

Texas Crop Weather



Released: August 2, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of July 26 - August 1, 2004
 TX-CW3104

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

Crop Progress Table - August 1, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Silked	96	97	96
Dough	70	77	78
Dented	62	62	60
Mature	45	53	51
Harvested	10	13	22
Cotton			
Squaring	92	86	93
Setting Bolls	63	46	66
Bolls Opening	12	12	12
Harvested	1	1	3
Peanuts			
Pegging	88	86	86
Rice			
Headed	80	94	94
Harvested	6	10	14
Sorghum			
Headed	71	56	69
Turning Color	49	48	52
Mature	42	44	44
Harvested	35	34	37

Crop Condition Table - August 1, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	48	39	11	2	0
Cotton	25	42	22	8	3
Peanuts	33	55	11	1	0
Rice	13	51	33	3	0
Sorghum	23	52	15	8	2
Range & Pasture ...	14	41	27	12	6

Agricultural Summary: Unusual weather for this time of year was everybody's topic of conversation in Texas. A stalled frontal boundary lingered over the State during the week, causing heavy rain for most areas and flooding for some. The heaviest rainfall amounts were reported on the South Plains and North Central Texas. Generally, between 2 and 8 inches of rain were recorded in those regions but an isolated location accumulated up to 12 inches. Severe flood damage along swollen creeks occurred just south of Dallas. Portions of the Trans Pecos also received very heavy rain. Widespread areas reported from 2 to over 6 inches of precipitation. Widely scattered storms blew through the Edwards Plateau as well as Central, South, and East Texas. Accumulations ranged from a trace to 4 inches in some locations. The Panhandle saw varied rainfall amounts ranging from a trace to 2 inches. Near record low temperatures were recorded in the northern half of the State. The Panhandle and South Plains saw thermometer readings drop down into the mid-50's. Soil moisture and crops greatly benefitted from the increased moisture. Many irrigation pumps were shut down and wells were allowed to recharge. Stock tanks filled back up again with runoff water. Harvest of corn and sorghum was halted in

parts of Central Texas and the Blacklands. Resurgence of weeds were observed in many locations. Insect pressure was reported as generally light.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat field preparation continued where conditions allowed.

Corn: Panhandle corn benefitted greatly where rains fell. Silage cutting began in the region. Grain harvest in southern areas of the Blacklands moved along quickly in fields that missed the rain. The rest of region should start combining as soon as fields dry out enough. Because of the rain and humidity the past few weeks, some fields will have to dry out a little more before harvesting. Many growers were hoping for a week or two of open weather. Combining on the Coastal Band, Upper Coast, and South Texas was fast and furious. Some counties were finishing up for the season. Rio Grande Valley corn harvest neared completion. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 95 percent of normal compared with 57 percent last year.

Cotton: Increased moisture on the South Plains helped out cotton fields tremendously. Many producers gave their irrigation pumps a rest. Where the heaviest rain fell, some poorly drained fields were submerged. Crop progress varied from blooming to full boll set. A couple weeks of warm, open weather would be ideal for many fields after a week of rain. Earlier planted fields on the Blacklands were opening bolls. Boll worm problems were reported in some areas. Harvest has started on the Coastal Bend and many other producers continued to apply defoliants in preparation for harvest. Cotton stripping was ongoing in the Rio Grande Valley. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 81 percent of normal compared with 59 percent last year.

Sorghum: Rain was beneficial to sorghum fields on the Panhandle and South Plains. Blackland sorghum was being harvested as conditions permitted and many producers would be in the field as soon as they were dry. Some of those fields would have to stand longer than normal to allow the grain to dry out. Harvest was ongoing in Central and South Texas. Combines were winding down on the Coastal Bend and the Upper Coast. Harvest was complete in the Rio Grande Valley. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 83 percent of normal compared with 59 percent last year.

Peanuts: Peanuts were expected to respond well to the increased precipitation. Most fields were pegging. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 93 percent of normal compared with 88 percent last year.

Rice: Most fields have turned color. Harvest of early rice fields has begun on a limited basis. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 81 percent of normal, compared with 85 percent last year.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

On the **High Plains**, pumpkins were ahead of schedule, but fungi growth was expected with the recent rains. Watermelon harvest was delayed.

In the **Trans-Pecos**, chiles were reaching maturity. Grape and watermelon harvest was delayed where rains fell.

In **East Texas**, peach harvest was ongoing.

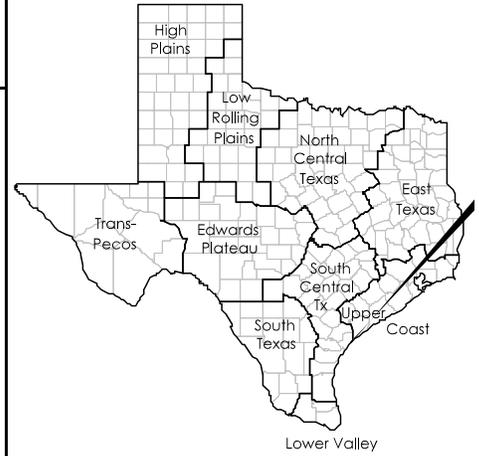
Pecans: Nut development continued. Aphids and pecan scab were becoming increasingly problematic. Growers were spraying accordingly.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and native pasture growth was helped out where rain fell. Many weeds seemed to respond more favorably to the moisture than forages did. Haying activities continued where conditions allowed and growers were optimistic about a third cutting later in the year. Many cattle herds have gained weight ahead of schedule given the good pasture and range growth over the summer. Those cattle were expected to be marketed earlier than normal. Some stockers were bought to graze on fall pastures. A continually strong cattle market kept ranchers in high spirits.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Jul 26 - Aug 1) Accumulation	Month-to-date (July 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Aug 1) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (May - Jul) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.79	2.21	13.28	18.87	84
Low Rolling Plains	1.26	1.97	15.42	23.78	81
North Central Texas	1.92	2.76	23.72	34.00	119
East Texas	0.69	1.57	29.49	45.69	110
Trans Pecos	0.68	2.52	9.17	12.96	90
Edwards Plateau	0.89	1.41	15.90	24.01	91
South Central Texas	0.70	1.43	20.81	34.48	108
Upper Coast	1.00	2.62	35.52	47.63	137
South Texas	0.12	0.77	12.36	23.49	73
Lower Valley	0.20	0.52	14.81	25.34	92



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - August 1, 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	7	9	2	2	9	7	1	6	26	7	0	0	8	5	0
Short	20	11	10	6	13	14	35	47	29	43	12	90	20	24	70
Adequate	60	69	76	71	63	53	62	44	44	43	85	10	69	67	30
Surplus	13	11	12	21	15	26	2	3	1	7	3	0	3	4	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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