

Texas Crop Weather



Released: March 7, 2005 (3:00 P.M. CST)

For the week of February 28 - March 6, 2005

TX-CW1005

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - March 6, 2005

Crop	2005	2004	Average 2000-2004
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	9	2	12
Emerged	4	0	3
Cotton			
Planted	1	1	1
Harvested	99	100	100
Sorghum			
Planted	6	7	11

Crop Condition Table - March 6, 2005

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	19	46	29	5	1
Range & Pasture . . .	3	16	34	38	9

Agricultural Summary: Generally, weather conditions across Texas were unsettled during the week. During early week, many locations across the Plains were dry enough to allow some farming activities. Land breaking, stalk destruction, fertilizer applications and weed control measures seemed to be the most active. Central areas were less fortunate as soils remained mostly too wet for farming activities, however a few acres were planted during early week. Further south, especially in valley locations, planting and vegetable harvest were active in early week. By mid week and into the weekend progress in most areas was declining as additional rainfall was received. Heavy rainfall along with some hail ranged across areas of the Plains as well as Central and Eastern locations. Some accumulations were reported to be as much as six inches in isolated locations. Pasture conditions remained generally excellent across the state, however in a few areas pasture damage from bogging remained a severe problem. Supplemental feeding remained heavy in many areas as weather conditions continued to be undesirable for livestock herds. Sickness in livestock herds varied across the state, however some losses from bloat were reported.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Growth and development remained mostly excellent across the state, however some producers indicated that lack of sunshine was causing yellowing and stunting in some fields. Top dressing was active in a few locations during early week, but was generally on hold later in the week as additional rainfall was received in many areas. Green bugs and plant diseases were increasing in some areas as a further result of the wet conditions. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 81 percent of normal, compared with 55 percent last year.

Corn: Land preparation was active in many areas during early week. Planting moved ahead in isolated central locations and in some areas further south planting was completed. Emergence of earlier planted corn seemed to be mostly favorable in all reporting locations. Land preparation and further planting became stalled during mid to late week as additional rainfall was

received. Drying out will be necessary before land preparation and planting can resume.

Cotton: Harvest progress was noticed in remaining fields during early week, however additional rainfall stopped progress in late week. Ginning activities remained active in remaining areas, however some modules remained difficult to retrieve due to excessive wet conditions. Planting was active in some extreme southern locations.

Sorghum: Land preparation moved ahead in a few drier locations during early week, however became stalled as more rainfall was received in mid to late week. Planting moved forward in some southern locations, but some earlier planted fields were showing signs of stress from too much water.

Peanuts: Land preparation was active in many locations across the state during early to mid week. Some pre-emerge herbicides were applied before additional rainfall was received.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, drying out was sufficient enough to allow harvest of remaining cabbage and spinach to resume during early week. Preparations for onion harvest continued in most areas. Progress and development in onions, carrots and potatoes continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, land preparation was active during early week, however rainfall returned later in the week and further progress became stalled. Some harvest of spinach and cabbage was possible during early week, but was stalled later in the week as additional rainfall was received.

In **East Texas**, land preparation remained generally on hold during the week as rain showers and muddy soils prevented field work.

In the **High Plains**, land preparation was active in some locations during early to mid week. Rain showers during mid to late week again stalled progress.

In the **Trans Pecos**, land preparation was active in many locations during the week. Onions continued to show excellent growth and development.

Pecans: Trimming was active in a few locations during the week. A few last minute applications of dormant oils were applied by some producers during the week.

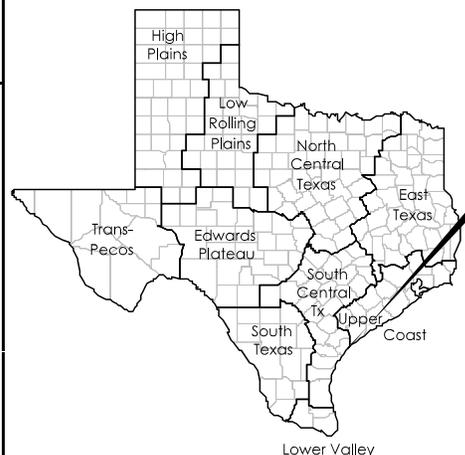
Peaches: Blooming moved ahead in southern locations during the week. Some producers were still concerned as to the amount of chill hours collected this winter, but were hopeful for an average crop this year.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Green up was ongoing throughout the state as the result of warmer temperatures and more than adequate moisture. Pasture destruction resulting from the wet conditions remained a concern across Texas. A few southern locations have remained relatively dry during the past several months, however rainfall was received in these locations this past weekend. Supplemental feeding remained necessary across the state as wet and cool conditions continued in many locations. Some producers continued to have trouble in getting feed to their herds as muddy conditions made travel in pastures very difficult to impossible. Sickness in livestock herds continued with varied degrees of severity. A few producers who were grazing wheat fields lost livestock to bloat; otherwise normal problems associated with cool and wet conditions were present.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Feb 28 - Mar 6) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Feb 1 - 28) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Mar 6) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Dec - Feb) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.26	0.99	2.98	18.87	204
Low Rolling Plains	0.59	1.54	3.51	23.78	117
North Central Texas	0.50	2.16	5.18	34.00	90
East Texas	0.44	4.06	7.51	45.69	83
Trans Pecos	0.19	1.22	1.74	12.96	124
Edwards Plateau	0.96	1.69	3.64	24.01	91
South Central Texas	1.00	2.45	5.64	34.48	78
Upper Coast	1.59	3.90	7.82	47.63	83
South Texas	0.92	1.53	3.56	23.49	81
Lower Valley	0.04	0.83	1.46	25.34	62



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - March 6, 2005 *

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	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	7	5	0	0	0	1	13
Short	4	15	5	0	6	1	0	0	25	12	0	0	0	9	40
Adequate	77	41	75	73	57	27	31	24	60	70	40	43	20	76	47
Surplus	19	42	19	27	36	72	69	76	8	13	60	57	80	14	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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