



USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas Field Office

Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767
Voice: (800) 626-3142 * Fax: (800) 842-1331
nass-tx@nass.usda.gov * www.nass.usda.gov/tx

TX-CW3406

Texas Crop Weather

Released August 21, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)
For the week of August 14 - 20, 2006

Agricultural Summary: The western third of Texas, from the Trans-Pecos and western Edwards Plateau through the Panhandle, received at least 0.25 inches of rain. Wide areas of the Northern High Plains recorded up to two inches of precipitation, and isolated showers in that region added another two inches to the week's total. Up to two inches also fell in several counties in the Low Plains and Trans-Pecos. Spotty showers in coastal areas totaled 0.1 inches, and a small area near Galveston received two inches of precipitation. The remainder of the state was dry. The rainy conditions in the Panhandle and Trans-Pecos brought some relief from the heat, but much of the rest of Texas reported temperatures at or over 100 degrees during the week. Growers in the Northern High Plains were expected to accelerate planting of winter wheat in the wake of the welcomed moisture there. Some hay grazer was planted in the Southern High Plains to help control blowing sand. Army worms and grasshoppers in the East further reduced forage.

Field Crops Report

Cotton: The remaining dryland acres in the Southern High Plains were helped by the week's rains. Growers in the Northern High Plains were winding down irrigation in preparation for harvest. Farmers harvested in the Blacklands, South Texas, Upper Coast, Coastal Bend, and the Lower Valley. Some boll rot was reported in the Upper Coast due to wet conditions late in the growing season. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Corn: Fields had dried down and growers were ending irrigation in anticipation of harvest in the Northern High Plains, where harvest for silage continued. Producers baled failed corn for hay in the Blacklands and North East. Harvest for grain neared completion in the Blacklands and South Central Texas. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Sorghum: Irrigated fields in the Northern High Plains were heading out strongly. Farmers began to harvest in the Southern Low Plains. Low yields were reported in the Blacklands. Producers baled for hay in South Central areas, where their harvest for grain neared completion. Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Peanuts: Peanuts were maturing rapidly in the Southern High Plains. Peanut condition statewide was rated mostly good to fair.

Rice: Harvest neared completion in the Upper Coast. The condition of rice was mostly rated good to fair statewide.

Soybeans: Growers baled for hay in the North East. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Wine grape harvest concluded in the Trans-Pecos with extremely low production. Pumpkins progressed well in the Northern High Plains, where harvest was expected to begin in about two weeks.

Pecans: A “weak” crop was reported in the Cross Timbers. Pecans were in the water stage (when the nut interior is filled with water) to nut-filling stage in the Trans-Pecos.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Grass was greening back up in the Plains and Trans-Pecos, due to recent precipitation. The Coastal Bend and Upper Coast, areas that have received a lot of rain in the last month, reported good hay production. In most other regions, pastures were in critical condition, with diminishing water supplies, and hay was hard to find. In response, producers provided supplemental feed, weaned calves early, and reduced herds, sometimes to minimum levels. For some ranchers, the next step would be complete liquidation of their livestock.

Crop Progress Table – August 20, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Dough	98	98	96
	Dented	89	79	83
	Mature	67	65	64
	Harvested	62	47	49
Cotton	Squaring	99	100	99
	Setting Bolls	93	84	88
	Bolls Opening	19	18	21
	Harvested	8	12	10
Peanuts	Pegging	98	99	98
Rice	Headed	98	100	100
	Harvested	76	49	60
Sorghum	Headed	85	84	82
	Turning Color	69	56	60
	Mature	65	51	52
	Harvested	61	49	49

Crop Condition Table – August 20, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	3	17	28	18	34	42	58
Cotton	4	17	26	27	26	43	71
Peanuts	12	32	37	10	9	67	86
Rice	5	40	44	11	0	71	83
Sorghum	1	20	24	21	34	40	66
Soybeans	1	15	24	23	37	37	57
Range & Pasture	1	6	15	25	53	--	--

^{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 – August 20, 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	33	31	52	76	93	95	76	35	14	79	66	39	4	16	23
Short	44	39	27	15	7	5	20	44	19	20	28	51	11	26	27
Adequate	23	29	20	8	0	0	4	21	66	1	6	10	59	13	50
Surplus	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	26	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 ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Aug 14 - 20) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Aug 1 - 20) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Aug 20) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (May - July) Percent of Normal
High Plains	1.68	2.62	8.33	18.87	47
Low Rolling Plains	0.85	1.26	9.11	23.78	58
North Central Texas	0.11	0.46	14.45	34.00	46
East Texas	0.10	0.55	22.25	45.69	67
Trans Pecos	0.70	2.03	4.84	12.96	40
Edwards Plateau	0.11	0.30	8.86	24.01	55
South Central Texas	0.09	0.32	11.91	34.48	70
Upper Coast	1.04	2.19	31.52	47.63	159
South Texas	0.00	0.25	5.56	23.49	57
Lower Valley	0.17	0.61	6.19	25.34	63

^{1/} Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:
www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis_new.php and www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

Cooperating Agencies:

Texas Agricultural Extension Service

Texas Department of Agriculture

National Weather Service

