

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: May 27, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)  
 For the week of May 19 - 25, 2003  
 TX-CW2103

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

**Crop Progress Table - May 25, 2003**

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
<i>Percent</i>			
<b>Corn</b>			
Planted . . . . .	99	99	98
Emerged . . . . .	94	92	91
Silked . . . . .	14	32	30
<b>Cotton</b>			
Planted . . . . .	57	64	58
Squaring . . . . .	12	11	10
<b>Peanuts</b>			
Planted . . . . .	77	64	64
<b>Rice</b>			
Planted . . . . .	100	100	100
Emerged . . . . .	97	99	96
<b>Sorghum</b>			
Planted . . . . .	59	60	62
Headed . . . . .	17	25	22
<b>Wheat</b>			
Headed . . . . .	97	95	95
Harvested . . . . .	16	16	7
<b>Other Field Crops</b>			
<b>Planted</b>			
Soybeans . . . . .	83	86	79
Sunflowers . . . . .	61	54	57

**Crop Condition Table - May 25, 2003**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn . . . . .	6	37	34	12	11
Cotton . . . . .	7	29	36	18	10
Peanuts . . . . .	6	59	31	3	1
Rice . . . . .	7	74	19	0	0
Sorghum . . . . .	6	32	41	16	5
Wheat . . . . .	3	15	37	25	20
Range & Pasture . . .	3	17	38	25	17

**Agricultural Summary:** Many Texas farmers and ranchers finally received a little relief from Mother Nature last week. It rained over large portions of the Low Plains, Low Rolling Plains, the Edwards Plateau, and North Central Texas. The High Plains region experienced mostly scattered showers with rainfall totals ranging from a trace to 2 inches. Temperatures were creeping into the 100's in the early week until a cold front moved through, dropping temperatures down into the 40's at night and 60's in the day. A good general rain fell in the area between Interstate 20 and the Red River. Typical rain gauge readings were in the 1 to 1.5 inch range. Several locations reported 2 to 3 inches, and an area north of Dallas-Fort Worth recorded about 5 inches for the week. The Trans Pecos and Edwards Plateau continued to experience 100+ temperatures. The Edwards Plateau reported rain late in the week ranging from a trace to 2 inches in some locations. East, Central, Southeast Texas, and the Rio Grande Valley reported little or no rain. The rain improved soil moisture conditions in many areas, although more will be needed to recover from the dry spring. Moisture aided growth and emergence of many dryland crops and gave irrigation a break for a little while. In drier areas, crops continued to suffer from drought conditions. Many crops continued to wilt in the midday sun. Livestock were in good condition in most areas.

**Field Crops Report**

**Small Grains:** Winter wheat harvest was delayed in many areas due to rain. The High Plains is the only region that still had developing wheat and much of that region missed the rain showers. Maturity was running ahead of schedule as warmer than normal conditions dominated much of the growing season. Many areas continued to report heavy baling. Some producers on the Plains were plowing up fields and filing insurance claims. Irrigation was ending in some locations as producers looked for the crop to dry out for harvest. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 46 percent of normal compared with 43 percent last year.

**Corn:** Corn planting was completed on the Plains except for a few isolated fields. Most corn emerged and was in four to seven leaf stage. Irrigated stands in the region were reported as favorable, but fields required excessive irrigation. Most of the rainfall that was received missed corn producing areas, therefore dryland acreage continued to suffer from drought conditions. Corn in central and southern regions was stunted and had started to tassel. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 64 percent of normal compared with 58 percent last year.

**Cotton:** Cotton planting continued in most areas of the Plains. The cool front midweek slowed growth. In dryland fields where rain was received, producers were getting ready to plant. Many other producers that missed the rain were still delaying planting until sufficient moisture falls. The rain helped emergence in many locations. Central Texas cotton was showing moisture stress. Coastal Bend fields continued to hold up well, but rain will definitely be needed soon. Rio Grande Valley cotton was beginning to bloom.

