

Texas Crop Weather



Released: August 25, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)

For the week of August 18- 24, 2003

TX-CW3403

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - August 24, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Dough	96	98	98
Dented	84	91	87
Mature	69	67	64
Harvested	58	54	52
Cotton			
Squaring	98	100	100
Setting Bolls	87	94	97
Bolls Opening	20	27	26
Harvested	11	12	12
Peanuts			
Pegging	99	98	97
Rice			
Harvested	61	83	72
Sorghum			
Headed	74	89	92
Turning Color	57	70	73
Mature	52	54	58
Harvested	50	48	53
Wheat			
Planted	1	0	5
Other Field Crops			
Harvested			
Soybeans	54	46	51
Sunflowers	13	26	16

Crop Condition Table - August 24, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	4	28	32	19	17
Cotton	4	21	38	24	13
Peanuts	23	51	21	5	0
Rice	13	72	13	2	0
Sorghum	7	28	33	23	9
Range & Pasture	4	20	34	27	15

Agricultural Summary: Much of the State returned to normal with temperatures in the upper 90's to 100 degree range and only minimal precipitation. Once again, the Plains received little or no rainfall. Scattered rain fell across the Edwards Plateau, Central Texas, the Upper Coast, and southern parts of East Texas. Some locations reported downpours of over 2 inches with high wind, but rain gauge readings were generally under an inch. The Trans Pecos region reported precipitation ranging from a trace to 1/3 of an inch. The Rio Grande Valley received little rain, but one location reported almost 3 inches. Soil moisture was further depleted in most regions as daytime heating increased evaporation. In areas where water was still readily available, producers were watering fields for the last time as crops were maturing. Harvesting of summer crops made good progress with only isolated delays. Land preparation for fall planting continued. Range and pastures were browning quickly in the sun. Stock tanks were becoming extremely low, and some were drying up. Cattlemen continued supplemental feeding and hauling water. Insect pressure was increasing in many areas.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Preparation for wheat and oat planting continued across many areas. Some producers began fertilizing fields before planting. Many farmers were waiting for moisture to begin field work, but some were dry planting and hoping for rain.

Corn: The crop was maturing rapidly across the Plains. Silage cutting was active in some locations. Harvest of grain was expected to begin in the next couple of weeks. In North Central Texas, combining was in full swing and was finishing up in Central Texas. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 54 percent of normal compared with 60 percent last year.

Cotton: Cotton continued to progress rapidly under very dry and hot conditions. An increasing number of fields were reaching cut-out stage; many earlier than normal. Square and boll drop continued in drought stricken areas. Dryland fields on the Plains were in very poor shape, but where water was available, irrigated cotton appeared to be progressing well. Army worms and bollworms were increasing in some areas. In Central Texas and the Upper Coast, producers were defoliating and some limited harvest had begun. Harvest was in full swing on the Coastal Bend. Harvest of fields affected by Hurricane Claudette was proving to be difficult. Producers in the Rio Grande Valley were winding up harvest. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 53 percent of normal compared with 67 percent last year.

Sorghum: Sorghum was maturing quickly throughout the Plains. Irrigated sorghum appeared favorable, but dryland fields continued to look very poor. Harvest of North and Central Texas sorghum was nearing completion. On the Upper Coast and Coastal Bend, harvest was virtually finished. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 59 percent of normal compared with 57 percent last year.

Peanuts: Irrigated peanuts were mostly in good to excellent condition except in areas where water was short. Most peanuts were at the end of the pegging stage. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 85 percent of normal compared with 86 percent last year.

Rice: Rice harvest was delayed in many areas due to precipitation. Rice yield appeared to be favorable in many locations. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 87 percent of normal, compared with 93 percent last year.

Soybeans: Irrigated soybeans were making good progress, but dryland fields were suffering from dry conditions. Harvest was ongoing in the Blacklands and the Upper Coast. Yields were variable.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, land preparation continued for fall crops.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, harvest of remaining vegetables was complete. Some producers were planning to pre-water fields in preparation for spinach and onions.

In **East Texas**, sweet potato harvest was gaining momentum where conditions allowed.

In the **High Plains**, pumpkins were progressing well, but dry weather was having an effect. Harvest of the early crop was set to begin. Watermelon harvest continued and yields were reported to be fair to good.

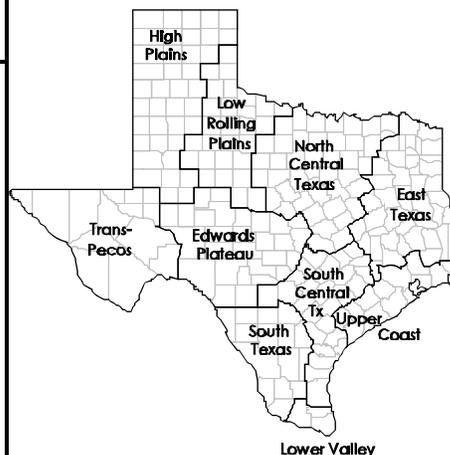
Pecans: Pecans were entering the shell hardening stage in many locations. Some immature pecans were dropping. Spraying for insects was ongoing. Statewide, the crop was reported as favorable, especially in areas where adequate moisture has been received.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding of hay and protein increased on the Plains and many other regions as hot and dry conditions continued to burn up range and pasture lands. Pasture conditions decreased virtually across the State. Stock tanks were drying up and ranchers were hauling water. Despite the worsening weather conditions, cattlemen were in reasonably good spirits because of good body scores and favorable cattle prices.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Aug 18 - 24) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Aug 1 - 24) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Aug 24) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (May - July) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.07	0.45	7.67	18.87	74
Low Rolling Plains	0.04	0.11	7.65	23.78	57
North Central Texas	0.26	1.89	14.17	34.00	71
East Texas	0.57	2.07	18.80	45.69	79
Trans Pecos	0.20	0.47	5.67	12.96	87
Edwards Plateau	0.60	2.21	11.70	24.01	87
South Central Texas	0.19	1.05	13.47	34.48	75
Upper Coast	0.42	2.99	24.31	47.63	97
South Texas	0.26	1.13	13.76	23.49	105
Lower Valley	0.14	1.75	10.27	25.34	65



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - August 24, 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	80	45	65	71	53	35	24	12	51	42	11	13	0	22	5
Short	19	49	29	27	40	47	40	37	41	43	46	19	6	36	70
Adequate	1	6	6	2	7	17	36	49	8	15	42	68	82	38	25
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	12	4	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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