

Texas Crop Weather



Released: September 22, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of September 15 - 21, 2003
 TX-CW3803

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

Crop Progress Table - September 21, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Dented	99	99	99
Mature	93	89	94
Harvested	75	69	74
Cotton			
Setting Bolls	100	100	100
Bolls Opening	46	62	67
Harvested	19	21	23
Peanuts			
Harvested	3	5	13
Rice			
Harvested	95	98	97
Sorghum			
Headed	94	98	99
Turning Color	72	87	93
Mature	60	75	82
Harvested	57	65	70
Wheat			
Planted	40	34	32
Emerged	13	14	12
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Oats	31	19	16
Harvested			
Soybeans	66	71	75
Sunflowers	48	66	56

Crop Condition Table - September 21, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Cotton	5	18	38	22	17
Peanuts	20	50	26	3	1
Sorghum	5	27	34	24	10
Range & Pasture	8	29	32	18	13

Agricultural Summary: Weather conditions were warm early in the week, but a cold front during mid-week brought cooler temperatures and rain to many parts of the state. Many southern and coastal areas received heavy amounts of rain for several days. Accumulations in some areas were in excess of 5 inches. Other locations receiving moisture during the week included areas of West Texas, Edwards Plateau, South Central, North Central, and East Texas. Rainfall in these areas greatly improved topsoil moisture for remaining row crops, small grains, and pastures. Some areas were still drying out from previous rains and were getting further behind in harvesting and other field activities. In other areas, moisture was still needed to improve conditions. Harvest moved ahead in drier areas. Land preparation and fall planting continued where possible. With improved conditions, more hay producers expect to achieve one more cutting of hay and add to their winter supplies. Body condition scores on cattle improved and remained in good condition. Pasture and range conditions were

improving. Insect populations were active in various locations and were causing some damage.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Many producers were busy making preparations and planting wheat, oats and ryegrass. Emergence of earlier planted fields made good progress where moisture conditions were adequate.

Corn: Harvest continued in the Plains, although work was delayed in some areas due to rainfall. Corn silage harvest was mostly completed.

Cotton: Cotton continued to mature and open in more locations, but at a slower pace due to cooler weather. In some areas, the crop needs a few more weeks of warm weather to mature due to the lateness of the crop. In southern and central areas, producers were having trouble harvesting due to wet conditions. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 51 percent of normal, compared with 66 percent last year.

Sorghum: Sorghum continued to develop in the Plains, but conditions varied widely. Rainfall stalled harvest in some areas. Some late planted sorghum has benefitted from moisture. Some acreage was being grazed or baled for hay. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 57 percent of normal, compared with 57 percent last year.

Peanuts: Most fields made good progress. Several fields hit by hail storms were recovering and looked much better. Some slight disease problems were present. Some acreage was being harvested, but progress was slow due to wet conditions. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 83 percent of normal, compared with 86 percent last year.

Rice: Harvest was winding down or just about complete. Wet conditions continued to delay harvest in some areas. Producers continue to flood fields in preparation for a ratoon crop.

Soybeans: Harvest was wrapping up or halted in some areas due to the moisture. In areas that were already wet, drying out will take longer, and harvest will remain on hold.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, rain showers helped land preparations for some producers. In other areas, progress remained slow.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, preparations and planting winter vegetable crops continued. Some activities were hampered by rain showers.

In **East Texas**, sweet potato harvest was fully underway. Yields appear to be the best in several years, however the size of potatoes varied. In several areas where rail fell, drying out will be needed before land preparation can start up again.

In the **High Plains**, pumpkin harvest was in full swing with about average yields.

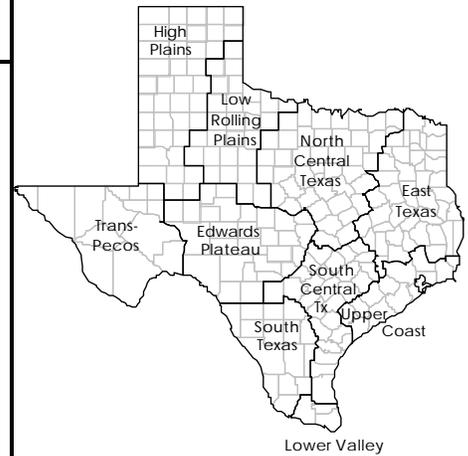
Pecans: Overall, pecans continued to progress well across the state with irrigated orchards making the most progress. Some producers continued to spray for pecan weevils, while others were dealing with web worms. Some early harvest was beginning.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pasture conditions improved tremendously due to rainfall and cooler temperatures. Haying activities continued in a few areas, but was less active in wetter locations. Some producers will be able to get a final cutting due to the additional moisture. Supplemental feeding eased in some locations, but was necessary in drier areas of the state. Cattle were in mostly good condition. In several areas, auction sale numbers were on the rise as producers began making their fall runs. Stock tank water levels were good in many areas due to the recent rainfall.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Sep 15 -21) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Sep 1 - 21) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Sep 21) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jun - Aug) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.03	0.94	9.90	18.87	78
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	2.27	11.11	23.78	65
North Central Texas	0.37	2.56	18.13	34.00	108
East Texas	0.49	3.39	23.65	45.69	117
Trans Pecos	0.06	0.44	6.97	12.96	87
Edwards Plateau	0.16	1.81	15.13	24.01	132
South Central Texas	1.82	6.26	19.96	34.48	100
Upper Coast	1.80	6.31	32.19	47.63	131
South Texas	1.61	4.90	19.18	23.49	137
Lower Valley	2.22	6.46	17.03	25.34	93



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - September 21, 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	27	25	33	11	10	5	6	0	45	17	1	0	0	5	0
Short	48	55	44	47	20	25	44	21	37	30	15	0	0	14	0
Adequate	25	19	23	42	66	65	49	78	17	52	59	16	20	50	50
Surplus	0	1	0	0	4	5	1	1	1	1	25	84	80	31	50

* 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.