**Sorghum:** Planting began on the Plains, but some producers were still waiting for rains to begin. In fields where rain did fall, planting was getting started. Some grain sorghum made good progress in the Blacklands, but moisture was still desperately needed. Some fields have started to wilt in the afternoons due to heat. Sorghum was heading out on the Coastal Bend and turning color in the Rio Grande Valley. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 64 percent of normal compared with 53 percent last year.

**Peanuts:** Planting was in full swing in areas of the High and Low Plains and was nearing completion in some locations. Irrigation was heavy and emergence was favorable.

**Rice:** Emergence made progress during the week. Many fields were being flooded. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 86 percent of normal compared to 90 percent last year.

**Soybeans:** Planting was active on the Plains. In fields where rain fell, planting was getting started where it was previously too dry. Other producers continued to wait for adequate moisture. Most Upper Coast soybeans were planted and in need of rain.

**Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**

In the **Rio Grande Valley** harvest was wrapping up for carrots, greens, cabbage, spring onions, and sugarcane. Melon harvest continued. Dryland crops were suffering from lack of precipitation.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden** onion harvest continued. Producers were finishing up carrot and cabbage harvest. Watermelons continued to do well under irrigation.

In **East Texas**, Sweet potato and watermelon planting was winding down. Grasshopper populations were becoming a problem. Fruits and vegetables were in need of additional moisture for continued growth.

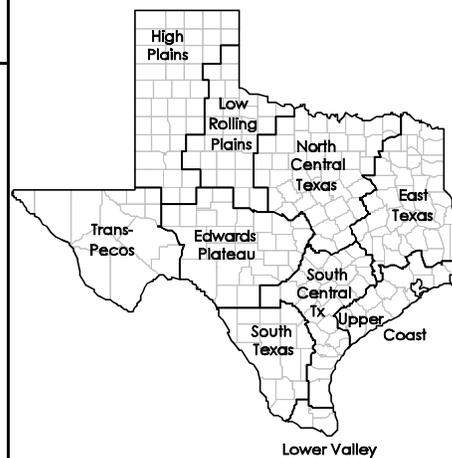
**Pecans:** Development continued in most areas across the state. Pecan Nut Casebearer was a problem in most areas, however beneficial insect populations were growing. Fertilizer and zinc application continued.

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report**

The rainfall that was received relieved some of the stress to range and pasture. Where moisture was not received, conditions continued to decline. Rangeland was turning brown. In some areas, cattle were being moved to anyplace having decent pasture. Many stockers were shipped to feedlots. Livestock conditions remained stable in most areas due to lower stocking rates on pasture. Supplemental feeding was necessary and increasing in drier locations. Horn flies continued to cause problems. Sheep shearing was active. White shrimp producers in the Trans Pecos were nearly finished with their input of larvae.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (May 19 - 25) Accumulation <sup>2</sup>	Month-to-date (May 1 - 25) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - May 25) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Feb - Apr) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.39	0.62	2.02	18.87	49
Low Rolling Plains	0.71	0.92	3.70	23.78	53
North Central Texas	0.94	1.56	6.50	34.00	56
East Texas	0.09	1.23	8.21	45.69	53
Trans Pecos	0.14	0.15	1.52	12.96	98
Edwards Plateau	1.05	1.16	3.90	24.01	55
South Central Texas	0.01	0.19	4.76	34.48	49
Upper Coast	0.00	0.37	7.74	47.63	67
South Texas	0.06	0.07	4.71	23.49	101
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	3.57	25.34	85



<sup>1</sup> Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

<sup>2</sup> Missing data for May 24-25.

**Top Soil Moisture by District\* - May 25, 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	60	58	38	30	16	20	4	47	69	58	53	43	46	34	5
Short	38	34	32	37	56	46	45	37	28	39	42	54	49	55	78
Adequate	2	8	30	33	28	32	47	16	3	3	5	3	5	11	17
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	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.

**Cooperating Agencies:  
Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service.**

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