

Texas Crop Weather



Released: March 8, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CST)
 For the week of March 1 - 7, 2004
 TX-CW1004

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

Crop Progress Table - March 7, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	2	4	17
Emerged	0	3	5
Cotton			
Planted	1	1	2
Sorghum			
Planted	7	6	13

Crop Condition Table - March 7, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	6	18	33	25	18
Range & Pasture ..	2	18	44	23	13

Agricultural Summary: Rain fell across many locations of the state during the week, improving conditions for many but causing problems for others. With the rain received, producers in the Plains looked forward to spring planting as sub-soil moisture levels seemed promising. Areas of the Northern High Plains saw 2-4 inches of rain. The Southern High Plains saw up to 2 inches of rain as well. Areas of the Southern Low Plains received high winds along with the rains, damaging several structures. Pea-sized hail was also reported. The Cross Timbers reported tornado like activity, although no tornadoes were confirmed. The Blacklands, East Texas, and Cross Timbers were again hit with rain that was less needed than in western regions. The Trans Pecos region was still in desperate need of moisture after it received trace amounts this week. Although rain was received, windy conditions dried up the little existing moisture. Little rain fell in southern regions and allowed for harvest of some winter crops. Supplemental feeding continued across the state, though was decreasing due to pasture improvement. In some areas, the improvement of pastures couldn't have come at a better time as hay supplies were running low. Stock ponds and lakes were again able to catch needed water as rains were heavy enough to produce runoff in many regions. Field activities were slowed in most areas of the state, but were expected to resume as soils dried. Some prescribed burning was underway on the Edwards Plateau.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat fields considered too far gone a week ago were coming back to life in some areas. Green-up occurred in many wheat fields and other small grains across all regions. Recent rains helped relieve pressure from army cut worms and greenbugs.

Wheat conditions in the Northern High plains were improving rapidly after the much needed rain. Winter Wheat in the Cross Timbers also started to flourish. In the Edwards Plateau, small grains made good progress. The Blacklands reported being very behind on wheat top dressing as fields were still too saturated, and wheat was not growing as well, due to excess moisture, overcast conditions, and disease. Some areas reported powdery mildew. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 50 percent of normal, compared with 72 percent last year.

Corn: Planting was halted by rain, but was expected to resume after fields dry out a little. In central and southern areas, producers were three weeks behind on corn planting. Producers in the Coastal Bend prepared for planting at the end of this week. Planting was winding down in the Lower Valley.

Cotton: Field work was generally limited by weather in most regions. Cotton planting reached full speed in the Lower Valley. Pre-watering continued on fields on the Edwards Plateau. In other areas, field preparations were expected to resume with good moisture and improved outlook.

Sorghum: In many south-central and southeastern areas, producers were a week behind on Sorghum planting due to saturated fields. Planting continued in the Lower Valley. Very limited planting occurred in the Coastal Bend and Upper Coast regions.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, harvest of citrus, cabbage, sugarcane and greens continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, onions continued to develop. Spinach and cabbage harvest continued, but progress was halted due to wet ground.

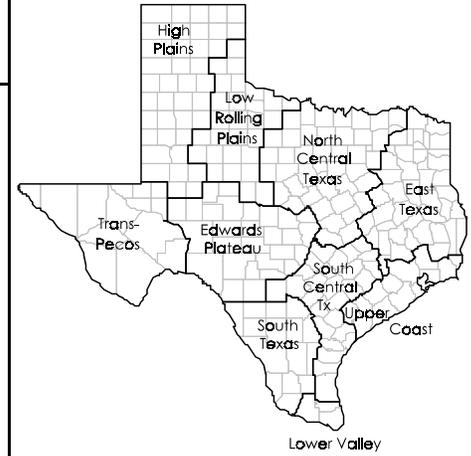
In the **Trans Pecos**, potato planting was virtually completed.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Movement of cattle was slowed by wet conditions. Supplemental feeding continued, but was decreasing. Green up of pastures and ranges continued across the state, especially in southern areas. Livestock conditions were holding across the state for the most part, with the exception of the Trans Pecos region where livestock were being sold due to drought conditions. Calving continued across the State. Lambing, kidding and deer feeding were the livestock activities on the Edwards Plateau.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Mar 1 - 7) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 7) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Mar 7) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Dec - Feb) Percent of Normal
High Plains	1.25	1.25	3.72	18.87	169
Low Rolling Plains	1.77	1.77	5.54	23.78	137
North Central Texas	0.73	0.73	6.73	34.00	109
East Texas	0.80	0.80	9.90	45.69	103
Trans Pecos	0.14	0.14	1.55	12.96	124
Edwards Plateau	0.44	0.44	3.23	24.01	88
South Central Texas	0.22	0.22	4.70	34.48	82
Upper Coast	0.51	0.51	9.94	47.63	126
South Texas	0.05	0.05	1.86	23.49	57
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	1.75	25.34	44



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - March 7, 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	3	11	2	4	0	0	0	0	48	9	0	0	0	3	0
Short	30	14	9	15	5	1	4	0	32	42	0	5	0	30	40
Adequate	34	64	58	67	61	27	41	30	20	42	70	42	3	67	60
Surplus	33	11	31	14	34	72	55	70	0	7	30	53	97	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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