

Texas Crop Weather



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For the week of January 5 - 11, 2004

TX-CW0204

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - January 11, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1998-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Cotton			
Harvested	97	95	98
Wheat			
Emerged	95	98	95
Other Field Crops			
Harvested			
Pecans	96	89	88

Crop Condition Table - January 11, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	1	15	24	27	33
Range & Pasture . .	3	14	35	27	21

Agricultural Summary: The coldest weather of the season blew in from the north in early week, but by late week conditions had warmed up. Drought conditions worsened, especially in northern and western parts of the State. Only a few areas had precipitation during the week. Trace amounts of rain were recorded in Central and South Texas, but some areas of the Upper Coast reported anywhere from one tenth to over a half-inch of accumulation. Isolated locations in coastal counties reported as much as an inch of rain. Temperatures in the northern most counties of the Panhandle dropped below zero with the onset of a cold front and maintained freezing temperatures for over 48 hours. The northern half of the State recorded temperatures in the single-digits and teens. Central locations dipped into the twenties. A freeze occurred deep into the Coastal Bend and even producers in Rio Grande Valley experienced temperatures in the thirties. Topsoil moisture from the Panhandle through the Low Rolling Plains has been depleted due the extended dry spell. High winds associated with the cold front stirred up dust and caused further stress to small grains and winter pastures. In many areas, fieldwork and tillage was suspended to conserve topsoil. Greenbugs and other pests were still causing problems, but should lessen somewhat in areas that experienced hard freezes. Supplemental feeding of livestock was extremely active across most regions as many wheat fields and other winter pastures have been grazed out. Some cattle sickness was reported due to the changing temperatures.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat and oat conditions worsened in most regions. Lack of rain and snow prevented many fields from emerging and others from having decent stands. Fields that were adequate for grazing a couple of months ago have now

been mostly grazed out. Irrigated wheat has started to show drought stress. Freeze kill due to the lack of snow associated with the cold front was being evaluated. Greenbugs, aphids, and armyworms remained active, but should be declining with the hard freeze. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 37 percent of normal, compared with 79 percent last year.

Corn: Field work increase in central and southern areas. Producers were plowing and applying fertilizers in preparation for next year's crop. Soil moisture conditions were declining in more areas of the state.

Cotton: Very few cotton fields remained to be harvested on the Plains. Many gins were shutting down for the season. Producers in some localities were pleasantly surprised with better than expected yields. Fields in the Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley were being prepared for the upcoming season.

Sorghum: Harvest of remaining acreage in the Plains was completed. Producers in southern regions were busy fertilizing and working fields.

Peanuts: Peanut harvest was completed in all areas. Very little field work was reported in peanut producing areas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, winter vegetables, including onions, were progressing well. Harvest of citrus, sugarcane, cabbage and greens was active and winding down in some locations.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, irrigation was very heavy throughout the region. Harvest of spinach and cabbage continued. Onions were making good progress under irrigation. There were no reports of freeze damage but conditions will be monitored.

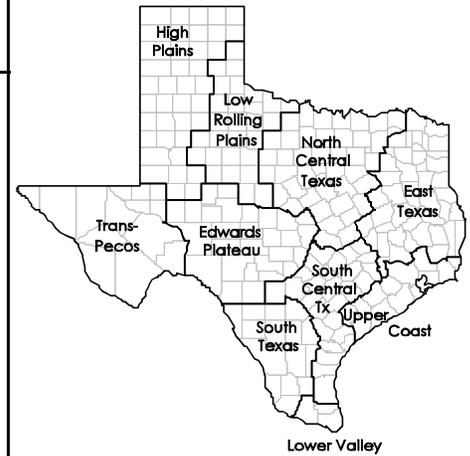
Pecans: Harvest was completed in most locations with many dry orchards yielding below average. Irrigated orchards fared much better.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures in the Panhandle and Plains region were in dire need of moisture. Many winter grasses and weeds had not emerged. Conditions in some locations are the worst they have been in many years. Sub-zero temperatures have worsened the situation with freeze kills. High winds depleted virtually all remaining moisture from pastures. Some cattle were being pulled off pastures due to lack of quality forage. In southern areas, dry conditions also caused a decline in forages. Supplemental feeding was extremely active across the State. Cattle sickness occurred due to changing temperatures. Stock pond water levels dropped in all locations.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Jan 5 - 11) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Jan 1 - 11) Accumulation	Total 2003 Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Oct - Dec) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.00	11.18	18.87	34
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.00	12.94	23.78	37
North Central Texas	0.00	0.03	21.95	34.00	48
East Texas	0.19	0.29	32.42	45.69	70
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.00	10.13	12.96	102
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.00	19.72	24.01	66
South Central Texas	0.23	0.23	26.93	34.48	86
Upper Coast	1.21	1.27	43.66	47.63	101
South Texas	0.09	0.09	25.80	23.49	124
Lower Valley	0.09	0.09	23.71	25.34	131



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - January 11, 2004 *

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	62	73	81	72	51	44	77	2	61	38	11	0	0	18	n/a
Short	37	23	15	18	35	33	42	6	38	56	49	3	4	44	n/a
Adequate	1	4	4	10	13	22	51	68	1	6	35	97	42	38	n/a
Surplus	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	24	0	0	5	0	54	0	n/a

* 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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