



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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**Issue:** TX-CW5008

**Released:** December 8, 2008

**For the week of:** December 1 – 7, 2008

**Agricultural Summary:** The Plains and East Texas received 0.01 to 1 inch of precipitation while the rest of the state showed little to no rainfall. Wheat in the Low Plains, Cross Timbers, and Blacklands suffered due to dry conditions and was becoming a major concern. Cotton harvest in the Trans-Pecos was almost complete with some fields experiencing a second pick due to late boll openings. In the Coastal Bend, harvest of high starch corn planted in late summer was in progress. Sorghum harvest in the High Plains and Northern Low Plains was almost complete and yields varied. Peanut harvest was complete in the Northern Low Plains and was almost complete in South Texas. Pecan harvest continued in the Cross Timbers, Blacklands, Trans-Pecos, and Edwards Plateau with very poor yields. Livestock were in fair to good condition across most of the state while supplemental feeding had increased. Range and pasture land was in need of rain across most of the state. Top soil moisture was mostly very short to adequate across the state.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Wheat in the High Plains is in need of moisture and growth has been slow. Wheat in the Low Plains, Cross Timbers, and Blacklands suffered due to dry conditions and was becoming a major concern. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly fair to good and oat condition was mostly poor to fair.

**Cotton:** Harvest had been slow in the Northern Plains and yields were far below expectations. Harvest in the Southern High Plains neared completion and yields varied. Harvest in the Trans-Pecos neared completion with some fields experiencing a second pick due to late boll opening. Cotton condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

**Corn:** Producers in the Blacklands prepared fields with anhydrous ammonia fertilizer. In the Coastal Bend, harvest of high starch corn planted in late summer was in progress.

**Sorghum:** Harvest in the High Plains and Northern Low Plains was almost complete and yields varied.

**Peanuts:** Harvest was complete in the Northern Low Plains and was almost complete in South Texas.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pecan harvest continued in the Cross Timbers, Blacklands, Trans-Pecos, and Edwards Plateau and yields were very poor. Cabbage and spinach harvest took place in South Texas. Sunflower harvest neared completion in the Southern High Plains. Sweet potato harvest neared completion in North East Texas and yields improved over recent years. Onion yields made good progress in South Texas.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Livestock were in fair to good condition across most of the state while supplemental feeding had increased. Several minor cold fronts caused stress on livestock in the Edwards Plateau. Range and pasture land was in need of rain across most of the state. Range and Pasture condition was mostly poor to fair statewide.

**Crop Progress Table – December 7, 2008**

Crop	Stage	2008	2007	Average 2003 – 2007
– Percent –				
Cotton	Bolls Opening	100	100	99
	Harvested	81	67	85
Peanuts	Harvested	100	100	97
Sorghum	Harvested	98	99	94
Sunflower	Harvested	79	100	99
Winter Wheat	Planted	98	96	97
	Emerged	90	76	87
Oats	Planted	97	95	98
	Emerged	81	75	51
Pecans	Harvested	57	69	67

**Crop Condition Table – December 7, 2008**

Crop	Percent					Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2007	2008
Cotton	8	28	33	19	12	59	--
Wheat	4	31	38	18	9	60	42
Oats	0	12	27	40	21	38	42
Range & Pasture	1	13	30	32	24	--	--

1/ 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 – December 7, 2008 \***

Condition	Percent of Acreage														
	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
Very Short	21	20	34	37	43	32	0	10	51	49	52	47	23	57	30
Short	36	59	48	46	43	43	16	48	30	44	44	47	30	41	17
Adequate	40	21	15	17	14	25	82	39	19	7	4	6	39	2	53
Surplus	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	8	0	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 (Dec 1 – 7) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Dec 1 – 7) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – Dec 7) Accumulation	1961 – 1990 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Sep – Nov) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.00	17.55	18.87	130
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.00	18.61	23.78	78
North Central Texas	0.00	0.00	22.84	34.00	49
East Texas	0.18	0.18	36.15	45.69	80
Trans-Pecos	0.00	0.00	9.16	12.96	76
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.00	15.01	24.01	39
South Central Texas	0.00	0.00	16.97	34.48	31
Upper Coast	0.13	0.13	33.73	47.63	65
South Texas	0.00	0.00	16.22	23.49	44
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	26.82	25.34	106

1/ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

2/ 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 AgriLife Extension Service  
 Texas Department of Agriculture  
 National Weather Service

**Notice:**

The next issue of Texas Crop Weather will be published in January 2009.

