

Texas Crop Weather



Released: April 5, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of March 29 - April 4, 2004
 TX-CW1404

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

Crop Progress Table - April 4, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	60	53	49
Emerged	44	29	38
Cotton			
Planted	15	10	10
Rice			
Planted	33	43	43
Emerged	15	12	17
Sorghum			
Planted	38	32	35
Wheat			
Headed	7	6	9
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	33	14	14
Sunflowers	5	4	1

Crop Condition Table - April 4, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	7	33	37	19	4
Range & Pasture . .	8	30	41	14	7

Agricultural Summary: Warm, sunny weather was experienced over most areas of the state. By week's end, an upper level low in northern Mexico triggered numerous severe storms over large areas of the State. The western half of the state generally received rainfall accumulations ranging from a trace to ½ inch. Isolated locations received up to 2 inches. The South Plains and Trans Pecos experienced some of the most severe weather. Torrential downpours of up to 4 inches fell along with large accumulations of hail in these areas. Some tornadoes were observed, but caused only limited damage. Storms were also experienced in areas from the Edwards Plateau to South Central Texas and the Upper Coast. As much as 2 to 3 inches of rain were reported over widespread areas. Large hail fell in parts of the Winter Garden area. Those locations that missed the severe conditions received a trace to ½ inch accumulations for the week. The severe storms were just beginning to bear down on the Rio Grande Valley by the end of the reporting period. Eastern portions of the Upper Coast, as well as most of the northern Panhandle, North Central and East Texas recorded little or no rainfall. One isolated area of East Texas reported up to 2 inches. Soil moisture improved where rain fell, and was at a surplus in some areas. Field work was very active across the State until the late week storm. Land preparations and planting of various summer crops moved forward in all regions. Cattle grazing increased on rapidly improving pastures. Calving, lambing, and foaling were ongoing.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat in the Panhandle and other areas continued to show improvement. Some earlier planted fields were approaching boot stage. Irrigation resumed in some fields. Many fields were still being grazed, and some fields were expected to be cut for hay within the next few weeks. Russian wheat aphids, greenbugs, and brown wheat mites were becoming an increasing problem. In the Blacklands and Central Texas, many fields were heading out. Powdery mildew worsened in many fields, and rust was starting to appear. Producers were spraying accordingly. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 65 percent of normal compared with 65 percent last year.

Corn: Land preparation and some pre watering continued in the Panhandle. Planting was expected to begin within the next few weeks. Planting was mostly complete throughout the Blacklands and Central Texas. Only a few locations were not finished. Most fields were in good condition. Corn in the Rio Grande Valley was progressing well.

Cotton: South Plains cotton producers were busy with land preparations, including herbicide applications and pre-watering. Planting had begun in Central Texas, the Upper Coast, and some locations in the Blacklands. Producers continued to sow seed in the Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Valley. Early planted fields were emerging. Subsoil moisture was adequate in most cotton growing areas.

Sorghum: Producers continued to plant in Central Texas and the Upper Coast. Planting had begun in the Blacklands. Field preparations were ongoing in the Panhandle and South Plains. Earlier planted fields in southern regions had emerged, and were in good condition.

Peanuts: Field work continued with open conditions.

Rice: Planting continued, with growers taking advantage of favorable weather.

Soybeans: Planting was ongoing in the Upper Coast and Blacklands. Field preparation continued in the Panhandle and South Plains.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pecans: Buds were breaking in southern regions, and close to breaking in northern and western regions. Many orchard growers were setting out case bearer traps for monitoring.

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, harvest of citrus, greens, and carrots continued. Spring melons were in favorable condition. Moisture was adequate.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, spring onions progressed well. Potatoes were in blooming stage. Cabbage harvest was ongoing. Cantaloupe and watermelons were scheduled for planting in the next few weeks.

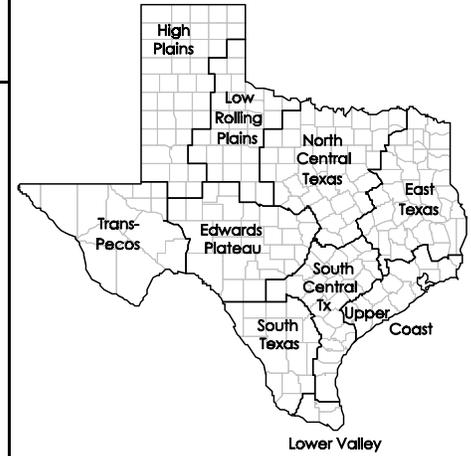
In **East Texas**, growers began to bed out sweet potatoes for transplant slips.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Ranges and pastures continued to green up with the warmer temperatures and adequate moisture nearly statewide. Weeds were becoming an increasing nuisance, and producers were spraying accordingly. Supplemental feeding was decreasing across all regions. Cattle remained in a favorable disposition as did cattlemen due to favorable prices. Many stockers had gained sufficient weight and were being sold. Calving and foaling were active. Shrimp growers in the Trans Pecos were getting ready to fill ponds and stock larvae.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Mar 29 - Apr 4) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 4) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.76	1.67	4.90	18.87	193
Low Rolling Plains	0.67	2.39	6.83	23.78	191
North Central Texas	0.26	1.33	7.59	34.00	110
East Texas	0.05	2.22	11.32	45.69	106
Trans Pecos	1.32	1.64	4.37	12.96	261
Edwards Plateau	0.77	2.17	5.73	24.01	139
South Central Texas	1.02	1.26	6.69	34.48	93
Upper Coast	0.61	2.29	12.29	47.63	131
South Texas	1.96	1.95	5.45	23.49	119
Lower Valley	2.35	2.43	6.29	25.34	117



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - April 4, 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	12	10	5	2	8	3	1	2	37	10	0	0	2	8	0
Short	45	16	25	19	33	17	9	10	32	26	14	30	7	13	37
Adequate	43	68	65	69	58	71	70	82	31	62	71	63	68	77	30
Surplus	0	6	5	10	1	9	20	6	0	2	15	7	23	2	33

* 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.

**PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID AT
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

Texas Crop Weather (USPS 396-770) is published weekly by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, 300 E. 8th St., Austin, TX 78701, (512) 916-5581. **PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID** at Austin, TX. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Texas

Penalty for Private Use, \$300

**AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE
NASS - USDA
P.O. BOX 70
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767**

T
E
X
A
S