



## USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas Field Office

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TX-CW1606

### **Texas Crop Weather**

Released April 17, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)

For the week of April 10 - 16, 2006

**Agricultural Summary:** Most of the State was dry, and virtually all areas needed rain. The Trans-Pecos and Low Plains had the most widespread precipitation, but they generally totaled less than 0.10 inches, with isolated areas receiving up to 0.50 inches. Growers in the Plains, where dry, windy conditions contributed to isolated wildfires, continued preparing land for planting. Summer grasses continued to green-up across the State, but their growth further depleted soil moisture. Ranchers in most areas continued supplemental feeding of cattle and, especially in South Texas, thinned herds.

### **Field Crops Report**

**Small Grains:** Much of the wheat in the Plains and Cross Timbers has been grazed, cut for hay or silage, or turned in for insurance. Disease problems were reported in some irrigated wheat in the Northern High Plains. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly rated very poor to poor. Oats condition statewide was mostly rated very poor to poor.

**Cotton:** Producers in the Plains continued to prepare for planting and applied herbicides. Planting continued in the Blacklands and was winding down in the Coastal Bend. Some farmers in the Blacklands planted seed deeper than normal to reach moisture, and others waited to plant because of the dry soil.

**Corn:** Growers continued planting in the High Plains. Farmers sprayed fields in the Blacklands for weeds; corn in this area stood at about 6 to 10 inches in height and was reported to be in good condition with mostly good stands. Nearly all corn had been planted in areas of South Central Texas, but seed had germinated only in irrigated fields and where there was recent precipitation. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to good.

**Sorghum:** Growers continued to prepare fields for planting in the High Plains. Planting was underway in the Low Plains, where farmers hoped for rain to get the crop up. In the Blacklands, sorghum conditions ranged from good stands to slow growth. Producers continued to plant in South Central Texas and the Coastal Bend despite the dry conditions. Wilt was reported in the Coastal Bend, indicative of depleted soil moisture. The condition was mostly rated good to fair statewide.

**Rice:** Producers continued planting and flooding fields in the Upper Coast. The condition of rice was mostly rated fair to good statewide.

**Soybeans:** Planting continued in the Blacklands, North East, and Upper Coast. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated good to fair.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, growers harvested spring onions, sugarcane, vegetables, and citrus under hot, dry conditions. Spinach harvest neared completion.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, producers harvested carrots and cabbages and irrigated onions and watermelons.

**Watermelons** made good growth in North East Texas under the warm conditions.

**Pecans** began to break bud in the Trans Pecos and Southern High Plains. Farmers applied zinc to pecan trees and irrigated orchards in the Edwards Plateau. **Peach** conditions were mixed in the North East, as some trees were damaged by the freeze two weeks ago. Trees were thinned somewhat by the freeze in the Trans Pecos.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Most areas reported continued supplemental feeding. Pastures that received rain two weeks ago dried out and hay was in short supply and expensive. Pond and lake levels in North East Texas began to drop again, and low pond levels were reported in South Central Texas. The South Central region saw high fly populations that hurt cattle gains. Despite the poor conditions, cattle in most areas, except South Texas, were rated fair to good. In South Texas, ranchers fed prickly pear as an emergency feed, but even that was stressed by the drought. Producers in the South and in the Coastal Bend cut deeply into herds due to the dry conditions and scarcity of hay. Ranchers across the state worked spring calves. Producers in the Edwards Plateau were busy shipping lambs and shearing.

Crop Progress Table - April 16, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	68	64	59
	Emerged	60	54	51
Cotton	Planted	20	18	16
Rice	Planted	83	65	72
	Emerged	73	42	50
Sorghum	Planted	63	44	43
Soybeans	Planted	69	47	38
Sunflowers	Planted	20	11	9
Winter Wheat	Headed	27	18	20
Oats	Headed	63	--	--

**Top Soil Moisture by District – April 16, 2006 \***

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	74	43	46	54	18	13	6	10	44	44	55	90	13	68	100
Short	23	49	46	42	61	54	43	51	45	49	28	10	51	30	0
Adequate	3	8	8	4	21	32	49	38	11	7	17	0	36	2	0
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	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.

**Crop Condition Table – April 16, 2006**

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	1	31	51	12	5	63	86
Rice	2	42	53	3	0	73	--
Sorghum	0	30	29	20	21	50	--
Soybeans	4	48	40	7	1	73	--
Wheat	1	3	18	30	48	25	75
Oats	1	9	20	34	36	32	--
Range & Pasture	1	8	27	32	32	--	--

<sup>1/</sup> The formula for the condition index is  $I = (5V + 25P + 60F + 90G + 110E)/100$  where  
 I=crop condition Index and V, P, F, G, E = percentage of crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good, excellent.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (April 10 - 16) Accumulation	Month-to-date (April 1 - 16) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 16) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.00	1.50	18.87	70
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.11	2.05	23.78	60
North Central Texas	0.00	0.00	6.97	34.00	104
East Texas	0.00	0.00	11.18	45.69	105
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.00	0.84	12.96	72
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.03	2.64	24.01	73
South Central Texas	0.00	0.56	3.49	34.48	48
Upper Coast	0.00	0.00	4.51	47.63	50
South Texas	0.00	0.00	0.49	23.49	16
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	0.69	25.34	19

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

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:  
[www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcs/share/precip\\_analysis\\_new.php](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcs/share/precip_analysis_new.php) and [www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html)

**Cooperating Agencies:**

Texas Agricultural Extension Service

Texas Department of Agriculture

National Weather Service

