



## USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas Field Office

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### TX-CW4206

#### Texas Crop Weather

Released October 16, 2006

For the week of October 9 - 15, 2006

**Agricultural Summary:** Virtually all of the state received at least a quarter-inch of rainfall. Much of the Plains recorded 1 to 2 inches, and a band of showers in the Southern Plains left over 4 inches. Temperatures fell to the upper 30s in the Northern High Plains. Areas of the Upper Coast recorded over 4 inches of rainfall. One to 2 inches fell in parts of the Trans-Pecos, Edwards Plateau, and South Texas, a large area of Central and East Texas, and the Lower Valley. Small grains and pastures improved in areas that received rain. However, the rain delayed harvest and other field work in the High Plains and Upper Coast. Hail in the western Trans-Pecos heavily damaged several thousand acres of pecans and cotton. Cattle producers in South East and South Central areas planted winter pastures.

#### Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Winter wheat improved under ideal, rainy, conditions in the Plains. Producers in the Cross Timbers prepared fields and planted small grains. Rain saved oat and wheat fields that had germinated in the Blacklands, but army worms did substantial damage to some oat fields in that area. Producers planted small grains in the South East, Edwards Plateau, and South Central Texas.

**Cotton:** Producers applied harvest aids in the Plains so they could harvest as soon as their fields dried out. Some producers in the Southern High Plains were able to get into their fields and strip cotton. The first boll set was already open and ready for harvest in El Paso County, but a second flush of growth from recent rains was expected to reduce yields. Hail in that area damaged some acreage. Producers harvested in the northern Edwards Plateau. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly fair to poor.

**Corn:** Harvest for grain and silage came to a standstill in the Northern High Plains due to the rain.

**Sorghum:** As with other row crops in the Northern High Plains, harvest was delayed by the week's rain. The cool, wet weather also delayed maturity. Growers in the Coastal Bend harvested fields that had been too wet to harvest in previous weeks.

**Peanuts:** Despite the rainy conditions in the Southern High Plains, some producers dug and threshed peanuts. Growers also dug peanuts in South Texas. Peanut condition statewide was mostly good to fair.

**Soybeans:** Producers continued to harvest in the Coastal Bend.

### **Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**

Pumpkin harvest was winding down in the Northern High Plains. Watermelon harvest slowed and was nearly complete in the Southern High Plains. Growers continued to plant and irrigate fall onions in the Trans-Pecos. Producers in the San Antonio-Winter Garden planted onions, cabbage, and spinach.

**Pecans:** Producers harvested pecans in the Cross Timbers, Edwards Plateau, South Central, and South. Nuts approached maturity in the Trans-Pecos, where a hail storm heavily damaged over 2,000 acres.

### **Livestock, Pasture and Range Report**

Winter grasses benefitted from the moist conditions in the Low Plains, where producers cut Sudan hay that came back after August's rains. Pasture conditions improved in some areas of the Cross Timbers, but more rain was needed to fill stock tanks. Growers in the Cross Timbers cut hay and gave supplemental feed to cattle, but winter supplies of hay were below normal. Despite the recent rains, areas of the North East were in need of more moisture for growers to consider planting winter pastures, and hay supplies remained low. Ranchers in the North East were completing the weaning of the calf crop, and sale barns in that area were seeing their fall runs of cattle. Pastures improved in the South East, South Central, South, and Lower Valley because of recent precipitation. Some stocker cattle were coming into the Trans-Pecos, where weaning weights were reported to be very good.

**Crop Progress Table – October 15, 2006**

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Mature	100	99	99
	Harvested	94	90	92
Cotton	Bolls Opening	86	81	81
	Harvested	27	26	28
Peanuts	Harvested	27	20	22
Rice	Harvested	100	100	100
Sorghum	Turning Color	95	97	95
	Mature	81	82	82
	Harvested	72	66	69
Soybeans	Harvested	90	73	82
Sunflowers	Harvested	73	57	73
Winter Wheat	Planted	73	67	73
	Emerged	50	37	48
Oats	Planted	60	53	65
	Emerged	24	15	15

**Crop Condition Table – October 15, 2006**

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Percent					2006	2005
Cotton	7	21	31	23	18	52	74
Peanuts	12	33	49	5	1	74	86
Range & Pasture	2	11	25	31	31	--	--

<sup>1/</sup> 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 – October 15, 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	17	9	16	29	21	40	72	18	20	27	14	0	0	2	10
Short	26	36	20	37	33	36	24	40	26	43	47	28	10	33	18
Adequate	48	36	47	23	42	22	4	37	48	30	39	70	28	63	72
Surplus	9	19	17	11	4	2	0	5	6	0	0	2	62	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.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Oct 9 - 15) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Oct 1 - 15) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – Oct 15) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	1.26	1.74	14.15	18.87	108
Low Rolling Plains	4.04	4.26	16.82	23.78	68
North Central Texas	2.69	2.69	20.95	34.00	86
East Texas	2.78	2.78	28.16	45.69	72
Trans Pecos	1.06	1.19	8.20	12.96	83
Edwards Plateau	1.54	1.54	13.89	24.01	64
South Central Texas	1.60	1.60	16.18	34.48	60
Upper Coast	6.19	6.24	42.64	47.63	126
South Texas	0.53	0.70	10.77	23.49	84
Lower Valley	1.12	1.76	15.14	25.34	102

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis_new.php) and [www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html)

**Cooperating Agencies:**

- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- National Weather Service

