

Texas Crop Weather



Released: October 18, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)

For the week of October 11 - 17, 2004

TX-CW4204

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - October 17, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Harvested	91	91	94
Cotton			
Bolls Opening	68	77	90
Harvested	22	27	36
Peanuts			
Harvested	30	15	29
Sorghum			
Turning Color	95	87	97
Mature	80	71	88
Harvested	62	62	79
Wheat			
Planted	71	79	71
Emerged	49	57	45
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Oats	75	77	62
Harvested			
Pecans	12	14	8
Soybeans	78	85	88
Sunflowers	61	70	85

Crop Condition Table - October 17, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Cotton	17	49	21	9	4
Peanuts	17	43	22	12	6
Wheat	32	45	19	3	1
Range & Pasture ...	11	43	34	9	3

Agricultural Summary: Parts of Texas received showers including North Central, South Central, Trans Pecos, and East Texas, with some areas of the Upper Coast and East Texas receiving up to four inches of rainfall later in the week. In drier parts of the state, harvesting and other field activities resumed after delays from heavy rains the week before. On the Trans Pecos, precipitation caused some flooding along creeks and affected pecans, cotton, corn and peanuts. On the Edwards Plateau, cool moist conditions and recent rains have provided excellent moisture for fall crops. Cotton producers remain concerned about the lack of needed heat units for cotton in this and other parts of the state. Recent moisture has been good for winter wheat already planted, but producers planning to plant late were waiting for the ground to dry. A few cases of army worms and boll weevils were reported. Cattle conditions were good to excellent. Light supplemental feeding continued due to very wet conditions and cooler weather in isolated areas on the Plains.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Winter wheat planted early was emerging and growing rapidly from the rainfall and cooler temperatures. Wetter fields kept farmers out

of the field and anxiously waiting to plant with the excellent growing conditions. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 88 percent of normal compared with 75 percent last year.

Corn: In areas of the High Plains, harvest continued as drier weather permitted farmers to get their equipment in the field. Other areas of the state waited for fields to dry for corn harvest to resume. About one-tenth of the crop remained to be harvested.

Cotton: In spotted drier areas of the state, farmers spent the week applying desiccants and boll opening materials. Some areas spent the week with aerial application of defoliant on mature fields, where the ground was too wet for equipment access. For most of the state, harvest was delayed from moisture received. Some cotton was damaged by hail in areas ranging from the Trans Pecos, Plains, and across North Central Texas. Drier, warmer conditions were needed not only to dry out fields for harvest, but to help with opening bolls. Ginning continued but was slowed by the increased moisture. Concerns remain deep for farmers that the crop will receive damage from storms, hail, cooler temperatures, and delayed harvest. Yields look less favorable as the season changes and shorter periods of heat units arrive. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 78 percent of normal compared with 50 percent last year.

Sorghum: Harvest was delayed by rains in the Plains for most of the week. A light frost in the area may have damaged some late sorghum. Maturity remained behind the five-year average primarily due to cooler and wetter conditions. Harvest was completed in most of the other regions.

Peanuts: In the Southern Plains, South Texas, and Central Texas, harvest was delayed due to rain. In the Trans Pecos, farmers were dealing with peanut shells splitting due to the precipitation. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 74 percent of normal compared with 79 percent last year.

Rice: The Upper Coast and East Texas received up to 4 inches of rain in some areas, helping the ratoon crop along. Ratoon harvest is expected to begin next month.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Plains**, pumpkin growers reported having record number of visitors and record sales at roadside stands.

The **San Antonio-Winter Garden** region received scattered showers that slightly delayed cabbage, spinach, and onion planting.

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, fall planting continued. Vegetable crops that were planted early were progressing well.

Pecans: Pecan harvest continued and will progress faster throughout growing regions. In an area around El Paso, ground preparation for harvest was put on hold due to wet conditions. Webworm problems were reported in the North Central district. Pecan trees continue to drop large number of pecans due to heavy nut load on the trees.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures were rated from good to excellent in most parts of the State. Cattle body condition was rated from good to excellent around the state. Earlier planted wheat pasture was being stocked with calves in the Plains. The rainfall has been beneficial to native pastures, but the cooler temperatures have slowed growth somewhat. Light supplemental feeding was reported. Stock ponds are at capacity from the rainfall across most of the state. Ranchers spent the drier part of the week with the fall works. Livestock weaning weights and pregnancy rate are reported to be very good. Most hay producers had an abundance of hay in storage with extra rains received this growing season. Hay cutting and baling was finished around most of the state, while areas from the North Central across to East Texas have delayed baling until dryer conditions arrive.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Oct 11 - 17) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Oct 1 - 17) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Oct 17) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.15	2.28	22.48	18.87	123
Low Rolling Plains	0.09	1.78	20.46	23.78	66
North Central Texas	0.26	2.78	30.93	34.00	89
East Texas	0.08	2.88	36.72	45.69	63
Trans Pecos	0.13	1.19	16.30	12.96	134
Edwards Plateau	0.16	2.34	23.64	24.01	91
South Central Texas	1.01	3.04	28.32	34.48	62
Upper Coast	1.69	3.51	43.94	47.63	54
South Texas	0.16	1.67	19.91	23.49	85
Lower Valley	0.26	1.64	24.99	25.34	95



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - October 17, 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	0	0	3	1	7	0	1	10	5	2	0	0	0	3	0
Short	10	0	14	8	12	6	9	10	17	33	10	20	30	24	0
Adequate	46	72	77	63	72	61	76	62	75	62	78	80	27	61	0
Surplus	44	28	6	28	9	33	14	18	3	3	12	0	43	12	100

* 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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