

Texas Crop Weather



Released: May 12, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of May 5 - 11, 2003
 TX-CW1903

1-800-626-3142
 www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - May 11, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	92	95	90
Emerged	77	79	75
Silked	1	13	11
Cotton			
Planted	33	34	30
Squaring	2	5	4
Peanuts			
Planted	32	31	31
Rice			
Planted	97	99	97
Emerged	92	95	90
Sorghum			
Planted	52	53	52
Headed	4	11	8
Wheat			
Headed	85	75	78
Harvested	2	2	2
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	68	75	68
Sunflowers	36	40	33

Crop Condition Table - May 11, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	14	45	28	8	5
Rice	8	69	22	1	0
Sorghum	3	51	34	8	4
Wheat	3	18	37	24	18
Range & Pasture . . .	4	24	36	22	14

Agricultural Summary: Hot, windy, dry and humid conditions continued to dominate most areas across the state during the week. There were some isolated thunderstorms that dropped hail and some rainfall to various locations of the Plains and Central Texas. Small tornadoes were reported in East Texas, with some minor damage reported. In a few areas, heavier rain caused some delays in farming activities, but overall general field activities continued. In most areas of the State, high temperatures and winds continued to deplete topsoil moisture as well as affect newly seeded crop stands. Where conditions allowed, some crops were being watered to aid in emergence and in development. Planting of spring crops continued where conditions allowed, but once again many producers were waiting for rain before continuing. Despite the dry conditions, planting continued for cotton, sorghum, and peanuts in northern areas. Progress and development in small grains continued under mostly dry conditions. Insect and disease problems were reported in some areas during the week. Haying activities were beginning to increase across the state, but the lack of rainfall has reduced production. Some producers were liquidating cattle. Supplemental feeding of livestock increased as range and pasture forages declined across many locations. Livestock continued to be in good condition in most areas.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Hot and windy days accelerated the turning of small grain

fields. Harvest for grain was beginning to get underway in southern and central areas. More signs of earlier freeze damage became apparent in more areas. Baling of small grains and cutting wheat for silage continued. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 49 percent of normal compared with 44 percent last year.

Corn: Planting of corn was winding down on the Plains and was mostly complete in other areas. Most planted acreage was progressing well, but was still in need of rainfall. Corn in drier areas started to show signs of stress and wilt in the heat of the day. Rain is needed within the next week or two, or yields could be diminished. In some areas, irrigation was running at full speed. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 75 percent of normal compared with 70 percent last year.

Cotton: Cotton planting continued on the Plains and still was making progress in other areas. Dry soil conditions has limited progress. Producers continued to pre-water and apply herbicides. Some light insect problems were reported in the Coastal Bend area. Moisture shortages continued to be a concern in most areas.

Sorghum: Land preparations continued in the Plains and Central Texas. Sorghum producers were still waiting for rains. Some grain sorghum has made good progress in the Blacklands. Sorghum has started to show leaf curls in the afternoons due to heat. Some dryland locations were too dry, and planting will be on hold until rain is received. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 72 percent of normal compared with 55 percent last year.

Peanuts: Planting made some progress in areas of the High and Low Plains. Emergence of irrigated peanuts was favorable.

Rice: Emergence made progress during the week. Growth and development were considered mostly normal in earlier planted fields. Rice was being watered for emergence. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 84 percent of normal compared to 88 percent last year.

Soybeans: Land preparation and pre-watering remained active where possible. Planting continued in some locations. Planting in some dryland locations will be slow until moisture is received, but some producers were dry planting.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley** harvest activities continued for melons, cantaloupes, carrots, greens, peas, cabbage, potatoes, onions and sugarcane. Dryland crops were suffering from lack of precipitation.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden** area planting continued but was winding down for some vegetable crops. Onions were approaching maturity and harvest was expected to begin very soon. Carrot and cabbage harvest continued. The hot and dry weather caused some stress to some crops where irrigation was limited.

Pecans: Development continued in most areas across the state. Fertilizer and zinc application continued. In the Cross Timbers, some pecan damage was reported. Pecan Nut Casebearer was in full swing in most areas.

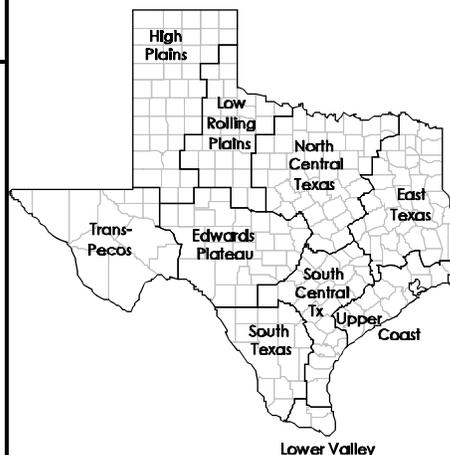
In **East Texas**, Sweet potatoes planting occurred as conditions allowed. Spring vegetable and watermelon planting continued. Vegetables and fruits were making fair to good growth with some insects and disease pressure.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pasture conditions were declining due to the lack of available moisture for plant growth. Drought conditions were present or increasing in more locations. Livestock conditions remained good in most areas. Supplemental feeding was necessary for livestock in many areas. Horn flies continued to cause problems. Ranchers were busy moving, marketing, and working livestock. Early stages of grasshopper infestation were reported. Shrimp growers in the Trans-Pecos were preparing to stock lakes with new larvae.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (May 5 - 11) Accumulation	Month-to-date (May 1 - 11) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - May 11) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Feb - Apr) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.00	1.40	18.87	49
Low Rolling Plains	0.04	0.06	2.84	23.78	53
North Central Texas	0.04	0.39	5.33	34.00	56
East Texas	0.37	0.56	7.54	45.69	53
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.01	1.38	12.96	98
Edwards Plateau	0.03	0.08	2.82	24.01	55
South Central Texas	0.02	0.02	4.59	34.48	49
Upper Coast	0.00	0.00	7.37	47.63	67
South Texas	0.00	0.00	4.64	23.49	101
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	3.57	25.34	85



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District* - May 11, 2003

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	53	51	43	62	30	24	5	8	78	43	13	3	26	27	0
Short	39	45	38	30	41	38	49	54	14	51	74	54	61	44	68
Adequate	8	4	19	8	29	36	45	37	8	6	12	41	13	29	32
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	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.

Cooperating Agencies:

Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service.

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID AT
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Texas Crop Weather (USPS 396-770) is published weekly by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, 300 E. 8th St., Austin, TX 78701, (512) 916-5581. **PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID** at Austin, TX.
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Texas Crop Weather, P.O. Box 70, Austin, TX 78767.

AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE
P.O. BOX 70
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

T
E
X
A
S