

Texas Crop Weather



Released: May 19, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of May 12 - 18, 2003
 TX-CW2003

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

Crop Progress Table - May 18, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	98	98	95
Emerged	88	85	84
Silked	6	21	17
Cotton			
Planted	44	48	44
Squaring	8	9	7
Peanuts			
Planted	56	50	50
Rice			
Planted	99	100	99
Emerged	96	98	94
Sorghum			
Planted	55	56	55
Headed	9	19	15
Wheat			
Headed	93	89	90
Harvested	6	8	4
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	76	81	73
Sunflowers	49	48	44

Crop Condition Table - May 18, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	7	43	31	11	8
Rice	7	74	19	0	0
Sorghum	3	46	36	11	4
Wheat	2	16	34	25	23
Range & Pasture . . .	3	19	38	24	16

Agricultural Summary: There was little or no relief to the hot and dry conditions across the state. The Plains region experienced temperatures in the 90's with most of the region receiving no rainfall. Some isolated locations reported severe thunderstorms with strong winds, tornadoes, and golf ball sized hail. Rainfall amounts ranged from .5 to 2 inches. Trace amounts of rain were recorded throughout Central, North and East Texas, with a few isolated locations reporting between .5 and 1.5 inches. Some of the same areas also reported small hail. Crop damage, if any, was still being assessed. The Trans Pecos and Edwards Plateau were very hot and dry as temperatures broke the 100 degree mark in a few places. There were a couple of thunderstorms in the region, including a cloud burst that dropped 3 inches of rain in the Big Bend area. In most areas of the State, high temperatures and winds continued to deplete topsoil moisture as well as affect newly seeded crop stands. Emerged crops with shallow roots were wilting in the midday sun. Many crops were being watered to aid in emergence and in development. Many dryland crop producers were still waiting on rain to plant. Grasshopper populations were increasing in many areas. Supplemental feeding of livestock increased as range and pasture forages declined across many locations. Livestock continued to be in good condition in most areas.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Winter wheat was drying very quickly and maturity was ahead of last year. Many areas reported heavy baling. Some producers in the Plains were plowing up fields and filing insurance claims. Irrigated wheat looked somewhat favorable, but dryland wheat continued to suffer due to lack of moisture. Low head weights were reported in some fields. Harvest for grain was gaining momentum into the Low Rolling Plains and many other regions were gearing up to combine within a couple of weeks. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 44 percent of normal compared with 42 percent last year.

Corn: Planting of corn was mostly completed in the Panhandle. Emerged irrigated stands in the region were favorable. Fields required excessive irrigation due to lack of moisture. Dryland acreage across the state was in dire need of rain. Corn in some central areas was stunted and had started to tassel. Rain has become critical for this season's corn crop in central and southern locations. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 68 percent of normal compared with 64 percent last year.

Cotton: Planting of irrigated fields was in full swing in areas of the Plains. Many dryland producers were waiting for rain before planting. Emerging cotton was showing thrip infestations in some locations. Some dryland cotton had to be replanted because the lack of moisture prevented seed germination. Central Texas cotton was showing moisture stress. Coastal Bend fields were reported to be holding up well, but rain will definitely be needed soon. Moisture shortages continued to be a concern in all areas of the state.

Sorghum: Land preparations continued in the Plains. Producers were still waiting for rains before planting. Irrigation was being used on corn and wheat rather than pre-watering sorghum fields. Grain sorghum made good progress in the Blacklands, but moisture was desperately needed. Some fields had started to wilt in the afternoon heat. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 69 percent of normal compared with 54 percent last year.

Peanuts: Planting was in full swing in areas of the High and Low Plains. Irrigation was heavy and emergence was favorable.

Rice: Emergence made progress during the week. Producers were scouting for aphids. Earlier planted fields were being flooded. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 86 percent of normal compared to 91 percent last year.

Soybeans: Land preparation and planting were active in the Panhandle. Many producers were delaying planting until rain is received, but some producers were planting dry and hoping for rain to germinate the crop.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley** harvest activities continued for carrots, greens, cabbage, onions, and sugarcane. Melon harvest was gaining momentum. Dryland crops were suffering from lack of precipitation.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden** onion harvest began. Carrot and cabbage harvest was beginning to wind down. Watermelons continued to do well.

In **East Texas**, Sweet potato producers continued transplanting slips. Watermelon planting continued. Insects and disease were still a problem. Fruits and vegetables were in need of moisture for continued growth.

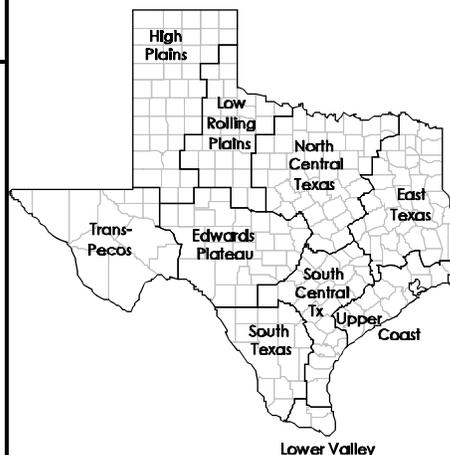
Pecans: Development continued in most areas of the state. Pecan Nut Casebearer was a problem in most areas, however many producers were optimistic about this year's crop.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pasture conditions continued to decline due to the lack of available moisture for plant growth. Range land was turning brown. Cattle were grazing out the last of the wheat pastures. Drought conditions were present or increasing in most locations. Livestock condition remained good in most areas, but body scores were beginning to decline as forage was depleted. In areas where range and pastures were the worst, stocker cattle were being moved into feedlots. Producers were weaning fall calves. Supplemental feeding was necessary for livestock in many areas. Horn flies continued to cause problems.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (May 12 - 18) Accumulation	Month-to-date (May 1 - 18) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - May 18) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Feb - Apr) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.23	0.23	1.63	18.87	49
Low Rolling Plains	0.15	0.21	2.99	23.78	53
North Central Texas	0.23	0.62	5.56	34.00	56
East Texas	0.58	1.14	8.12	45.69	53
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.01	1.38	12.96	98
Edwards Plateau	0.03	0.11	2.85	24.01	55
South Central Texas	0.16	0.18	4.75	34.48	49
Upper Coast	0.37	0.37	7.74	47.63	67
South Texas	0.01	0.01	4.65	23.49	101
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	3.57	25.34	85



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District* - May 18, 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	66	66	46	67	36	23	13	8	80	58	37	11	43	27	3
Short	27	32	39	27	51	45	42	55	17	38	52	60	48	49	82
Adequate	7	2	15	6	13	31	43	35	3	4	11	29	9	24	15
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	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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