

Texas Crop Weather



Released: April 7, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of March 31 - April 6, 2003
 TX-CW1403

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

Crop Progress Table - April 6, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	57	55	48
Emerged	32	48	40
Cotton			
Planted	11	11	10
Rice			
Planted	45	62	46
Emerged	17	31	22
Sorghum			
Planted	33	39	37
Wheat			
Headed	7	10	11
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	17	17	16
Sunflowers	5	0	0

Crop Condition Table - April 6, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	9	34	34	15	8
Range & Pasture . . .	9	31	33	18	9

Agricultural Summary: Spring made itself known last week as warm, seasonal temperatures covered the state. The Panhandle received little or no rain last week. The main weather story in that area was the heavy wind: Some gust reached up to 40 mph in some locations. The rest of the state also had windy conditions. By the latter half of the week, a cold front collided with a mass of dry air from the west and Gulf moisture, to create a line of severe thunderstorms in North Central, Central, and East Texas. Baseball size hail was reported in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and a tornado caused property damage in Northeast Texas. Most rainfall accumulations averaged about a half inch, but some areas received over 2 inches. The Trans-Pecos region received snow in higher elevations early in the week. Soil moisture continued to suffer in the Panhandle and Low Plains. Many producers were pre-watering spring crop acreage in the morning before high winds made it difficult. More rain was still needed in the Panhandle to fill the soil profile. Small grains continued to be stressed from a lack of moisture. Planting of spring crops continued at a rapid pace and was nearing completion in southern areas. Green bugs and aphids continued to be a problem in some areas. Peach trees were being evaluated for freeze damage. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued in some areas.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Dryland wheat and oats continued to suffer from moisture stress. High winds dried out soils and limited irrigation. Some producers were dealing with stripe rust and septoria leaf blotch and were spraying fungicides accordingly. Wheat was beginning to boot and head out in southern locations. Some of the more developed wheat was being

evaluated for freeze damage. Irrigated wheat producers were still contending with high fuel prices. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 65 percent of normal compared with 47 percent last year.

Corn: Pre-watering of corn fields continued in the Panhandle. Only a few fields remained to be planted in Central Texas and the Upper Coast. Earlier planted fields were emerging with good stands. Some locations in Central Texas suffered freeze damage but the extent was not quite known. Planting was almost finished in North Central regions. Some South Texas corn was at 2 and 3 leaf stage.

Cotton: Land preparations continued in the Panhandle as producers pre-watered and applied herbicides. Planting was mostly completed in the Rio Grande Valley and continued along the Coastal Bend. High winds were depleting topsoil moisture in most areas.

Sorghum: Land preparations were under way in Central and North Central Texas. Some sorghum was planted in central locations. Earlier planted fields suffered some freeze damage. Planting was in full swing on the Coastal Bend. Most fields in the Rio Grande Valley have emerged and were benefitting from good moisture levels.

Peanuts: Land preparations and field work were active. Preparations were interrupted by high winds in a few areas.

Rice: Planting progressed as conditions improved. Some earlier planted fields began to emerge.

Soybeans: Land preparation continued in the Panhandle. Planting gained momentum on the Upper Coast and East Texas as conditions improved.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, producers began harvesting spring onions. Spring vegetable and melon crops were progressing well. There was concern about high winds depleting soil moisture. Sugar-cane and citrus harvest continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, watermelon planting was active. Producers evaluated frozen foliage on potatoes but did not expect an effect on yield. Harvest of carrots and onions continued.

In **Trans Pecos Region**, pecan trees were budding out. Fall onions were in 8th leaf stage but not bulbing yet. High winds depleted soil moisture.

In **East Texas**, sweet potato bedding was ongoing. Producers monitored vegetables burnt back by frost. Some transplanted water-melons were lost to the freeze. Remaining watermelon fields were prepared for planting.

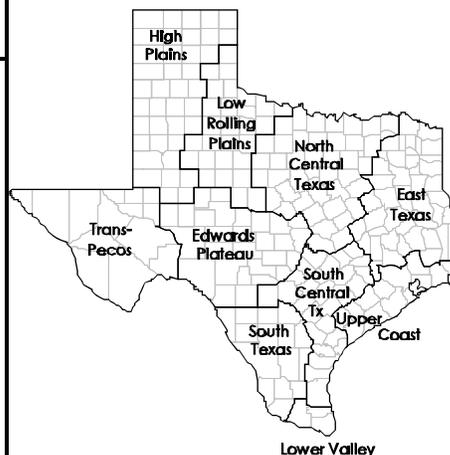
Peaches, Pecan, & Grapes: Peaches in the Hill Country were damaged by the freeze the previous week. Most pecans were beginning to bud out but were also hurt by the cold weather. Producers were watching grapes for freeze damage.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Cattle were being pulled off wheat pasture in the Panhandle as fields were grazed out. Range and pasture conditions continued to decline in the area as no significant moisture fell. Additional supplemental feeding was required in varied locations across the state, but was decreasing as spring grasses emerged. Many cattle producers were working calves, and goat producers were working kids. Foaling season continued. In Central, South, and East Texas, cattle were doing well on green pastures that have had adequate moisture.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Mar 31 - Apr 6) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 6) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.50	0.80	18.87	37
Low Rolling Plains	0.09	0.45	1.61	23.78	47
North Central Texas	0.28	0.89	4.06	34.00	57
East Texas	0.37	1.83	6.19	45.69	55
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.29	1.30	12.96	111
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.87	2.46	24.01	69
South Central Texas	0.04	1.29	4.29	34.48	69
Upper Coast	0.03	2.06	6.61	47.63	74
South Texas	0.00	2.00	4.14	23.49	131
Lower Valley	0.00	1.07	2.44	25.34	68



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District* - April 6, 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	34	34	44	37	16	3	2	0	57	20	0	0	0	0	0
Short	49	47	50	56	26	12	14	4	36	40	3	0	7	22	15
Adequate	17	19	6	7	58	71	65	89	7	40	74	78	72	66	85
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	14	19	7	0	0	23	22	21	12	0

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

Cooperating Agencies:

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

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