

Texas Crop Weather

Released: September 26, 2005 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
For the week of September 19 - 25, 2005
TX-CW3905

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

Crop Progress Table - September 25, 2005

Crop	2005	2004	Average 2000-2004
- Percent -			
Corn			
Mature	90	96	96
Harvested	73	72	77
Cotton			
Bolls Opening	51	50	65
Harvested	23	18	23
Peanuts			
Harvested	4	8	12
Rice			
Harvested	98	99	98
Sorghum			
Coloring	86	86	89
Mature	66	72	78
Harvested	59	58	67
Soybeans			
Dropping Leaves	78	--	--
Harvested	61	59	73
Sunflowers			
Harvested	41	37	59
Wheat			
Planted	41	57	44
Emerged	11	24	18
Oats			
Planted	26	45	30
Emerged	2	--	--

Crop Condition Table - September 25, 2005

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
- Percent -					
Cotton	13	45	25	11	6
Peanuts	24	49	26	1	0
Sorghum	9	42	33	9	7
Range & Pasture ...	2	16	34	32	16

Agricultural Summary: The most significant weather event for the week was Hurricane Rita. Early to mid week, producers in the path of the approaching hurricane were busy moving livestock and harvesting well into the night in an attempt to save crops and livestock from possible destruction. As the hurricane made landfall in along the Texas - Louisiana border, heavy rains, high winds and flooding occurred. As the system progressed further northeast, heaviest rainfall occurred in a narrow band from Jefferson County north through Shelby County, where 7 to 12 inch accumulations were reported. Most other areas east of Interstate 45 received lighter rainfall with accumulations of between 1 and 7 inches. High winds and flooding of low lying areas occurred, but the extent of damage to crops was believed to be limited as most had already been harvested prior to the storm. Livestock losses will not be known for several days. Otherwise, weather conditions were generally hot and dry across the state for the week. Unseasonably hot daytime temperatures were common in all areas with the record hot temperatures reported in a few locations. Harvest of summer crops continued across the state early in the week under dry conditions. Small grain planting and preparations for fall planting continued in most areas, but slowed where moisture supplies were short. Range and pastures conditions continued to decline from the dry hot conditions. Livestock conditions in several areas continued to decline from the heat and water shortages

became more widespread. Supplemental feeding remained heavy in many locations. Hay production was slowed as fields continued to dry out.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Land preparation and planting remained active in some areas, however was slowed as fields remained dry in most areas. Irrigation was active in areas where possible. Emergence of previously planted wheat and oats was slow. Producers began moving livestock onto small grain fields.

Cotton: Good growth and development continued in many areas, especially across the Plains. Many areas across the Plains reported cotton had reached or was at the open boll stage and producers were preparing for harvest. In areas further south, harvest and preparations for harvest continued. Ginning and stalk destruction activities continued in areas where harvest was ongoing. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 73 percent of normal, compared with 88 percent last year.

Corn: Harvest moved ahead across the Plains and portions of North Texas.

Sorghum: Growth and development remained good to fair on late planted sorghum. Harvest was active in early planted fields across many areas of the Southern Plains and North Central Texas. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 70 percent of normal, compared with 81 percent last year.

Peanuts: Growth and development was reported to be average to good in areas around the state. Harvest and preparations for harvest moved ahead in portions of the Plains. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 86 percent of normal, compared with 92 percent last year.

Soybeans: Harvest continued in areas of North, Northeast Texas and the Upper Coast as producers were concerned about possible damage from hurricane Rita. Many areas continued to suffer from drought conditions and soybeans in these areas were extremely dry. Irrigated soybeans remained in good shape.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, vegetable planting was in progress across several areas of the Rio Grande Valley. Irrigation was active and in some locations pre-watering was in progress before planting began. Early citrus harvest was expected to begin soon.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, early planted cabbage made good progress and pre-watering continued in areas where other fall crops will be planted. Seed bed preparations continued and some planting began.

In the **High Plains**, harvest of late watermelons and pumpkins continued.

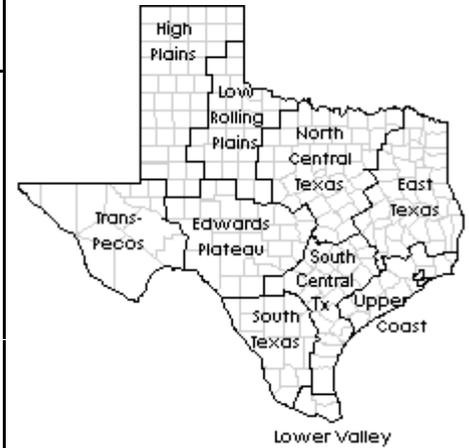
Pecans: Pecans continued to make fair to good progress across the state, especially where irrigation was available. In non-irrigated locations nut drop continued. Insect populations continued to cause varying amounts of problems for many producers. Some orchards in East Texas were damaged from high winds from hurricane Rita, but the extent of damage and loss could not be assessed at week's end.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pasture green up and improvement was varied depending on rainfall received in earlier weeks. Hot, dry winds continued to remove soil moisture and dormancy of native grasses was continued across many areas of the state. In a few locations the hottest temperatures this season were recorded during the week. Hauling water to livestock was ongoing in the driest areas, and supplemental feeding was active. In areas where earlier rains fell, cutting and baling of hay continued at a slow pace, but these areas were also showing signs of moisture stress. Hay supplies were short in several areas, and producers were concerned about availability later this fall and winter. Herd reduction remained active in a few areas as supplemental feed was in short supply. Areas of East Texas that received significant rain from hurricane Rita were expected to show improvement, although several of the affected areas remain behind normal for annual precipitation. The extent of livestock losses due to the storm could not be accessed at week's end.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Sep 19 - 25) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Sep 1 - 25) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Sep 25) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jun - Aug) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.38	14.32	18.87	91
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	1.27	15.84	23.78	91
North Central Texas	0.04	0.75	17.25	34.00	83
East Texas	2.53	2.86	22.22	45.69	62
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.73	9.83	12.96	86
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.41	15.79	24.01	93
South Central Texas	0.72	1.76	15.94	34.48	38
Upper Coast	1.29	4.04	32.48	47.63	82
South Texas	0.00	0.59	9.96	23.49	46
Lower Valley	0.01	1.86	8.25	25.34	53



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - September 25, 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	18	7	9	8	20	50	59	51	19	26	30	45	0	28	0
Short	48	42	34	48	53	41	32	35	54	51	45	40	60	39	37
Adequate	33	48	54	40	27	9	9	14	27	23	24	10	40	31	63
Surplus	1	3	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	2	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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