

# Texas Crop Weather

Released: October 3, 2005 (3:00 P.M. CDT)  
For the week of September 26 - October 2, 2005  
TX-CW4005

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

**Crop Progress Table - October 2, 2005**

Crop	2005	2004	Average 2000-2004
- Percent -			
<b>Corn</b>			
Mature .....	94	99	99
Harvested .....	81	74	82
<b>Cotton</b>			
Bolls Opening .....	62	56	73
Harvested .....	24	20	26
<b>Peanuts</b>			
Harvested .....	8	18	15
<b>Pecans</b>			
Harvested .....	2	3	2
<b>Rice</b>			
Harvested .....	99	100	99
<b>Sorghum</b>			
Coloring .....	90	89	92
Mature .....	70	75	81
Harvested .....	61	59	70
<b>Soybeans</b>			
Dropping Leaves .....	81	--	--
Harvested .....	63	61	65
<b>Sunflowers</b>			
Harvested .....	48	43	68
<b>Wheat</b>			
Planted .....	50	62	56
Emerged .....	20	29	26
<b>Oats</b>			
Planted .....	34	55	44
Emerged .....	5	--	--

**Crop Condition Table - October 2, 2005**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
- Percent -					
Cotton .....	12	46	23	16	6
Peanuts .....	23	53	21	3	0
Range & Pasture ...	2	14	32	34	18

**Agricultural Summary:** Weather conditions were extremely hot and dry across Texas during the week. Many records were broken as daytime temperatures climbed to 107 plus in many areas of the state. Heat advisories were posted in several locations including those that received storm damage from Hurricane Rita. The additional heat units were good news for crops that remained in the developmental stage and aided in the dry down process for crops awaiting harvest. By mid week a cool front entered the state and brought significantly cooler temperature to the vast majority of areas around the state. Light showers were reported in several locations, however accumulations were light and no long term delays occurred in the harvesting of summer crops. Planting of fall grains continued on a limited basis, however the majority of early planted grains were in desperate need of moisture. Conditions after the passing of Hurricane Rita were reported as variable across East Texas. Extreme losses were reported from areas nearest the coast, however areas further inland received moderate amounts of damage and not all areas received adequate rainfall. Many poultry producers experienced heavy death losses as electric power was out for several days and several reports were received indicating heavy damage to timber in some locations. Damage to dwellings and out buildings in areas in the path of the storm ranged from minor to total destruction. In areas hardest hit by the storm, fences were destroyed and livestock were ranging at will. Elsewhere, range and pastures were very dry and supplemental feeding continued to be necessary.

Herd reduction continued in varied locations and adequate hay supplies continued to be hard to locate.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Land preparation and planting continued, but slower than in recent weeks. The decline in moisture levels has been severe in many areas and many producers sustained heavy losses due to the continued dry conditions. Replanting will be necessary when adequate moisture is received. Irrigation was active in areas where possible. Some army worm problems were also reported from a few locations.

**Cotton:** Development continued in many areas across the Plains aided by the hot temperatures during the week. Harvest and pre-harvest activities moved ahead across many areas of the southern Plains for early planted cotton. A few areas reported problems with boll worms and army worms. Ginning and stalk destruction activities continued in areas where harvest was ongoing. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 72 percent of normal, compared with 85 percent last year.

**Corn:** Harvest activities moved ahead at a rapid pace across the Plains and portions of North Texas.

**Sorghum:** Growth and development remained good to fair on late planted sorghum. Harvest remained active in early planted fields across many areas of the Southern Plains and North Central Texas.

**Peanuts:** Growth and development was reported to be average to good in areas around the state. Harvest and preparations for harvest were moving ahead at a rapid pace in portions of the Plains. Pre watering before harvest was necessary in a few locations. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 86 percent of normal, compared with 86 percent last year.

**Soybeans:** Harvest continued in areas unaffected by the passage of Hurricane Rita. Fields close to the storm received varied amounts of damage, but no exact percentages were reported. Generally, most growing areas remained dry and only irrigated acres were producing well at harvest time.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, vegetable planting was in progress across several areas of the Rio Grande Valley. Irrigation was active and in some locations pre-watering was in progress before planting began. Early citrus harvest was expected to begin soon and a few smaller producers began harvest during the week.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, early planted cabbage made good progress and pre-watering continued in areas where other fall crops will be planted. Spinach planting began in isolated locations, but only where pre-watering had occurred.

In the **High Plains**, harvest of late watermelons and pumpkins continued.

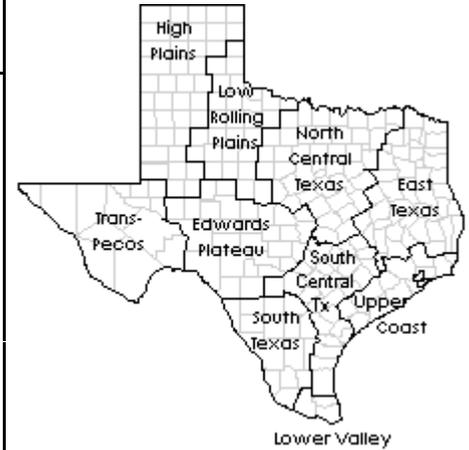
**Pecans:** Pecans continued to make fair to good progress across the state, especially where irrigation was available. Nut drop increased in dry land orchards in several areas as the dry conditions continued. Insect populations continued to cause varying amounts of problems for many producers. Losses in East Texas orchards from Hurricane Rita were reported to be light at this time. Other losses occurred during the week as the result of high winds across portions of the Trans Pecos region.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pasture green up and improvement was generally slow to non-existent across many areas of the state. The improvement that occurred as the result of earlier rains has diminished as dry and hot weather conditions have returned. Many areas have reported that pasture grasses have started to go dormant and available forage is quickly disappearing. Hay production has been diminished to less than fifty percent of normal in many areas and many producers were having difficulties providing enough supplement to maintain good body condition in their herds. Culling and herd reduction remained necessary in the driest locations. Many producers who planted small grains for fall grazing have indicated that replanting and additional moisture will be necessary before grazing could occur. Hauling water to livestock was ongoing in a few of the driest areas. Improvement in areas of East Texas that received significant rain from Hurricane Rita was expected to continue, however winter is just around the corner and recovery will be short lived. There were several reports of livestock roaming freely due to fence damage from Hurricane Rita.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Sep 26 - Oct 2) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Sep 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Oct 2) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.09	0.47	14.41	18.87	78
Low Rolling Plains	0.07	1.34	15.91	23.78	90
North Central Texas	0.12	0.87	17.37	34.00	82
East Texas	0.13	2.96	22.35	45.69	87
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.73	9.83	12.96	76
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.41	15.79	24.01	83
South Central Texas	0.15	1.83	16.09	34.48	52
Upper Coast	0.28	4.24	32.76	47.63	100
South Texas	0.02	0.61	9.98	23.49	45
Lower Valley	0.04	1.86	8.29	25.34	56



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

**Top Soil Moisture by District - October 2, 2005 \***

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	26	10	20	26	33	44	16	26	19	39	33	46	34	33	0
Short	49	49	42	46	57	46	55	29	54	43	57	38	43	45	48
Adequate	25	40	36	26	10	10	29	38	27	18	10	16	21	20	52
Surplus	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	2	2	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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