



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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**Issue:** TX-CW1607

**Released:** April 16, 2007

**For the week of:** April 9 - 15, 2007

**Agricultural Summary:** Concerns of freeze damage remained prevalent across the state as an unseasonable cold front crossed the state two weeks ago. Freezing temperatures were reported in many areas, and some areas such as the Southern High Plains experienced below freezing temperatures for two to three days. Reports indicated that several crops were damaged due to the effects of this cold front, but the extent of total damage was still being assessed. Weather conditions improved for most producers at the beginning of the week as temperatures increased, but a few areas experienced strong storms later week. Most areas of the state received light to moderate rainfall. Central Texas received mostly 0.01 to 0.25 inches of rainfall. Accumulations were a little higher across the Northern Plains and sections along the Louisiana border. These areas received as much as 0.50 to 1.5 inches of rainfall. Conditions were a bit drier in both the Trans-Pecos area and South Texas as most producers experienced little to no rainfall. Supplemental feeding continued to decline considerably across most areas of the state as forage growth increased.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Although moisture remained adequate in the Northern High Plains, there were still major concerns about freeze damage. Early assessments indicated minimal damage, but the full effects will not be known until another week or two. In the Southern High Plains, wheat between the boot and heading stage was severely damaged from the effects of the previous week's cold front. Producers anticipate losses to be as much as 75 percent in some areas. The damage to wheat fields in the Southern Low Plains, Trans-Pecos, and Edwards Plateau is still being assessed. Wheat and oats in the Cross Timbers looked to have received little or no damage. Some producers in the Blacklands continued to be faced with rust problems in fields. Statewide, wheat and oat condition was mostly fair to good.

**Cotton:** The combination of rains and low temperatures contributed to foliar damage of early planted cotton along the Coastal Bend, with possible yield damage.

**Corn:** Planting began in some areas of the Northern High Plains as conditions allowed. Some corn producers in North East Texas remained worried about high prices of nitrogen fertilizers. Corn progressed in South Texas as temperatures increased. Statewide, corn condition was mostly fair to good.

### **Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**

In the Southern High Plains, early damage estimates from the previous week's freeze indicated significant grape damage. There were some reports stating that the grape crop was totally destroyed in several areas of the Southern High Plains. Vines were also damaged, but most were at the stage where the freeze did not totally destroy them. Areas of the Trans-Pecos reported similar losses, as producers suffered their second consecutive year of loss. Fall planted onions in the Trans-Pecos showed some signs of growth. Also in the Trans-Pecos, some producers began replanting watermelons and cantaloupe for the second or third time due to previous hail along with the effects of the latest freeze. Cabbage was being harvested in South Texas.

**Pecans:** Some of the larger orchards in the Trans-Pecos received huge losses due to the cold front. Some producers in the Edwards Plateau also reported damage to their pecan crop.

### **Livestock, Pasture and Range Report**

Pastures were "greening up" in the Southern Low Plains, but some grasses were burned by the low temperatures of the previous week. In North East Texas, fertilization of pastures increased. Spring activities were ongoing for some producers in the Trans-Pecos as they continued branding calves and vaccinating cattle. Pasture condition continued to improve in South Central Texas. Producers along the Coastal Bend were faced with issues of lobelia. Livestock body conditions improved as the availability of high quality forage continued to increase. Statewide, range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good.

**Crop Progress Table – April 15, 2007**

Crop	Stage	2007	2006	Average 2002 – 2006
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	67	67	64
	Emerged	64	59	55
Cotton	Planted	13	20	17
Rice	Planted	45	82	74
	Emerged	34	71	53
Sorghum	Planted	56	62	48
Soybeans	Planted	38	65	44
Sunflowers	Planted	10	19	12
Winter Wheat	Headed	28	25	19
Oats	Headed	66	61	---

**Crop Condition Table – April 15, 2007**

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Percent					2007	2006
Corn	7	48	23	14	8	69	63
Wheat	26	36	27	9	2	80	25
Oats	9	33	35	11	12	64	32
Range & Pasture	9	38	34	14	5	--	--

<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.

**Top Soil Moisture by District – April 15, 2007 \***

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	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	24	8	0	0	0	2	15
Short	2	7	17	9	6	18	22	15	43	12	0	8	0	14	35
Adequate	80	62	51	83	75	53	71	69	33	79	85	85	64	78	50
Surplus	18	31	32	8	19	27	6	13	0	1	15	7	36	6	0

\* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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.

Weather Information Table <sup>1/ 2/</sup>

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (April 9 - 15) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Apr 1 - 15) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 15) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.41	0.53	5.24	18.87	219
Low Rolling Plains	0.62	0.69	4.95	23.78	132
North Central Texas	0.33	0.52	9.42	34.00	133
East Texas	0.51	0.92	12.74	45.69	111
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.17	2.26	12.96	179
Edwards Plateau	0.04	0.41	6.95	24.01	184
South Central Texas	0.34	1.31	11.14	34.48	160
Upper Coast	0.46	1.69	16.03	47.63	160
South Texas	0.00	0.63	5.74	23.49	162
Lower Valley	0.00	0.61	4.75	25.34	116

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

<sup>2/</sup> High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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.

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:  
[www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip\\_analysis\\_new.php](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/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

