



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

Texas Field Office · Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767 · 800-842-1331 · [www.nass.usda.gov/tx](http://www.nass.usda.gov/tx)

*Issue: TX-CW3710, September 13, 2010*

*For the week of September 6 – 12, 2010*

**Agricultural Summary:** Most areas of the state observed up to 6 inches of rainfall while South Central, Texas experienced up to 10 inches of rainfall. Winter wheat seeding was progressing, early seeding had emerged, and new crop wheat was growing in the Northern High Plains. Wheat seeding was limited in dry areas. In the Edwards Plateau, wheat seeding has been delayed by the additional moisture received. In the Northern High Plains, cotton was progressing well due to the warm temperatures and heat units. In the Southern High Plains, producers continue to monitor irrigation of cotton with bolls opening. In the Northern High Plains, grain sorghum harvest was starting in areas with reduced water in the fields. Grain sorghum continued to mature in the Southern High Plains. Corn harvest for grain has started in the Northern High Plains with many producers stopping irrigation. The Blacklands sustained heavy rains and serious flooding from the recent hurricane that moved across the area, damaging some corn fields and subjecting the crop to increased levels of aflatoxin. The first crop of rice is almost complete in the Upper Coast. Some peanut producers were still applying irrigation in the Northern Low Plains. Producers were concerned with the possibility of short hay supplies due to dry conditions and loss of production in North East Texas this summer. Seedbed preparation for spinach and some onion fields are to begin soon in South Texas. Livestock were in good condition and some spring calves were being weaned. Pastures were turning due to cooler temperatures and recent rains with range grasses abundant for livestock. Topsoil moisture was mostly short to adequate across the state.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Winter wheat seeding was progressing, early seeding had emerged, and new crop wheat was growing in the Northern High Plains. Wheat seeding was limited in dry areas. Wheat producers were fertilizing fields in preparation for sowing early wheat for grazing in the Southern Low Plains. In the Edwards Plateau, wheat seeding has been delayed by the additional moisture received.

**Cotton:** In the Northern High Plains, cotton was progressing well due to the warm temperatures and heat units. In the Southern High Plains, producers continue to monitor irrigation of cotton with bolls opening. Cotton in the Edwards Plateau was progressing well with cotton bolls opening in most fields. Farmers were being encouraged to watch for cotton aphid infestation. Cotton condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

**Corn:** Corn harvest for grain has started in the Northern High Plains with many producers stopping irrigation. The Blacklands sustained heavy rains and serious flooding from the recent hurricane that moved across the area, damaging some corn fields and subjecting the crop to increased levels of aflatoxin. Statewide, corn condition was mostly fair to good.

**Sorghum:** In the Northern High Plains, grain sorghum harvest was starting in areas with reduced water in the fields. Grain sorghum continued to mature in the Southern High Plains. The rains came too late as sorghum harvest was underway in the Blacklands. In the Edwards Plateau, most producers completed harvest. Sorghum condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

**Rice:** Rice harvest was almost complete in the Upper Coast. Statewide, rice condition was mostly fair to good.

**Soybeans:** Soybean irrigation has slowed in the Northern High Plains. Soybean harvest has begun in the Blacklands. Statewide, soybean condition was mostly fair to good.

**Peanuts:** Some peanut producers were still applying irrigation in the Northern Low Plains. Peanuts progressed due to the mild temperatures and scattered showers in South Texas. Statewide, peanut condition was mostly good to excellent.

**Sunflowers:** Sunflowers continued to develop and progress well in the Southern High Plains.

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

Fall armyworms were present in pastures and hay meadows in the Blacklands. Producers were concerned with the possibility of short hay supplies due to dry conditions and loss of production in North East Texas this summer. Seedbed preparation for spinach and some onion fields are to begin soon in South Texas. In the Lower Valley, preparation for fall planting continues in areas with access to irrigation and that were not affected by the floods.

**Pecans:** Pecan trees were beginning to mature as squirrel activity has increased. Nut gathering has begun in the Southern Low Plains and spraying for pecan weevils continued in the Cross Timbers. Pecans continued to receive water as nuts were beginning to harden in the Edwards Plateau.

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

Livestock were in good condition and some spring calves were being weaned. Pastures were turning due to cooler temperatures and recent rains with range grasses abundant for livestock. Many producers along the Trinity River were moving cattle to higher ground in anticipation of the river flooding. Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good.

**Crop Progress Table – September 12, 2010 \***

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2010	2009	Average 2005 – 2009
Corn	Dough	98	100	100
	Dent	92	94	96
	Mature	73	72	77
	Harvested	50	68	66
Cotton	Setting Bolls	97	94	98
	Bolls Opening	41	29	30
	Harvested	10	13	15
Rice	Harvested	98	90	92
Sorghum	Headed	99	97	97
	Coloring	87	75	78
	Mature	61	66	68
	Harvested	45	64	66
Soybeans	Dropping Leaves	80	65	58
	Harvested	45	46	55
Sunflowers	Harvested	54	9	21
Wheat	Planted	9	14	12

\* Visit our web site to view the crop progress regional **maps**, available the following working day of this release at [www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Texas/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/maps/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Texas/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/maps/).

**Crop Condition Table – September 12, 2010**

Crop	Percent					Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2010	2009
Corn	17	45	19	9	10	73	54
Cotton	17	47	28	6	2	79	60
Peanuts	30	57	12	1	0	92	86
Rice	12	48	36	3	1	79	64
Sorghum	10	53	30	6	1	78	49
Soybeans	4	35	37	18	6	63	56
Range & Pasture	5	30	40	19	6	-	-

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 – September 12, 2010**

Condition	Percent of Acreage, by District <sup>1/</sup>														
	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	23	8	11	3	1	0	10	9	27	14	4	0	8	2	0
Short	46	62	28	24	31	8	67	22	48	26	9	6	16	19	15
Adequate	29	30	60	67	62	54	23	68	25	52	66	67	45	76	72
Surplus	2	0	1	6	6	38	0	1	0	8	21	27	31	3	13

1/ 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.

**Precipitation Table – September 12, 2010 <sup>1/</sup>**

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions <sup>2/</sup>	Inches of Accumulation				Percent
	Previous Week (Sep 6 – 12)	Month-to-Date (Sep 1 – 12)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Sep 12)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months of Normal (Jun - Aug)
High Plains	0.07	0.12	17.36	19.64	109
Low Rolling Plains	0.83	1.39	21.61	24.51	122
North Central Texas	4.23	5.30	25.64	35.23	90
East Texas	1.00	1.80	22.17	48.08	89
Trans-Pecos	0.16	0.30	10.65	13.19	125
Edwards Plateau	1.08	1.62	18.40	24.73	87
South Central Texas	4.26	5.18	25.74	36.21	91
Upper Coast	3.77	4.57	34.58	50.31	119
South Texas	1.30	2.58	20.63	24.08	102
Lower Valley	1.99	3.14	24.71	25.43	169

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

