

Texas Crop Weather



Released: February 3, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)
 For the week of January 27 - February 2, 2003
 TX-CW0503

1-800-626-3142
 www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - February 2, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
<i>Percent</i>			
Other field crops Harvested			
Pecans	99	98	97

Crop Condition Table - February 2, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<i>Percent</i>					
Wheat	13	47	27	10	3
Range & Pasture	4	24	36	24	12

Agricultural Summary: Weather conditions in the state were more seasonal. West Texas and areas of the Plains experienced dry and windy weather with warm days and cool nights. Coastal areas continued to deal with generally cloudy weather and some light precipitation. Soil moisture levels were still adequate in many areas, but the lack of new precipitation coupled with windy conditions depleted topsoil moisture levels in the Plains. Some areas of Central and Southeast were still contending with wet fields and pastures. In the Western part of the state, moisture levels were very short. Fieldwork was active in many areas as producers were plowing and fertilizing in preparation for the 2003 crop year. In some parts of the panhandle, weather conditions were near perfect for plowing and other fieldwork. Planting of pine trees had begun in East Texas. Livestock were grazing on winter wheat and pastures. Supplemental feeding was still very active across the state; hay supplies were still in good shape. Sightings of greenbugs, aphids, wireworms, and geese were reported on some small grain fields. Treatments continued for controlling these pests.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Small grains were still looking good during the week. Much of the state's wheat crop was rated in good condition, but was beginning to undergo moisture stress. Most dryland acreage was in need of precipitation and irrigation was increasing where necessary. Where field conditions allowed, producers were attempting to fertilize. Greenbug and other pest problems were reported. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 75 percent of normal compared with 51 percent last year.

Corn: Plowing and fertilization was active where conditions allowed. Drier weather helped many producers in North and Central Texas make better progress.

Cotton: Harvest was complete and the remainder of the 2002 crop was at the gins. More gins were closing down for the season, with some finishing up with the last of the cotton that has come in from the field. Producers were busy with land preparations.

Sorghum: Land preparation was active in areas where conditions allowed.

Peanuts: Land preparation and field work was active where conditions allowed.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, most vegetables were progressing well. Harvest of greens, cabbage and peppers was on-going. Citrus and sugarcane harvest was progressing well. The onion crop looked to be progressing favorably. Producers were preparing ground for spring planting. Reports indicated good soil moisture for planting. Low soil temperatures have been reported in some areas of the region.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, spinach harvest continued to be active. Cabbage harvest was active and progressed as the weather allowed. Irrigated carrots and onions made good progress. Lack of recent rainfall has lead to heavy irrigation of winter vegetable crops.

In **Trans Pecos Region** fall onions were breaking winter dormancy. The onion crop was looking clean with no problems with pests or weeds reported. Pecan harvested was active, but winding down. Some pre-irrigation was taking place.

In the **High Plains** land preparation moved ahead with deep breaking and herbicide application activities.

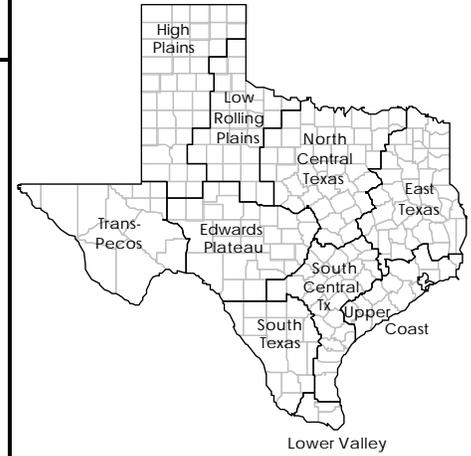
Pecans: Harvest is virtually complete and was nearing completion in all remaining areas. Producers who have completed harvest have been taking advantage of the dormant stage to take care of some orchard management such as trimming dead wood.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Most ranges and pastures were in fair to good condition. In some Central and Southeastern locations, grazing fields were still wet and muddy. In other areas, especially in the Western part of the state, range and pastures were suffering from drought conditions. Supplemental feeding was active in almost all areas of the state; heaviest where winter forage was in poor shape. Cattle body condition was good in most areas where decent winter grazing was available. Spring calving and lambing was underway in many areas. Sickness in livestock herds continued due to rapidly changing weather conditions.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Jan 27 -Feb 2) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Jan 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Feb 2) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Nov - Jan) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.06	0.06	18.87	78
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.49	0.49	23.78	101
North Central Texas	0.00	0.43	0.43	34.00	74
East Texas	0.07	0.98	0.98	45.69	46
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.11	0.11	12.96	59
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.24	0.24	24.01	51
South Central Texas	0.02	1.38	1.38	34.48	84
Upper Coast	0.49	1.76	1.98	47.63	68
South Texas	0.02	0.74	0.74	23.49	91
Lower Valley	0.00	0.67	0.67	25.34	93



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District* - February 2, 2003

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	13	25	13	24	14	5	10	0	59	29	0	0	0	5	0
Short	24	32	27	29	24	15	31	3	35	43	2	0	2	29	7
Adequate	61	43	60	46	57	73	53	94	6	27	65	97	21	59	53
Surplus	2	0	0	1	5	7	6	3	0	1	33	3	77	7	40

* 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; Supper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

Cooperating Agencies:

Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service.