

Texas Crop Weather



Released: July 21, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of July 14 - 20, 2003
 TX-CW2903

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

Crop Progress Table - July 20, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Silked	86	92	85
Dough	65	66	64
Dented	51	56	53
Mature	33	44	38
Harvested	2	3	10
Cotton			
Squaring	73	81	86
Setting Bolls	27	42	46
Bolls Opening	6	11	9
Peanuts			
Pegging	77	72	69
Rice			
Headed	79	91	83
Sorghum			
Planted	98	100	99
Headed	51	65	61
Turning Color	45	45	46
Mature	36	35	37
Harvested	22	24	30
Wheat			
Harvested	98	100	99
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	100	100	100
Sunflowers	98	100	98
Harvested			
Oats	100	100	98

Crop Condition Table - July 20, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	5	34	26	19	16
Cotton	8	29	38	16	9
Peanuts	16	66	15	1	2
Rice	24	64	12	0	0
Sorghum	7	40	35	13	5
Range & Pasture	8	32	37	15	8

Agricultural Summary: Hurricane Claudette rolled across areas of the Upper Coast, Coastal Bend, Central and West Texas last week causing 5 counties (Refugio, Matagorda, Calhoun, Jackson, and Victoria) to be declared federal disaster areas. Many corn and sorghum fields along the storm's path experienced lodging due to high winds, or flooding from the rains, leaving several fields unharvestable. In some localities, damage to other crops, buildings, and equipment were reported, but the magnitude of the damage varied widely from county to county. Across northern areas of the state the story was quite different, with temperatures sometimes over 100 degrees and very few scattered showers. Amidst the heat, cotton in the High Plains was looking better. Irrigation was taking place. Some producers were concerned as many fields were behind normal development. Poultry producers in East Texas were concerned as some were experiencing higher than normal death loss rates due to the heat.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Harvest was virtually complete in most areas of the Plains. In other parts of the State, producers were working recently harvested fields.

Corn: In the Plains, corn was doing well under irrigation. Fields in the Blacklands and Central Texas were drying down and harvest was expected to begin within the next 2 weeks. In areas of the Upper Coast, the Coastal Bend and Central Texas affected by Hurricane Claudette, many fields of corn were destroyed, flooded, or severely lodged by high winds. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 57 percent of normal compared with 60 percent last year.

Cotton: Cotton on the Plains made good progress with the hot weather. Irrigation was active in the absence of rainfall. Dryland fields were in need of rain to maintain adequate development. Many earlier planted fields were squaring and some plants were blooming. Boll weevils and other pests were a problem in some fields. In areas hardest hit by Claudette, some damage was experienced though cotton fields seemed to hold up better than some other crops. Mid week rains in the Rio Grande Valley had adverse effects on fields with mostly open bolls. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 62 percent of normal compared with 66 percent last year.

Sorghum: In the Plains, fields were being irrigated as the heat caused stress to plants in some fields. In North Central Texas, harvest had started. In other areas, fields were either damaged by hurricane Claudette, or harvest activities were delayed by accompanying rains. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 68 percent of normal compared with 63 percent last year.

Peanuts: Plants made good progress and were pegging. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 86 percent of normal compared with 81 percent last year.

Rice: Fields were heading out and making good progress. Many fields were running a little behind in development due to the late start. Only minor damage was reported as a result of the hurricane. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 91 percent of normal, compared with 89 percent last year.

Soybeans: Early planted fields were reaching maturity along the Upper Coast. Crop progress was generally good across the state. Little damage was reported to soybean fields as a result of the hurricane, most damage was limited to the few counties hardest hit.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley** field activity was suspended due to rains.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, producers were evaluating damage from the hurricane. While some areas may have experienced damage, in others the rainfall was beneficial. Watermelon and onion harvest neared completion.

In **East Texas**, harvest of watermelons was in full swing as conditions allowed. Overall, the crop was reported to be of good quality.

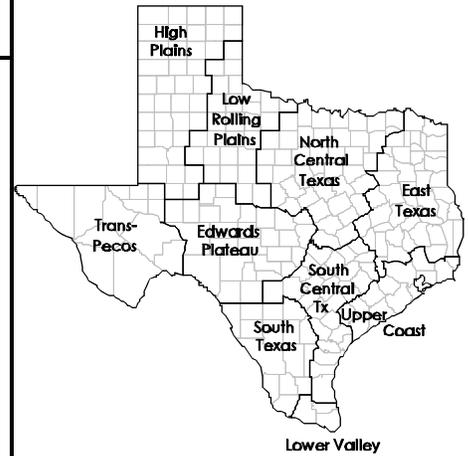
Pecans and Grapes: Pecans were growing well and many nuts were entering gel stage. In some areas nuts were dropping. Some trees in the Upper Coast region were uprooted or had branches broken as a result of the hurricane. Grapes in some areas of West Texas have suffered from dry weather, but harvest had begun.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures in areas that received rain were expected to do well as rains clear out and sunny days aid in growth. Hay cutting was in full swing where conditions allowed. Non-beneficial weeds were a problem in many pastures. Many producers were cutting and spraying brush. Supplemental feeding continued in areas where pasture conditions were poor, mostly in northern areas of the state where hot and dry weather prevailed. Livestock were mostly in good condition. Weaning and selling of calves was in progress for many producers. Stock tanks, which had been getting low, were filled by rains in some areas. High death loss occurred in some poultry flocks as a result of the summer heat.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (July 14 - 20) Accumulation	Month-to-date (July 1 - 20) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Jul 20) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Apr - Jun) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.02	0.21	7.14	18.87	93
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.04	7.51	23.78	72
North Central Texas	0.04	0.66	11.86	34.00	65
East Texas	0.15	1.63	14.94	45.69	56
Trans Pecos	0.60	0.85	4.79	12.96	85
Edwards Plateau	0.41	1.60	9.23	24.01	66
South Central Texas	1.25	3.73	11.80	34.48	35
Upper Coast	1.63	5.04	19.58	47.63	61
South Texas	1.66	4.55	12.10	23.49	44
Lower Valley	0.58	2.00	8.39	25.34	55



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - July 20, 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	19	11	26	14	14	19	4	8	33	20	4	0	0	5	3
Short	67	53	58	53	58	45	31	24	50	41	22	0	2	13	20
Adequate	14	31	13	33	28	32	61	57	17	39	52	58	42	74	77
Surplus	0	5	3	0	0	4	4	11	0	0	22	42	56	8	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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