

Texas Crop Weather



Released: May 24, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)

For the week of May 17 - 23, 2004

TX-CW2104

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - May 23, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	98	99	97
Emerged	90	92	89
Silked	12	12	25
Cotton			
Planted	61	53	54
Squaring	8	11	9
Peanuts			
Planted	62	71	65
Rice			
Planted	100	100	99
Emerged	97	97	96
Sorghum			
Planted	66	57	58
Headed	20	15	19
Wheat			
Headed	95	96	95
Harvested	4	13	8
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	81	81	78
Sunflowers	53	58	56

Crop Condition Table - May 23, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	30	45	21	3	1
Peanuts	24	43	28	3	2
Rice	22	54	24	0	0
Sorghum	27	45	20	6	2
Wheat	6	32	34	20	8
Range & Pasture	18	40	27	10	5

Agricultural Summary: Hot and dry conditions took hold in most of the State last week. Very little rain occurred on the Plains as only a few locations recorded trace amounts. Temperatures approached or exceeded the 100 degree mark for the first time this year. The Trans Pecos reported scattered thunderstorms along with hail. There was some moderate damage to the apple crop in the region. Rainfall amounts in the affected locations were generally about 1/2 inch, however a downpour of nearly 3 inches was reported. Other regions with measurable rainfall were the Upper Coast and East Texas. Typical rain gauge readings were a 1/2 inch or less with isolated locations recording up to 2 inches. Soil moisture was still adequate in nearly all areas, however it was depleting rapidly in some locations due to the high temperatures and wind. Some areas, mostly east of the I-35 corridor, welcomed the warm, dry weather so fields could dry out from the excess rain the past few weeks. Water was still standing in a few fields on the Coastal Bend; left over from the deluge a couple of weeks ago. In most regions, field work was moving along at a fast clip. Wheat harvest was moving north and summer crops were being planted and emerging. Cattle continued to be worked and some supplemental feeding was necessary in drier locations.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat acreage was maturing rapidly statewide with the hot, dry weather. Irrigated fields on the Plains were in very good shape while dryland fields could use another decent rain to finish up grain development. Wheat condition deteriorated somewhat in the driest areas of the Plains. Early harvest was underway in the Blacklands and North Central Texas. Rust remained a problem in many fields. Producers were cutting wheat hay in some areas. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 61 percent of normal compared with 46 percent last year.

Corn: Planting was virtually complete on the Plains. Early planted fields in the region were at the 4-leaf stage. Mites were a problem and were sprayed accordingly. Irrigated fields were in excellent condition, but dryland fields could use a rain. Poorly drained fields in southern regions were showing some yellowing. Corn in the Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley had tasseled and was developing ears. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 87 percent of normal compared with 64 percent last year.

Cotton: Planting continued at a very fast pace on the Plains. Some producers were holding out for rain before seeding. Emerged cotton in the region was mostly favorable with irrigated fields doing very well. Fields developed rapidly with the warm, sunny weather. In wetter areas of the Blacklands, cotton was off to a slow start due to saturated soil. Squaring was underway in southern regions. Some acreage in the Coastal Bend will be lost to standing water.

Sorghum: Planting continued on the Plains, but many producers were waiting for a rain. Most stands looked favorable, especially irrigated fields. Saturated fields were a problem in some locations in the Blacklands. Yellowing was an ongoing problem in the Coastal Bend, with some fields expected to be disastored. Fields were heading out as far north as Central Texas. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 84 percent of normal compared with 64 percent last year.

Peanuts: Planting activities remained heavy on the Plains and were nearing completion in some locations. Emerging plants were off to a quick start with the warm temperatures. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 83 percent of normal.

Rice: Rice development continued with most fields being reported as favorable. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 87 percent of normal compared with 86 percent last year.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pecans: Orchard growers were reporting a heavy nut set. Casebearer spraying was set to begin in the next week or two in most regions.

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

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, onion and cabbage harvest progressed. Watermelons were developing well. Some onions were unharvestable in wetter fields due to disease during bulb development.

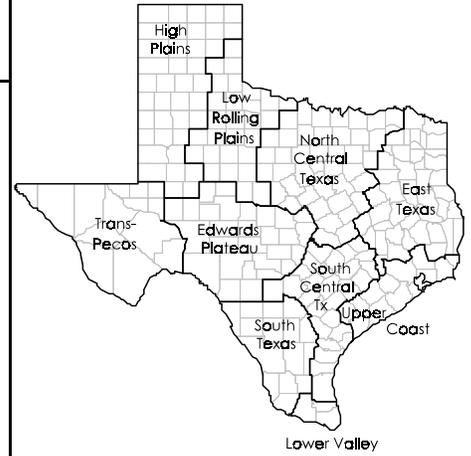
In **East Texas**, sweet potato slips were being transplanted. Tomato harvest had begun.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Although conditions remained generally favorable, range and pastures could still use a good rain across the Plains and northern portions of the Edwards Plateau. Other regions of the State showed excellent growth of native grasses and forages. Cattle were in good condition and many cattlemen were working Spring calves. Heel and horn flies were a problem in some areas. High prices were still the main topic of discussion among cattlemen. Sheep shearing was ongoing.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (May 17 - 23) Accumulation	Month-to-date (May 1 - 23) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - May 23) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Feb - Apr) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.01	0.38	7.07	18.87	213
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.44	9.09	23.78	168
North Central Texas	0.00	0.74	12.19	34.00	119
East Texas	0.34	3.86	19.80	45.69	113
Trans Pecos	0.05	0.40	5.62	12.96	337
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.74	9.61	24.01	163
South Central Texas	0.04	3.83	13.32	34.48	113
Upper Coast	0.07	8.12	23.67	47.63	128
South Texas	0.00	1.62	8.42	23.49	152
Lower Valley	0.00	1.47	9.24	25.34	197



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - May 23, 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	27	10	26	10	4	5	0	1	18	15	0	0	0	2	0
Short	54	32	46	50	39	23	18	1	65	22	14	0	3	18	7
Adequate	18	55	26	40	53	59	77	79	17	62	59	25	49	72	93
Surplus	1	3	2	0	4	13	5	19	0	1	27	75	48	8	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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