



Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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For the week of: April 6 - 12, 2009

Agricultural Summary: The northern part of the state received up to 3 inches of moisture while the rest of the state received little to no rainfall. Winter wheat was under stress in areas of the state that experienced freezing temperatures. Cotton field preparation took place in parts of the Plains; however, planting decisions were still undecided for many producers. Corn planting continued in South Central Texas. Corn was progressing well in South Texas as producers increased irrigation. Sorghum producers were planting in the Blacklands while planting was almost complete in South Texas. Sunflower and pumpkin field preparation took place in the Northern High Plains. Pecan growers were making a zinc spray in the Blacklands while pecans were budding. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued across the state. Pasture and range land remained dry across the state. Top soil moisture was mostly very short to adequate across the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: The Russian aphids and green bugs continued to damage the wheat crop in the Northern High Plains. Winter wheat was under stress in areas of the state that experienced freezing temperatures. Producers were finishing wheat and oat harvest for silage in North East Texas. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly very poor to poor and oat condition was mostly very poor to poor.

Cotton: Field preparation took place in parts of the Plains; however, planting decisions were still undecided for many producers. Producers were planting in the Trans-Pecos. Irrigated cotton in South Texas was progressing well.

Corn: Fields were being irrigated in the Northern High Plains for planting preparation. In the Blacklands, feral hogs have destroyed many acres by rooting up the seeds. Across the state, corn was under stress due to the recent freeze. Planting continued in South Central Texas. Corn was progressing well in South Texas as producers increased irrigation. Corn condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Sorghum: Producers were preparing their land for planting in the Northern Low Plains. Producers were planting in the Blacklands while planting was almost complete in South Texas. Sorghum condition was mostly poor to fair statewide.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Sunflower and pumpkin field preparation took place in the Northern High Plains. Onions were progressing well in the Southern Low High Plains and the Trans-Pecos. In South Texas, cabbage harvest continued and watermelons were being planted.

Pecans: Growers were making a zinc spray in the Blacklands while pecans were budding. Pecans were breaking dormancy in the Trans-Pecos.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding of livestock continued across the state. Spring calving continued in South East Texas. In the Edwards Plateau, ranchers were shearing sheep and goats while marking lambs. Pasture and range land remained dry across the state. High winds have dried out top soil moisture in the Cross Timbers. Recent cool temperatures have slowed pasture growth in the Blacklands. Range and pasture condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide.

Crop Progress Table – April 12, 2009

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2009	2008	Average 2004 – 2008
Corn	Planted	59	58	62
	Emerged	50	43	52
Cotton	Planted	12	15	16
Rice	Planted	82	73	64
	Emerged	48	54	45
Sorghum	Planted	52	59	52
Soybeans	Planted	30	42	42
Sunflowers	Planted	--	8	13
Winter Wheat	Headed	33	12	17
Oats	Headed	58	51	56

Crop Condition Table – April 12, 2009

Crop	Percent					Index ^{1/}	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2009	2008
Corn	1	19	54	18	8	56	69
Cotton	0	17	44	20	19	48	50
Sorghum	0	11	44	30	15	45	61
Wheat	1	11	21	23	44	32	46
Oats	0	7	20	26	47	27	64
Range & Pasture	1	8	29	26	36	--	--

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 12, 2009

Condition	Percent of Acreage, by District *														
	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
Very Short	57	75	78	57	28	12	0	9	62	52	46	87	14	86	60
Short	30	21	20	24	50	35	6	40	32	37	40	13	23	14	27
Adequate	13	4	2	19	22	49	80	31	6	11	14	0	42	0	13
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	4	14	20	0	0	0	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/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions ^{2/}	Previous Week Accumulation (April 6 – 12)	Month-to-Date Accumulation (April 1 – 12)	Year-to-Date Accumulation (Jan 1 – Apr 12)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months Percent of Normal (Jan – Mar)
High Plains	0.54	0.58	1.44	19.64	39
Low Rolling Plains	0.51	0.56	1.97	24.51	40
North Central Texas	0.85	0.94	5.30	35.23	63
East Texas	0.77	1.07	8.61	48.08	66
Trans-Pecos	0.00	0.00	0.70	13.19	57
Edwards Plateau	0.33	0.40	2.91	24.73	66
South Central Texas	0.09	0.17	2.30	36.21	32
Upper Coast	0.19	0.32	4.03	50.31	36
South Texas	0.04	0.04	0.61	24.08	16
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	0.82	25.43	21

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 AgriLife Extension Service
Texas Department of Agriculture
National Weather Service

