

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: March 15, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CST)  
 For the week of March 8 - 14, 2004  
 TX-CW1104

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

**Crop Progress Table - March 14, 2004**

| Crop                                 | 2004 | 2003 | Average<br>1999-2003 |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|----------------------|
| <i>Percent</i>                       |      |      |                      |
| <b>Corn</b>                          |      |      |                      |
| Planted . . . . .                    | 18   | 10   | 27                   |
| Emerged . . . . .                    | 3    | 4    | 12                   |
| <b>Cotton</b>                        |      |      |                      |
| Planted . . . . .                    | 3    | 2    | 3                    |
| <b>Rice</b>                          |      |      |                      |
| Planted . . . . .                    | 1    | 2    | 4                    |
| <b>Sorghum</b>                       |      |      |                      |
| Planted . . . . .                    | 18   | 12   | 18                   |
| <b>Wheat</b>                         |      |      |                      |
| Headed . . . . .                     | 0    | 1    | 1                    |
| <b>Other Field Crops<br/>Planted</b> |      |      |                      |
| Soybeans . . . . .                   | 0    | 1    | 1                    |

**Crop Condition Table - March 14, 2004**

| Item                | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Very poor |
|---------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| <i>Percent</i>      |           |      |      |      |           |
| Wheat . . . . .     | 6         | 22   | 35   | 27   | 10        |
| Range & Pasture . . | 3         | 21   | 43   | 22   | 11        |

**Agricultural Summary:** Producers across the state enjoyed open and drier conditions for most of the week. However, by late week an upper level low moved from south and west of El Paso into the state, bringing widespread rain and isolated thunderstorms to many areas of the state. Varying degrees of rain were experienced, with heaviest amounts in the Trans Pecos, Edwards Plateau and some south eastern areas. In the western half of Texas, the arrival of much needed moisture and warmer temperatures raised optimism for Spring planting and brought improvement for grazing lands. Soil moisture conditions continued to improve in most areas. Rain runoff raised water levels in stock tanks, but in the western half of the state, more rain was still needed. Recent rains produced more greening of winter crops, pastures and rangeland. Prior to weekend rains, planting was very active in some of the drier areas where producers had been waiting anxiously for the last couple of weeks. Some field preparation was also possible in northern districts. Producers were treating a few fields for greenbugs, aphids and alfalfa weevils. Pine tree seedling planting was in full swing in East Texas and peaches were in stages from pink bud to full bloom. In the Edwards Plateau, fruit trees were in early stages of bloom. Supplemental feeding of cattle started to ease off with improved range and pasture conditions.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** All areas of the state reported some improvement to most wheat and oat fields due to warmer, moist conditions. Some dryland wheat in the Plains appeared to be beyond help from rain. Cattle were returned to some small grain fields in the High Plains. In other areas of the state, cattle were being removed so producers could make a grain crop. Reports of wheat heading out came from South Texas to North Central Texas. Spraying for weed control occurred in some wheat fields in the Northern Low Plains. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 55 percent of normal compared with 70 percent last year.

**Corn:** Planting of corn began in North Central Texas, while planting continued in Southern areas. Some producers had just returned to field work when rains at the end of the week made conditions too wet again.

**Cotton:** Rainy, cooler weather limited field work in most regions in the latter part of the week. Planting continued in southern parts of the state. In the Plains, application of yellow herbicides and measures to prevent blowing sand on cotton fields occurred. It was the peak week for cotton planting in the Lower Valley.

**Sorghum:** Some planting occurred in North Central Texas, and continued in the Lower Valley, South Texas, Coastal districts and southern East Texas before the weekend rains. Early planted sorghum had emerged in some south central fields.

**Peanuts:** Land preparations and fieldwork were active where conditions allowed.

**Rice:** Planting had begun in a few isolated fields.

**Soybeans:** Preparations and planting activity were slowed by wet conditions.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

**Pecans:** Buds on pecan trees were swelling in the Edwards Plateau.

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, harvest of citrus continued. Sugarcane, greens and carrots were also being harvested. Growers were preparing for onion harvest.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, onions continued to develop. Spinach and cabbage harvest was ongoing, with some producers completing harvest activities.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Cattle were in fair to good condition. Calving, lambing and kidding continued across most regions. Shearing of sheep had begun on the Edwards Plateau. Supplemental feeding of livestock was decreasing across the state with improved grass and weed growth from recent moisture and warmer temperatures. Pasture and rangeland green-up was more noticeable in more parts of the state. Producers in the driest areas were still in need of more moisture to maintain vegetation growth and to fill stock tanks.

**Weather Information Table <sup>1</sup>**

| National Weather Service Climatic Divisions | Previous week (Mar 8 - 14) Accumulation | Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 14) Accumulation | Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Mar 14) Accumulation | 1961-90 Annual Normal | Previous three months (Dec - Feb) Percent of Normal |
|---|---|---|--|-----------------------|---|
| High Plains                                 | 0.42                                    | 1.67                                    | 4.14                                       | 18.87                 | 169   |
| Low Rolling Plains                          | 0.43                                    | 2.20                                    | 5.97                                       | 23.78                 | 137   |
| North Central Texas                         | 0.35                                    | 1.08                                    | 7.08                                       | 34.00                 | 109   |
| East Texas                                  | 0.49                                    | 1.29                                    | 10.39                                      | 45.69                 | 103   |
| Trans Pecos                                 | 1.06                                    | 1.20                                    | 2.61                                       | 12.96                 | 124   |
| Edwards Plateau                             | 1.48                                    | 1.92                                    | 4.71                                       | 24.01                 | 88  |
| South Central Texas                         | 0.79                                    | 1.01                                    | 5.49                                       | 34.48                 | 82  |
| Upper Coast                                 | 1.55                                    | 2.06                                    | 11.49                                      | 47.63                 | 126   |
| South Texas                                 | 1.52                                    | 1.57                                    | 3.38                                       | 23.49                 | 57  |
| Lower Valley                                | 1.49                                    | 1.49                                    | 3.24                                       | 25.34                 | 44  |



<sup>1</sup> Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

**Top Soil Moisture by District - March 14, 2004 \***

| 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 | 16                 | 12  | 6   | 0   | 5  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 51 | 4  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 5    | 0    |
| Short      | 10                 | 8   | 18  | 10  | 16 | 6  | 3   | 1   | 16 | 33 | 3   | 8   | 3  | 13   | 50   |
| Adequate   | 65                 | 68  | 70  | 77  | 69 | 66 | 56  | 56  | 30 | 61 | 76  | 89  | 65 | 82   | 50   |
| Surplus    | 9                  | 12  | 6   | 13  | 10 | 28 | 41  | 43  | 3  | 2  | 21  | 3   | 32 | 0    | 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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