair statewide. Oat condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Cotton: Cotton planting continued in the Blacklands and South Texas, while pre-watering continued in the High Plains.

Corn: Corn planting was still delayed in several parts of the Blacklands and North East Texas due to the rain over the last two weeks. Corn condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Sorghum: Sorghum planting continued in the Upper Coast and South Central. Sorghum condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Rice: Rice planting continued in the Upper Coast as weather permitted.

Soybeans: Some soybean planting was delayed due to wet conditions in North East Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

There were a few reports that peach trees continued to improve in the Cross Timbers and North East Texas. Onions resumed growth in both Trans-Pecos and South Texas regions.

Pecans: Pecan trees started to break out of dormancy in both the Edwards Plateau and the Trans-Pecos.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding of livestock continued across most of the state, even though pastures continued to green up. Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Crop Progress Table – April 6, 2008

Crop	Stage	2008	2007	Average 2003 – 2007
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	55	59	59
	Emerged	36	55	44
Cotton	Planted	12	11	13
Rice	Planted	63	39	46
	Emerged	32	17	23
Sorghum	Planted	53	51	42
Soybeans	Planted	31	24	27
Sunflowers	Planted	7	7	8
Winter Wheat	Headed	5	13	10
Oats	Headed	35	50	30

Crop Condition Table – April 6, 2008

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2008	2007
Corn	5	43	40	9	3	71	71
Sorghum	1	34	44	16	5	62	--
Wheat	2	20	31	26	21	46	83
Oats	8	38	26	14	14	63	63
Range & Pasture	4	27	35	23	11	--	--

^{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 6, 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	68	57	44	14	1	0	0	0	58	23	9	94	4	65	43
Short	30	38	44	37	25	8	4	10	30	55	61	6	28	26	57
Adequate	2	5	12	49	71	72	58	68	12	22	30	0	68	9	0
Surplus	0	0	0	0	3	20	38	22	0	0	0	0	0	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 (Mar 31 - Apr 6) Accumulation	Month-to-date (March 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 6) 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	0.04	1.08	1.44	23.78	31
North Central Texas	0.51	4.53	6.52	34.00	49
East Texas	0.96	4.48	10.87	45.69	75
Trans-Pecos	0.00	0.15	0.32	12.96	41
Edwards Plateau	0.20	2.08	2.47	24.01	14
South Central Texas	0.16	1.47	4.03	34.48	50
Upper Coast	0.19	2.68	9.21	47.63	80
South Texas	0.00	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

