

Texas Crop Weather



Released: May 10, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of May 3 - 9, 2004
 TX-CW1904

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

Crop Progress Table - May 9, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	94	89	89
Emerged	73	75	75
Silked	2	1	1
Cotton			
Planted	30	30	26
Squaring	4	1	3
Peanuts			
Planted	44	26	27
Rice			
Planted	98	96	96
Emerged	92	89	89
Sorghum			
Planted	55	51	49
Headed	8	3	6
Wheat			
Headed	82	81	77
Harvested	1	2	2
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	65	67	65
Sunflowers	33	33	32

Crop Condition Table - May 9, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	33	42	20	4	1
Rice	15	65	20	0	0
Sorghum	29	48	17	6	0
Wheat	8	34	37	18	3
Range & Pasture	17	40	27	10	6

Agricultural Summary: A warmer and drier trend prevailed for most of the week. However, by the weekend, rain showers and storms occurred across some parts of the state. Storms in the Southern Plains and Edwards Plateau were accompanied by strong winds. Areas receiving rainfall during the later part of the week included areas of the Trans-Pecos and most central areas extending from the Red River to the Gulf Coast and east of a line from Kerrville to Laredo. Much of East Texas did not receive rain. Producers across the state were able to take advantage of drier conditions and proceed with planting row crops and other field activities. In the wettest areas of South and East Texas, some relief from the saturated fields occurred before the weekend. Haying and baling of small grains and other forage crops continued in the Plains and other areas. Cattle continued to graze wheat pastures not cut for hay or intended for grain. Livestock condition was rated mostly good to excellent throughout the state, with most pastures and rangelands providing improved forage.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat acreage intended for grain continued to make good progress across the state. In the Plains, winter wheat was maturing more quickly, and more fields were heading out. Harvest of wheat and oats for hay or silage continued. Some producers sprayed for rust and powdery mildew problems. Armyworms were also noticed in a few fields, but no widespread damage was reported. Acreage in southern areas was nearing maturity. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 66 percent of normal compared with 49 percent last year.

Corn: Planting activities in the Plains made good progress during the week. Good soil moisture and weather conditions continued to assist with emergence. In some of the wettest areas, yellowing and development problems were occurring from too much moisture. Treatment for weeds and cultivation was active on some acreage. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 87 percent of normal compared with 75 percent last year.

Cotton: Many producers in the Plains had completed planting preparations. Planting activities were beginning to gain momentum in the Plains, but some producers were waiting for more moisture to begin planting. In other areas, planting activities resumed early in the week. Some acreage in coastal areas was in need of improved growing conditions. Some fields were showing stress from a lack of thermal heat units and sunshine for more than 3 or 4 days at a time, and cool temperatures.

Sorghum: Generally, planted sorghum fields were making good to excellent progress in most areas, except where fields remained saturated. Some areas with too much soil moisture reported yellowing in some fields. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 87 percent of normal compared with 72 percent last year.

Peanuts: Heavy planting activity occurred before weekend precipitation fell in the Plains. Land preparation continued in South Texas.

Rice: Dry days were welcomed by producers who still had to complete planting. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 87 percent of normal compared with 84 percent last year.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pecans: Zinc application continued. Growers began spraying for casebearer moth in some areas. Some trees damaged by the April hailstorm were re-leaving. The higher soil moisture this Spring has been beneficial for most Pecan acreage across the state.

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, harvest continued for onions, citrus, sugarcane, cabbage and potatoes. In South Texas, watermelon harvest has not started due to a late planted crop, excess moisture and disease problems in some fields. Early watermelons were being harvested in the Lower Valley.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, Onion harvest began with good to excellent yields. Cabbage harvest was nearing completion.

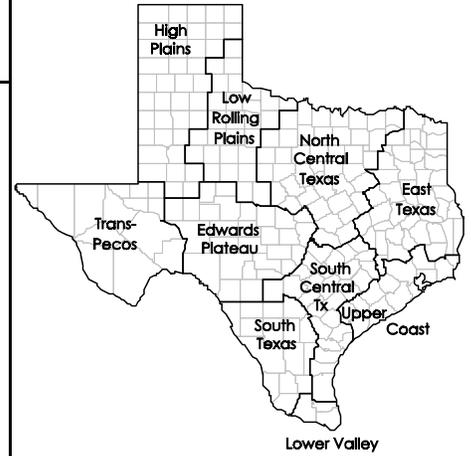
In the **Trans-Pecos region**, conditions were good for developing onions, melons and pecans. Fall onions were bulbing. Chile fields were all planted and starting to emerge. Alfalfa was re-sprouting for the second cutting. Grapes were doing well, and Pecans were pollinating.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pastures continued to improve with warmer temperatures and sunshine. Livestock remained in good to excellent condition, with supplemental feeding at a minimum. More rainfall for the Plains and Trans-Pecos was needed to continue the improvement of rangeland and pastures. Sheep shearing and lamb marking was nearing completion. Spring calving continued, and working of cattle and branding was still active.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (May 3 - 9) Accumulation	Month-to-date (May 1 - 9) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - May 9) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Feb - Apr) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.20	0.20	6.89	18.87	213
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.00	8.65	23.78	168
North Central Texas	0.01	0.09	11.54	34.00	119
East Texas	0.05	1.49	17.43	45.69	113
Trans Pecos	0.12	0.12	5.34	12.96	337
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.03	8.90	24.01	163
South Central Texas	0.95	1.79	11.28	34.48	113
Upper Coast	0.75	2.78	18.33	47.63	128
South Texas	0.40	0.82	7.62	23.49	152
Lower Valley	0.67	1.11	8.88	25.34	197



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - May 9, 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	15	4	1	0	5	5	0	0	23	13	0	0	0	0	0
Short	43	26	22	32	11	6	0	2	48	20	31	0	0	21	8
Adequate	40	67	70	68	81	69	93	84	29	64	59	31	64	77	92
Surplus	2	3	7	0	3	20	7	14	0	3	10	69	36	2	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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