

Texas Crop Weather



Released: October 27, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)

For the week of October 20 - 26, 2003

TX-CW4303

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - October 26, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Harvested	96	98	98
Cotton			
Bolls Opening . . .	89	95	96
Harvested	34	39	48
Peanuts			
Harvested	29	35	46
Sorghum			
Turning Color . . .	91	100	100
Mature	78	92	96
Harvested	65	78	85
Wheat			
Planted	84	82	77
Emerged	67	69	54
Other Field Crops Planted			
Oats	85	73	68
Harvested			
Pecans	21	11	12
Soybeans	87	92	94
Sunflowers	83	90	90

Crop Condition Table - October 26, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Cotton	7	20	35	21	17
Peanuts	23	47	24	5	1
Wheat	11	34	33	10	12
Range & Pasture . .	12	30	32	16	10

Agricultural Summary: The week began dry and warm. Favorable conditions persisted across most areas, but by week's end, a cold front moved through delivering a light frost and cold temperatures to areas of the Plains, and light snow in West Texas. The dry weather contributed to productivity during the week with many farming activities taking place all around the state. Late week scattered showers fell in southern and coastal areas with moisture accumulations varying widely along the frontal boundary. Some light showers also fell in West Texas. In the Plains region, harvest of sorghum and cotton, and application of harvest aids to cotton fields was progressing rapidly. Producers were busy planting wheat in the Plains. In areas where wheat had already been planted emergence was making progress. Statewide conditions were also very good for cutting and baling hay. In South Texas and the Valley, vegetable producers made progress planting vegetables. Cattle were in good condition, and markets were very active as cattle prices remained high.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Emerged wheat and oats were making fair progress in many areas, though some places were in need of moisture. Planting activities continued across all areas of the state. Armyworm infestations were still a problem in many areas. Spraying was ongoing to control populations. Cattle had begun to graze early planted wheat pastures. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 66 percent of normal, compared with 82 percent last year.

Corn: Harvest on the Plains was nearing completion as producers were able to take advantage of good weather.

Cotton: Harvest activities gained momentum with very cooperative weather. Applications of harvest aids and preparations for harvest were active. Areas of the Low Rolling Plains reported problems with regrowth due to recent rain and warm sunny days. In the High Plains, weather conditions hastened the maturation of remaining cotton, but fields were still lagging behind normal development. In other areas of the State, producers were shredding stalks when conditions allowed. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 53 percent of normal, compared with 66 percent last year.

Sorghum: In the High Plains region, sorghum harvest continued. Yield reports varied widely. Some remaining acreage may produce very little due to lateness and a poor growing season.

Peanuts: Digging and other harvest activities gained momentum as weather remained favorable. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 83 percent of normal, compared with 76 percent last year.

Rice: Second cutting of rice was making better progress with warmer conditions.

Soybeans: Soybean harvest continued in remaining fields on the Plains.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, orange harvest continued as fields dried out, but sugarcane harvest was still being delayed due to wet field conditions. Disease pressure increased on citrus, peppers and cucumbers. Onion planting was underway.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, harvest of cabbages, cucumbers and spinach resumed due to favorable weather conditions. Preparation for fall onion planting continued, and planting was expected to begin next week.

In **East Texas**, tomato harvest was progressing with some reports of minor pinworm damage. Sweet potato harvest continued and was expected to wrap up within 2 weeks if weather permits.

In the **High Plains**, pumpkin harvest was nearing completion. Quality and price were reported good, with average yields.

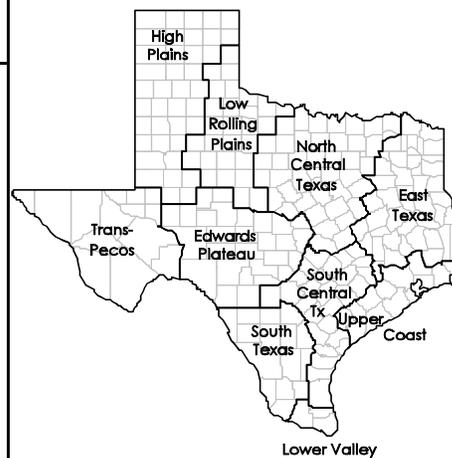
Pecans: Harvest activities were underway in most areas, but still in the early stages. Nuts were opening in most areas. Some producers were waiting for a hard freeze to prompt leaf drop.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and Livestock: Many ranchers were gearing up for deer season. Overall, pastures were in fair to good condition. Haying activities continued in most areas of the state as producers were working on what will be the last cutting of the season for most. Supplemental feeding continued in some locations. Cattle were in mostly good condition. Prices remained high and cattle markets were active.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Oct 20 - 26) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Oct 1 - 26) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Oct 26) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.01	0.51	10.75	18.87	45
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.67	12.01	23.78	49
North Central Texas	0.00	1.86	20.07	34.00	87
East Texas	0.48	2.67	26.52	45.69	110
Trans Pecos	0.22	2.04	9.74	12.96	60
Edwards Plateau	0.08	2.70	19.05	24.01	116
South Central Texas	1.57	4.60	24.74	34.48	125
Upper Coast	1.66	4.76	36.96	47.63	123
South Texas	0.65	4.76	24.66	23.49	159
Lower Valley	1.70	5.59	22.64	25.34	112



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - October 26, 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	29	54	21	14	11	4	0	31	5	2	0	0	0	0
Short	37	41	27	39	45	38	39	16	34	23	8	0	0	17	0
Adequate	41	29	18	40	37	48	52	74	35	70	79	57	65	74	67
Surplus	0	1	1	0	4	3	5	10	0	2	11	43	35	9	33

* 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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