

Texas Crop Weather



Released: January 26, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CST)
 For the week of January 19 - 25, 2004
 TX-CW0404

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

Crop Progress Table - January 25, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1998-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Cotton			
Harvested	99	100	100
Wheat			
Emerged	98	100	98
Other Field Crops			
Harvested			
Pecans	99	98	96

Crop Condition Table - January 25, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	1	8	25	31	35
Range & Pasture . .	3	15	36	28	18

Agricultural Summary: Conditions during early week were mostly dry, but began to change by mid to late week when more rain fell across some parts the state. Precipitation fell in areas extending east of a line from the Big Bend area north to the Low Rolling Plains. Regions that reported rain amounts of 1/4 inch or more included areas of South Texas, Central Texas, East Texas, the Upper Coast and the eastern parts of the Edwards Plateau. Rainfall in other parts of the state ranged from a trace to 1/4 inch. Most of the High Plains region did not receive any rain during the week and was still very short on soil moisture. Temperatures in many areas dropped early in the week. Nighttime thermometer readings in the upper Plains and in parts of East Texas fell to the low 30s and high 20s. The most common feature mentioned by reporters across the state pertained to the improvements in conditions seen where moisture was received. The exception being the situation in the Upper Coast where many fields and pastures were saturated from recent rainfall. However, moisture was still needed for optimum spring planting. Many areas saw native pastures and small grain fields for grazing start to green-up during the week. Supplemental feeding of livestock remained prevalent across most regions. Greenbugs and other pests remained a problem in a few areas and producers were beginning to treat fields against these.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Some of the small grain acreage was beginning to respond to recent moisture. However, not all areas got sufficient rain to improve conditions much. Much of the acreage in the Plains was already too stressed to recover. In some healthier wheat stands, moisture appeared to be helping the situation. Some replanting of wheat or oats for cover crop was expected as a result of recent moisture. Most stockers have been pulled off fields in western Texas for lack of adequate forage. In some areas

of the Plains, greenbugs were active and required treatment. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 37 percent of normal, compared with 79 percent last year.

Corn: Aided by earlier rains, field work activity in northern areas could increase within the next few weeks. In central and southern areas, preparations will resume as soon as fields dry out. Plowing and fertilizing were wrapping up in some locations of the Coastal Bend and the lower Rio Grande Valley as planting time draws closer.

Cotton: Wet and cold weather delayed the harvesting of the few remaining cotton fields. Some cotton gins were still operating in the Plains. Farmers in the Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley were starting preparation for the 2004 cotton crop.

Sorghum: Fields were being worked in preparation for Spring planting, where conditions were not too wet. In the Upper Coast, rains the past two weeks have saturated fields and delayed planting preparations. Farmers in South Texas want more rain before planting begins in about one month.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, the rain that fell will be beneficial for spring planting preparations. The onion crop continues to progress well.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, harvesting of spinach and cabbage crops were halted again this week due to wet fields. Land preparations for Spring planting, scheduled to begin this week, were delayed. Onions, carrots, and green beans continue to develop.

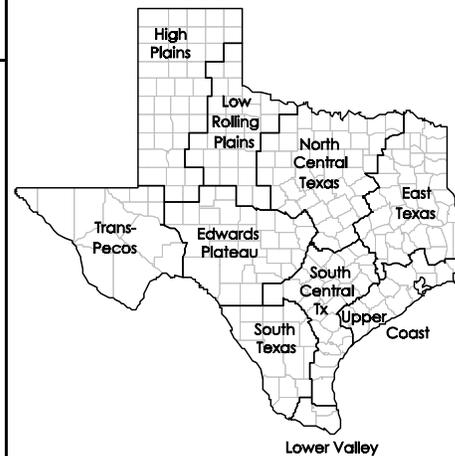
Pecans: Harvest was nearly complete. In Southern pecan orchards, growers were progressing toward the completion of hedging activities.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures were showing some signs of improvement in many areas of the state, from the rainfall during the last two weeks. Texas producers, with the exception of those in the Coastal districts, need more rain in the coming weeks to recharge aquifers, improve moisture in the soil, and fill stock ponds. Cattle body condition was rated from fair to good for this time of year. Many producers were relying on some supplemental feeding of livestock to maintain body condition at the current level. Cattle continued to be pulled off where pastures and rangeland lacked sufficient forage. Some cattlemen were thinning herds due to the dry condition of rangeland or pasture, and some were making preparations for re-stocking herds. In some areas, calving has begun. Prices at cattle auctions were reported from steady to stronger.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Jan 19 - 25) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Jan 1 - 25) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - 25) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Oct - Dec) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.92	0.92	18.87	34
Low Rolling Plains	0.06	1.43	1.43	23.78	37
North Central Texas	0.21	1.72	1.72	34.00	48
East Texas	1.27	2.93	2.93	45.69	70
Trans Pecos	0.05	0.91	0.91	12.96	102
Edwards Plateau	0.20	1.41	1.41	24.01	66
South Central Texas	0.59	1.96	1.96	34.48	86
Upper Coast	0.98	4.01	4.01	47.63	101
South Texas	0.45	0.90	0.90	23.49	124
Lower Valley	0.51	1.02	1.02	25.34	131



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - January 25, 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	57	39	21	31	31	12	9	2	43	19	2	0	0	8	0
Short	23	15	47	46	47	20	31	7	28	57	35	10	0	34	22
Adequate	20	35	32	23	22	59	58	59	29	22	54	85	23	58	78
Surplus	0	11	0	0	0	9	2	32	0	2	9	5	77	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.

Cooperating Agencies:

Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service.

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