

Texas Crop Weather



Released: September 2, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of August 25 - 31, 2003
 TX-CW3503

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

Crop Progress Table - August 31, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
<i>Percent</i>			
Corn			
Dough	97	100	100
Dented	90	94	92
Mature	75	72	73
Harvested	63	59	56
Cotton			
Squaring	100	100	100
Setting Bolls	93	98	99
Bolls Opening	22	32	34
Harvested	14	14	14
Peanuts			
Pegging	100	99	99
Harvested	0	2	2
Rice			
Harvested	81	89	84
Sorghum			
Headed	77	92	95
Turning Color	60	75	81
Mature	54	64	65
Harvested	52	56	57
Wheat			
Planted	5	3	3
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Oats	3	0	1
Harvested			
Soybeans	55	53	59
Sunflowers	26	47	30

Crop Condition Table - August 31, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn	4	28	32	19	17
Cotton	6	18	37	25	14
Peanuts	29	47	21	3	0
Rice	13	72	13	2	0
Sorghum	5	27	34	24	10
Range & Pasture	3	16	33	30	18

Agricultural Summary: Hot and dry conditions lingered during early week, but by late week, the state experienced widespread showers and milder temperature as a cold front and a tropical depression affected many areas. Rain fell in most areas of the state, but varied widely in coverage and amounts. Most rain fell in East Texas and the Upper Coast regions. Only a few isolated areas, mostly in Southern and Western Texas, received no rainfall. Harvest activities continued on a variety of crops statewide, with only minor disruptions occurring late in the week. In the driest areas, maturing row crops continued to deteriorate due to inadequate moisture. Where irrigation water was available and conditions allowed, irrigation was still active. In several

areas, producers were harvesting a third cutting of hay. In other areas, producers were hoping recent moisture would help grow a third cutting. Supplemental feeding continued, but some improvement to pastures and rangeland was expected from recent rains.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Preparation and planting for wheat and oat planting made progress. Many producers were dry planting while others were expecting improved conditions.

Corn: The crop was maturing rapidly across the Plains. Silage cutting was active. Harvest of grain was gaining momentum as fields were drying down. Harvest was active in North Central Texas 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 develop under very dry conditions. Some relief by late week rains was expected, but most areas in the Plains were still in serious need of moisture. More fields were reaching cut-out stage. Square and boll drop continued in drought stricken areas. Dryland fields were in very poor condition, while irrigated cotton was mostly progressing well. Harvest was gaining momentum in more areas of the state except for West Texas and the Plains region. Producers in the Rio Grande Valley were winding up harvest. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 52 percent of normal compared with 66 percent last year.

Sorghum: Sorghum was maturing quickly throughout the Plains, but some fields had not yet headed out. Irrigated sorghum appeared favorable, but dryland fields continued to look very poor. Harvest of North and Central Texas sorghum was nearing completion. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 57 percent of normal compared with 57 percent last year.

Peanuts: Irrigated peanuts were mostly in good to excellent condition except in areas where moisture has been short. Peanut maturity was making good progress. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 88 percent of normal compared with 84 percent last year.

Rice: Rice harvest was active prior to late week storms. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 87 percent of normal, compared with 93 percent last year.

Soybeans: Harvest continued in north central and southern areas. Fields planted later in the season were at various stages of maturity and condition.

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 completed. Some producers were preparing fields for spinach, onions, carrots and cabbages.

In **East Texas**, sweet potato harvest was gaining momentum where conditions allowed. Potato size was smaller than normal.

In the **High Plains**, pumpkins were progressing well. Yield potential in some fields was good. Harvest of the early crop was set to begin. Watermelon harvest continued, and yields were reported to be fair to good.

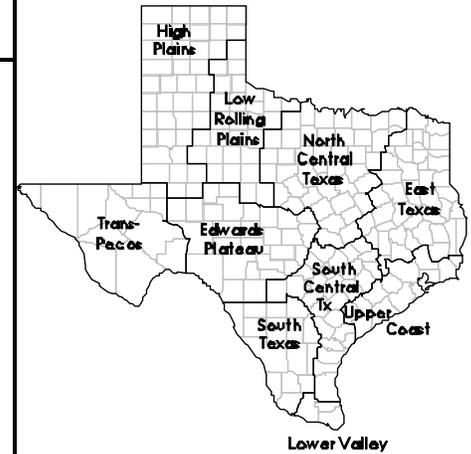
Pecans: Nut growth and filling was coming along well. In some areas, trees were shedding nuts due to weather and pests. Statewide, the crop was reported as favorable, especially in areas where adequate moisture had been received.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding of hay and protein continued on the Plains and many other regions. Rains during the week helped replenish stock tank water in many areas. Cooler temperatures and rainfall experienced during the week were expected to help improve range conditions which had been deteriorating over the last several weeks.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Aug 25 - 31) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Aug 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Aug 31) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (May - July) Percent of Normal
High Plains	1.29	1.74	8.96	18.87	74
Low Rolling Plains	1.19	1.30	8.84	23.78	57
North Central Texas	1.40	3.29	15.57	34.00	71
East Texas	1.46	3.53	20.26	45.69	79
Trans Pecos	0.86	1.33	6.53	12.96	87
Edwards Plateau	1.62	3.83	13.32	24.01	87
South Central Texas	0.23	1.28	13.70	34.48	75
Upper Coast	1.57	4.56	25.88	47.63	97
South Texas	0.52	1.65	14.28	23.49	105
Lower Valley	0.30	2.05	10.57	25.34	65



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - August 31, 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	82	53	64	66	54	38	21	26	54	30	27	0	10	22	10
Short	16	41	22	31	38	43	41	33	34	49	51	37	8	47	40
Adequate	2	6	14	3	8	18	38	38	11	20	22	53	74	30	50
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	10	8	1	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.**