

Texas Crop Weather



Released: September 8, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)

For the week of September 1 - 7, 2003

TX-CW3603

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - September 7, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Dough	99	100	100
Dented	95	97	96
Mature	82	81	83
Harvested	66	63	60
Cotton			
Setting Bolls	96	99	100
Bolls Opening	29	41	45
Harvested	16	17	17
Peanuts			
Harvested	0	3	4
Rice			
Harvested	86	94	90
Sorghum			
Headed	85	94	97
Turning Color	62	79	86
Mature	56	69	73
Harvested	53	60	62
Wheat			
Planted	13	10	10
Other Field Crops Planted			
Oats	8	3	3
Harvested			
Soybeans	56	60	66
Sunflowers	40	55	39

Crop Condition Table - September 7, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	4	28	32	19	17
Cotton	5	18	40	22	15
Peanuts	26	48	23	3	0
Rice	13	72	13	2	0
Sorghum	5	27	34	24	10
Range & Pasture ...	5	21	35	24	15

Agricultural Summary: Rain fell along the Upper Coast, Coastal Bend, and South Texas with only a few showers in other areas. The Plains and West Texas were particularly dry during the week, but storms had developed by late weekend. Across the state, temperatures were noticeably cooler as high and low temperatures dropped a few degrees. In the coastal regions and South Texas, harvest activities were slowed as producers lost a few days to rain and wet fields. Producers in the Rio Grande Valley also lost some days for field work due to rainfall. As a whole, insect pressure was light. Irrigation activities in the Plains were finished on many crops as recent rainfall provided enough moisture for many fields to complete development. Pasture and field conditions improved to varying degrees in many areas. Many producers in North Central and East Texas were planning on a third cutting of hay. Supplemental feeding was easing in many areas as pastures improved.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: In the Plains, many producers took advantage of the recent increase in soil moisture and proceeded with planting wheat and oats. Some producers were holding out for improved conditions. Statewide field preparations and planting made progress.

Corn: Harvest of grain started in the Plains and harvest of silage was wrapping up. In other areas, harvest activities were nearing completion. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 54 percent of normal compared with 60 percent last year.

Cotton: In the Plains, most cotton had reached the cut-out stage and more acreage had bolls opening. Irrigated fields were looking good, and producers were not expecting fields to require more water. Some dryland acreage benefitted from recent rains, but for many fields, rain arrived too late to do much good. In other areas, harvest was in full swing where rain had not caused delays. Harvest was mostly complete along coastal areas and the Lower Valley. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 52 percent of normal compared with 65 percent last year.

Sorghum: Sorghum was in varying stages of maturity across the Plains with some dryland fields in the boot stage and some fields ready for harvest. Irrigated sorghum appeared favorable, but dryland fields continued to look very poor. Harvest had started in some areas of the Plains. Harvest in North and Central Texas was nearing completion. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 57 percent of normal compared with 57 percent last year.

Peanuts: Most fields were looking good. During the week several producers were able to see favorable results in plant growth and maturity after the previous week's rain. Some fields should be ready for harvest soon. Irrigation was active in only a few areas. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 86 percent of normal compared with 82 percent last year.

Rice: Rice harvest was slowed by wet conditions, but was close to nearing completion. 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 as weather conditions allowed.

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. Some producers were delaying harvest in hopes of getting larger sized potatoes.

In the **High Plains**, pumpkins were progressing well. Harvest was expected to begin in the next week or two, and the yield outlook was favorable. Watermelon harvest continued, and yields were reported to be fair to good.

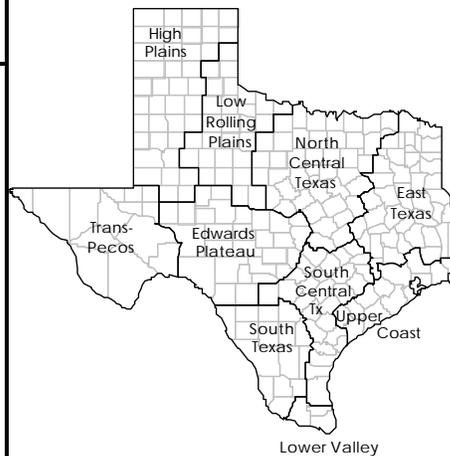
Pecans: In West Texas, trees were in the filling stage. In parts of North Central Texas, trees were loaded with nuts and a large crop was expected. Statewide, the crop was reported as favorable, especially in areas where adequate moisture had been received.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding continued during the week, but at lower levels than previously seen this summer. Stock tank water levels were good in many areas, though levels were still low in areas of the Plains and North Central Texas. Cooler temperatures and rainfall during the week brought noticeable improvement to range and pasture land in many areas. In some areas of Central Texas, producers were fertilizing pastureland. Livestock condition was reported as good for the most part.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Sep 1 - 7) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Sep 1 - 7) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Sep 7) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jun - Aug) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.55	0.55	9.51	18.87	78
Low Rolling Plains	0.01	0.01	8.85	23.78	65
North Central Texas	0.08	0.08	15.65	34.00	108
East Texas	1.29	1.29	21.55	45.69	117
Trans Pecos	0.04	0.04	6.57	12.96	87
Edwards Plateau	0.20	0.20	13.52	24.01	132
South Central Texas	1.38	1.38	15.08	34.48	100
Upper Coast	1.41	1.41	27.29	47.63	131
South Texas	1.64	1.64	15.92	23.49	137
Lower Valley	1.66	1.66	12.23	25.34	93



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - September 7, 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	36	37	57	13	38	19	6	3	39	23	6	0	0	8	5
Short	48	46	29	34	30	35	23	6	39	44	34	4	0	28	20
Adequate	8	17	14	49	30	41	70	80	21	32	49	42	35	51	68
Surplus	8	0	0	4	2	5	1	11	1	1	11	54	65	13	7

* 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.