



USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas Field Office

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TX-CW1706

## Texas Crop Weather

Released April 24, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)

For the week of April 17 - 23, 2006

**Agricultural Summary:** The heat was in full force early in the week as temperatures surpassed the century mark in numerous locations of the state. By late week, severe weather had replaced the heat across areas of the Blacklands, Edwards Plateau, Upper Coast, Central and East Texas. High winds and hail caused significant property and crop damage in the hardest hit locations. Welcomed rainfall amounts ranging from ½ to almost 3 inches occurred in these regions. Other areas that experienced precipitation were the Low Rolling Plains and western portions of South Texas. Generally these regions reported anywhere from ½ to 1 inch accumulations with isolated locations recording up to 3 inches. Not much more than trace amounts of moisture were realized on the Panhandle and Trans Pecos. No rain occurred in the Rio Grande Valley or Coastal Bend. For those areas of the state that missed the rain, the extreme heat did further damage to already drought stressed fields. Hail and winds damaged small grain crops and emerging summer crops on the Blacklands. The increased precipitation was very helpful to pasture growth as supplemental feeding decreased in some locations. Despite the moisture that was received, the entire state remained in a drought and a pattern of increased rainfall would have to be established for conditions to improve.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Irrigation continued in wheat fields on the Panhandle with a good amount being harvested for silage. Very little dryland wheat remained in the region. Fields began to head as far north as the South Plains and early grain harvest began in southern districts. There were reports of hail damage and lodging in fields on the Blacklands. Producers continued to cut wheat for hay in many areas. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly rated very poor to poor. Oats condition statewide was mostly rated very poor to poor.

**Cotton:** Planting dates were quickly approaching on the South Plains as producers were completing their preparations. Rain showers were very well received across the region. A few fields on the Blacklands were lost to hail and will have to be replanted. Dryland fields on the Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Valley continued to suffer from drought and relief would be needed soon in order to make a decent crop. Irrigation was heavy in

South Texas where available.

**Corn:** Growers continued planting on the Panhandle. There were many fields on the Blacklands that were heavily damaged by hail and wind. Some of them may recover but others will have to be disastered. Plants were wilted in the 100 degree heat early in the week. Dryland fields on the Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Valley were deteriorating quickly without adequate moisture. Where irrigation was possible, producers watered corn fields extensively. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to good.

**Sorghum:** Planting preparations continued on the Panhandle and South Plains. The increased moisture was most welcomed. Hail damage was reported on the Blacklands. In southern regions, fields were suffering from drought stress. More rain was needed in all areas. The condition was mostly rated very poor to fair statewide.

**Rice:** Rice fields continued to develop. The increased rainfall should help replenish water lost to evaporation. The condition of rice was mostly rated fair to good statewide.

**Soybeans:** Planting continued on the Blacklands and Upper Coast. Rain was helpful where received but many emerged fields were wilting in the afternoon sun. More moisture will be needed. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated fair to good.

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

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, onion harvest was wrapping up. Sugarcane and Valencia orange harvest continued under hot and dry conditions.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, producers began digging potatoes. Insect problems were reported in cabbage fields.

**Pecans** were leafing out in many areas and growers were keeping an eye on possible pecan nut casebearer problems. Irrigation was ongoing.

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

Pastures should respond well with the increased moisture in many locations. The weed population was expected to increase in drier locations as native grasses will need more rain to sustain growth. Supplemental feeding was slowing down for the most part but was still at a much higher rate than normal for this time of year. Cattle were in decent shape in most regions except South Texas, where resources such as feed and water were woefully short at most ranches and grazing remained inadequate. Hay continued to be trucked in from other parts of the country at a premium price. Herd liquidation continued. Sheep and angora goat shearing was ongoing. Producers were shipping lambs.

**Crop Condition Table – April 23, 2006**

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	3	32	38	16	11	59	86
Rice	2	35	55	8	0	69	87
Sorghum	0	14	30	16	40	37	--
Soybeans	1	43	48	7	1	70	--
Wheat	0	5	18	26	51	24	80
Oats	0	8	21	30	41	29	--
Range & Pasture	1	7	28	30	34	--	--

<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.

**Crop Progress Table - April 23, 2006**

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	72	71	66
	Emerged	61	60	57
Cotton	Planted	23	21	18
Rice	Planted	89	77	81
	Emerged	82	62	67
Sorghum	Planted	64	47	45
Soybeans	Planted	77	53	48
	Emerged	27	--	--
Sunflowers	Planted	28	12	16
Winter Wheat	Headed	38	30	33
Oats	Headed	67	--	--

**Top Soil Moisture by District – April 23, 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	77	14	50	22	21	13	12	17	31	30	56	94	62	62	90
Short	13	46	40	48	39	40	38	47	54	56	17	6	36	36	10
Adequate	10	13	10	30	40	46	49	34	15	14	20	0	2	2	0
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	7	0	0	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.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (April 17 - 23) Accumulation	Month-to-date (April 1 - 23) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 23) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.32	0.32	1.82	18.87	70
Low Rolling Plains	0.55	0.66	2.60	23.78	60
North Central Texas	1.07	1.07	8.04	34.00	104
East Texas	0.89	0.89	12.07	45.69	105
Trans Pecos	0.20	0.20	1.04	12.96	72
Edwards Plateau	0.68	0.71	3.32	24.01	73
South Central Texas	0.47	1.03	3.96	34.48	48
Upper Coast	0.93	0.93	5.44	47.63	50
South Texas	0.22	0.22	0.71	23.49	16
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	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/rfcsshare/precip\\_analysis\\_new.php](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcsshare/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

