



## 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-CW4906**

### **Texas Crop Weather**

Released December 4, 2006

For the week of November 27 – December 3, 2006

**Agricultural Summary:** Most of the Panhandle received precipitation totaling from 0.10 to 0.25 inches. Isolated showers brought over 1.5 inches to some of the more fortunate localities. The Cross Timbers and Blacklands received mostly 0.10 to 1.5 inches of precipitation, with certain sections receiving over 2.0 inches. North East Texas received 0.5 to 1.5 inches as spotty showers brought about the same amount to areas of South Central Texas and the Upper Coast. The Southern Plains and the remaining areas of the eastern half of Texas received mostly 0.01 to 0.25 inches of precipitation. The Lower Valley, Coastal Bend, and small sections of the Trans-Pecos area only received traces of precipitation. The remaining section of the Trans-Pecos, The Edwards Plateau, and South Texas mostly remained dry. Many producers experienced very low temperatures and snow for the first time this growing season. For the most part, the cold front had a negative effect on agricultural activities in the state of Texas but did actually improve insect problems.

### **Field Crops Report**

**Small Grains:** Planting of wheat progressed slowly in the Northern High Plains due to low temperatures and over 4 inches of snow. Growers in the High Plains irrigated as needed in order to increase moisture levels. In South Central Texas, oats were also in serious need of moisture. Oat condition was mostly good to fair while wheat condition was mostly fair to poor statewide.

**Cotton:** Harvest was slowed in the Northern High Plains as most producers experienced snow for the first time; however, grades and yields continued to be good. Heavy winds and extreme cold weather had much of the same negative effects on many of the un-harvested cotton fields in the Northern Low Plains. Producers expect harvest to be at a stand still for about a week.

**Peanuts:** Although activities were slowed, harvest is still expected to be completed by next week in South Texas.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Harvest of cabbage and spinach continued in the Edwards Plateau. Heavy irrigation activities continued in South Texas cabbage and spinach fields as harvest continued. Carrots also progressed.

**Pecans:** The majority of pecans in the Trans-Pecos area have already dropped and the remaining is expected to do so quickly. Low pecan yields are expected due to this being an alternate bearing year for most of the trees in the region. Harvest neared completion in the Edwards Plateau and all was completed in South Central Texas.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

In the High Plains, high winds and low temperatures caused stress to livestock. Supplemental feeding continued in the Southern Low Plains as livestock experienced much of the same problems as the High Plains. A hard freeze occurred in the Cross Timbers and sent most warm season annual perennial grasses into dormancy. These conditions placed additional pressure on winter pastures to provide both quality and quantity grazing to livestock herds. Livestock water was still a major issue in the Blacklands. Heavy frost destroyed most of the remaining warm season forages in South East Texas. Previously planted winter pastures progressed. In the Trans-Pecos area, producers were concerned about livestock as hay remained in short supply with high prices. Range conditions declined in the Edwards Plateau as increased moisture levels were needed to promote winter weeds and cool season grasses. Livestock markets were steady in volume but prices declined in South Texas. Supplemental feeding of livestock also increased due to decreased forage quality and lack of forage for grazing. Statewide, range and pasture land was mostly fair to very poor.

Crop Progress Table – December 3, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
			- Percent -	
Cotton	Harvested	84	80	73
Peanuts	Harvested	99	99	93
Sorghum	Harvested	95	93	91
Winter Wheat	Emerged	93	83	87
Oats	Planted	98	96	--
	Emerged	95	82	--
Pecans	Harvested	57	66	61

**Crop Condition Table – December 3, 2006**

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Percent					2006	2005
Wheat	8	34	42	12	4	68	37
Oats	2	17	39	23	19	48	24
Range & Pasture	1	11	27	34	27	--	--

<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 – December 3, 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	21	31	0	37	8	22	13	5	19	43	31	10	0	53	10
Short	41	38	34	42	53	35	53	36	54	45	51	75	18	41	37
Adequate	37	27	64	21	37	38	33	53	27	12	18	12	63	6	53
Surplus	1	4	2	0	2	5	1	6	0	0	0	3	19	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 <sup>1/</sup>**

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Nov 27 – Dec 3) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Nov 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – Dec 3) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Aug - Oct) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.07	0.07	14.40	18.87	132
Low Rolling Plains	0.12	0.25	17.19	23.78	110
North Central Texas	0.58	1.37	23.18	34.00	104
East Texas	0.62	2.12	35.66	45.69	112
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.00	8.28	12.96	94
Edwards Plateau	0.16	0.16	14.44	24.01	69
South Central Texas	0.20	0.33	17.51	34.48	52
Upper Coast	0.27	0.83	48.50	47.63	130
South Texas	0.08	0.05	11.18	23.49	84
Lower Valley	0.16	0.43	16.48	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

