

Texas Crop Weather



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For the week of March 15 - 21, 2004

TX-CW1204

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - March 21, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
<i>Percent</i>			
Corn			
Planted	38	19	35
Emerged	13	5	21
Cotton			
Planted	5	3	5
Rice			
Planted	7	7	11
Sorghum			
Planted	25	18	25
Wheat			
Headed	1	2	2
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	3	2	4

Crop Condition Table - March 21, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<i>Percent</i>					
Wheat	4	19	38	27	12
Range & