

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: September 29, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)  
 For the week of September 22 - 28, 2003  
 TX-CW3903

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

**Crop Progress Table - September 28, 2003**

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
<b>Corn</b>			
Dented .....	100	100	100
Mature .....	96	96	98
Harvested .....	79	74	81
<b>Cotton</b>			
Bolls Opening .....	57	76	78
Harvested .....	21	24	27
<b>Peanuts</b>			
Harvested .....	4	7	17
<b>Rice</b>			
Harvested .....	98	99	98
<b>Sorghum</b>			
Headed .....	95	99	100
Turning Color .....	76	90	95
Mature .....	61	78	85
Harvested .....	58	68	73
<b>Wheat</b>			
Planted .....	55	50	45
Emerged .....	21	25	20
<b>Other Field Crops</b>			
<b>Planted</b>			
Oats .....	51	32	29
<b>Harvested</b>			
Pecans .....	2	0	0
Soybeans .....	72	76	80
Sunflowers .....	51	75	67

**Crop Condition Table - September 28, 2003**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Cotton .....	6	18	37	22	17
Peanuts .....	22	47	25	5	1
Sorghum .....	5	27	34	24	10
Range & Pasture .....	8	29	32	18	13

**Agricultural Summary:** Weather conditions were cooler and drier throughout the first part of the week. By mid-week a warm front brought warmer temperatures to many parts of the state, but by the end of the week a cold front brought some rain showers and cooler temperatures in the Plains. Other locations receiving moisture during the week included areas of East Texas, North Central, West Texas, South Central and the Coastal Bend. Rainfall in these areas continues to improved topsoil moisture for the remaining row crops, small grains, and pastures. Some areas were still drying out from previous rains and were getting further behind in harvesting and other field activities. In other areas, moisture was still needed to improve conditions. Harvest activities continue to move ahead in drier areas. Land preparation and fall planting continued where possible. With improved conditions, more hay producers expect to achieve one more cutting of late season hay. Supplemental feeding remained necessary in some areas. Body condition scores on cattle remained good. Pasture and range conditions were improving where rains have fallen. Some insect populations were active in various locations and were causing some damage. Producers were also preparing for deer hunting season.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Land preparation and planting wheat, oats and ryegrass continue. In the Plains some wheat was being planted behind corn to try and make up for lost cotton acres. Rain late in the week halted field preparation in some areas. However, emergence of earlier planted fields made good progress where moisture conditions were adequate. Armyworms were present in some locations.

**Corn:** Harvest on the Plains continued, although work was delayed in some areas due to rainfall. Harvest in most other areas of the state was completed.

**Cotton:** Conditions continue to be wide open in most areas. In the Plain harvest aids were being applied on a limited basis. Rain showers delayed harvest in some locations. In the Blacklands, Central Texas and the Coastal Bend, cotton harvest was still being delayed by frequent rain showers. Cotton continued to mature in remaining fields across the state. In some areas, the crop still needs warm weather to mature due to the lateness of the crop. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 51 percent of normal, compared with 66 percent last year.

**Sorghum:** Sorghum was maturing and harvest was getting started in the Plains, but conditions varied widely. Rain showers late in the week and excess moisture stalled harvest in some areas. Late planted sorghum continues to benefit from moisture. Some dryland acreage was being grazed or baled for hay. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 57 percent of normal, compared with 60 percent last year.

**Peanuts:** Most fields made good progress. Producers continued to water peanuts to prepare for harvest in the Plains. In a few locations acreage was being harvested, but progress was slow due to wet conditions. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 83 percent of normal, compared with 86 percent last year.

**Rice:** Harvest was complete in most areas. Wet conditions continued to delay harvest in remaining areas.

**Soybeans:** Harvest continued and was nearing completion in most locations. Irrigated soybeans continued to be the most productive.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, land preparation continued with the help of recent showers. Cabbage and onion producers were trying to catch up with planting activities.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, land preparations and planting winter vegetable crops continued. Winter vegetables were making good progress. Some activities were delayed due to rain showers.

In **East Texas**, sweet potato harvest was fully underway. Yields appear to be good, but the size of potatoes varied. Fall watermelons and peas were being harvested. There was some insect activity reported in those fields that received heavy rains earlier in the year.

In the **High Plains**, pumpkin harvest was in full swing with about average yields. Watermelon harvest was beginning to wind down.

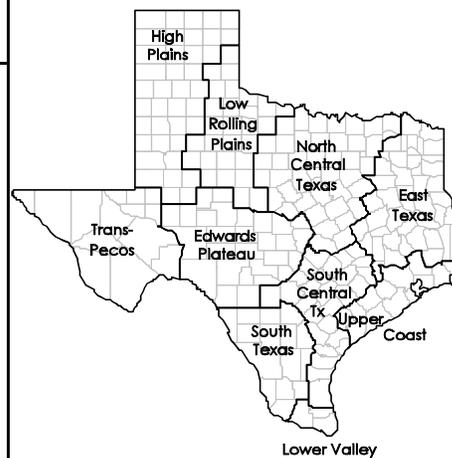
**Pecans:** Some early harvest has begun in some locations while producers in other areas were preparing for harvest. Overall, most pecans continued to progress well across the state with irrigated orchards making the most progress.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pasture conditions improved where recent rains have fallen. Haying activities continued in a few areas, but was less active in wetter locations. Some producers will be able to get a final cutting due to the additional moisture. Supplemental feeding eased in some locations, but was necessary in drier areas and in those areas that were extremely wet. Cattle were in mostly good condition. Cattle producers continue to experience record prices at the market. Wildlife food plots were being planted for this winter. Stock tank water levels were good in many areas.

**Weather Information Table <sup>1</sup>**

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Sep 22 -28) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Sep 1 - 28) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Sep 28) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jun - Aug) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.31	1.25	10.21	18.87	78
Low Rolling Plains	0.21	2.48	11.32	23.78	65
North Central Texas	0.08	2.64	18.21	34.00	108
East Texas	0.20	3.59	23.85	45.69	117
Trans Pecos	0.73	1.17	7.70	12.96	87
Edwards Plateau	1.22	3.03	16.35	24.01	132
South Central Texas	0.18	6.44	20.14	34.48	100
Upper Coast	0.01	6.32	32.20	47.63	131
South Texas	0.72	5.62	19.90	23.49	137
Lower Valley	0.02	6.48	17.05	25.34	93



<sup>1</sup> Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

**Top Soil Moisture by District - September 28, 2003 \***

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	22	26	38	10	11	5	15	0	35	19	0	0	0	5	0
Short	34	48	42	44	34	30	41	16	36	33	10	0	0	9	0
Adequate	36	24	20	44	55	59	44	75	28	46	62	19	21	68	100
Surplus	8	2	0	2	0	6	0	9	1	2	28	81	79	18	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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