



Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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For the week of: April 13 – 19, 2009

Agricultural Summary: The eastern part of the state received up to 15 inches of moisture while the rest of the state received moderate amounts of rainfall. Producers continued to supplement wheat fields with irrigation in the Southern Low Plains. Cotton field preparation took place in parts of the Plains as the recent rainfall improved planting conditions. Cotton was progressing well in South Texas. Across the state, corn was under stress due to the recent freeze. Sorghum producers were preparing their land for planting in the Northern High Plains. Onions were progressing well in the Trans-Pecos and were ready to bulb. Pecans were breaking dormancy in the Trans-Pecos. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued across the state. Conditions in South Texas were still very dry and moisture was needed to establish vegetation in pastures and rangeland. Top soil moisture was mostly very short to adequate across the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Russian aphids and green bugs continued to damage the wheat crop in the Northern High Plains. Producers supplemented wheat fields with irrigation in the Southern Low Plains. Across the state, the wheat and oat crop was under stress from the recent freeze. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly very poor to poor and oat condition was mostly very poor to poor.

Cotton: Field preparation took place in parts of the Plains as the recent rainfall improved planting conditions. Producers were planting in the Blacklands. Cotton was progressing well in South Texas due to favorable weather conditions for the crop.

Corn: Fields were being planted in the Northern High Plains. Across the state, corn was under stress due to the recent freeze. Planting continued in South Central Texas. Corn was progressing well in South Texas as producers increased irrigation. Corn condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Sorghum: Producers were preparing their land for planting in the Northern High Plains. Planting was almost complete in South Texas. Sorghum condition was mostly poor to fair statewide.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

The peach crop in the Cross Timbers was under stress due to the recent freeze as producers lost most of their crop. In the Blacklands, sunflowers were being planted on damaged wheat fields from the recent freeze. Onions were progressing well in the Trans-Pecos and were ready to bulb. Cabbage harvest continued in South Texas and the Lower Valley.

Pecans: Pecans were breaking dormancy in the Trans-Pecos. Pecans had reached bloom stage in all varieties in South Texas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding of livestock continued across the state. Spring calving continued in South East Texas. In the Edwards Plateau, ranchers were shearing sheep and goats while marking lambs. Pastures responded well in East Texas from the recent rainfall. Conditions in South Texas were still very dry and moisture was needed to establish vegetation in pastures and rangeland. Range and pasture condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide.

Crop Progress Table – April 19, 2009

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2009	2008	Average 2004 – 2008
Corn	Planted	60	62	66
	Emerged	55	50	58
Cotton	Planted	17	19	18
Rice	Planted	91	82	76
	Emerged	67	70	62
Sorghum	Planted	59	63	55
Soybeans	Planted	43	56	55
Sunflowers	Planted	8	9	14
Winter Wheat	Headed	44	22	28
Oats	Headed	77	66	66

Crop Condition Table – April 19, 2009

Crop	Percent					Index ^{1/}	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2009	2008
Corn	2	20	56	12	10	57	65
Sorghum	0	14	46	18	22	46	55
Wheat	1	9	16	25	49	28	45
Oats	1	6	20	22	51	27	60
Range & Pasture	1	12	29	26	32	--	--

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 – April 19, 2009

Condition	Percent of Acreage, by District *														
	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	50	51	29	27	33	6	0	6	69	49	48	91	9	74	32
Short	40	30	47	39	24	21	9	33	20	35	25	9	22	24	55
Adequate	10	17	24	30	43	61	65	37	11	16	27	0	45	2	13
Surplus	0	2	0	4	0	12	26	24	0	0	0	0	24	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 ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions ^{2/}	Previous Week Accumulation (April 13 – 19)	Month-to-Date Accumulation (April 1 – 19)	Year-to-Date Accumulation (Jan 1 – Apr 19)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months Percent of Normal (Jan – Mar)
High Plains	0.74	1.32	2.18	19.64	39
Low Rolling Plains	0.59	1.15	2.56	24.51	40
North Central Texas	0.92	1.86	6.22	35.23	63
East Texas	2.17	3.24	10.78	48.08	66
Trans-Pecos	0.01	0.01	0.71	13.19	57
Edwards Plateau	0.88	1.28	3.79	24.73	66
South Central Texas	1.54	1.71	3.84	36.21	32
Upper Coast	3.29	3.61	7.32	50.31	36
South Texas	0.54	0.58	1.15	24.08	16
Lower Valley	0.04	0.04	0.86	25.43	21

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/ftcshare/precip_analysis_new.php and www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

Cooperating Agencies:

Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Texas Department of Agriculture
National Weather Service

