

Texas Crop Weather



Released: October 20, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)

For the week of October 13 - 19, 2003

TX-CW4203

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - October 19, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Mature	100	100	100
Harvested	92	95	96
Cotton			
Bolls Opening . .	80	93	94
Harvested	28	35	43
Peanuts			
Harvested	17	28	37
Sorghum			
Headed	100	100	100
Turning Color . . .	88	99	100
Mature	73	89	93
Harvested	62	75	82
Wheat			
Planted	80	77	71
Emerged	60	59	45
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Oats	79	68	61
Harvested			
Pecans	15	6	7
Soybeans	85	88	91
Sunflowers	71	89	86

Crop Condition Table - October 19, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Cotton	6	17	35	24	18
Peanuts	20	41	31	7	1
Wheat	17	41	29	6	7
Range & Pasture . .	13	31	32	15	9

Agricultural Summary: Dry, warmer weather prevailed in most areas of the state during the week. Only a few light scattered showers fell in parts of the Trans Pecos, Edwards Plateau, and Lower Valley region. In most other areas, seasonal temperatures and sunny days helped dry things out from rains of the previous week. Producers in some of these areas were kept out of their fields for a few days, but by the latter half of the week conditions in most places were dry enough to permit field work. Many field activities were taking place during the week, including cotton harvest, peanut harvest, and hay baling to name a few. Problems with army worms in small grain fields and pastures were reported in most areas of the state, with highest concentrations in the North Central Texas region. Cattle markets were active during the week and ranchers were still excited by the continued price trend. Pastureland was rebounding across the state with favorable growing conditions.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Planting activities continued across all areas of the

state. Emerged wheat and oats were making good progress in many areas, though some areas were still short on moisture and could benefit from more rainfall. Army worms were a problem in many areas, but worst in North Central Texas where some fields will need to be replanted. Spraying was active to control infestations. Some producers were purchasing cattle for their wheat pastures. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 75 percent of normal, compared with 77 percent last year.

Corn: Harvest on the Plains was nearing completion as producers were able to get back into their fields to continue the harvest. Most of what was being harvested was late planted acreage.

Cotton: Harvest activities resumed as more fields dried out. Applications of harvest aids and preparations for harvest were active. Areas of the Low Rolling Plains reported problems with regrowth due to recent rain and warm sunny days. In the High Plains, weather conditions had hastened the maturation of remaining cotton, but fields were still lagging behind normal development. In other areas of the State, producers were shredding stalks when conditions allowed. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 50 percent of normal, compared with 67 percent last year.

Sorghum: In the High Plains region, sorghum continued to mature. Harvest activities continued. Current maturation levels varied significantly and many fields were slow in reaching maturity. Some remaining acreage may produce very little due to lateness and a poor growing season.

Peanuts: Digging and other harvest activities were active and gained momentum as fields dried. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 79 percent of normal, compared with 77 percent last year.

Rice: Second cutting rice was making slow progress because of the milder conditions.

Soybeans: Soybean harvest continued in remaining fields on the Plains.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, early orange harvest was slow due wet conditions. Sugarcane harvest was scheduled to begin as soon as conditions allowed. Preparation for fall onion planting continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, cabbage, and carrots made good progress with the increased moisture levels and sunshine.

In **East Texas**, fall pea production was slowing down. Sweet potato harvest continued with good yields, but some damage from nematodes was found.

In the **High Plains**, watermelon and pumpkin harvest was nearing completion. Watermelon yields were good, but markets had slowed.

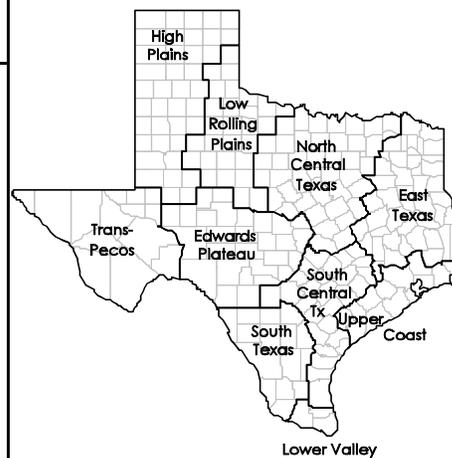
Pecans: Harvest activities were underway in most areas. Some orchards were not quite mature enough for harvest, but were nearing full maturity.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Many ranchers were gearing up for deer season. Overall, pastures were in good condition and had improved noticeably in most areas. Haying activities resumed as most producers were working on their last cutting. Supplemental feeding continued in some locations. Cattle were in mostly good condition. Cattlemen expressed optimism with good prices being received at auctions and other markets. Wildlife food plots that were planted should get a great start with all the excess moisture.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Oct 13 - 19) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Oct 1 - 19) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Oct 19) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.50	10.74	18.87	45
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.67	12.01	23.78	49
North Central Texas	0.00	1.86	20.07	34.00	87
East Texas	0.14	2.19	26.04	45.69	110
Trans Pecos	0.00	1.82	9.52	12.96	60
Edwards Plateau	0.00	2.62	18.97	24.01	116
South Central Texas	0.95	3.03	23.17	34.48	125
Upper Coast	0.04	3.10	35.30	47.63	123
South Texas	0.69	4.11	24.01	23.49	159
Lower Valley	0.62	3.89	20.94	25.34	112



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - October 19, 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	10	19	49	2	12	6	4	0	41	2	2	0	0	2	0
Short	30	43	29	21	34	14	21	10	25	16	6	0	0	6	0
Adequate	57	36	21	65	50	65	71	76	33	75	80	50	60	76	67
Surplus	3	2	1	12	4	15	4	14	1	7	12	50	40	16	33

* 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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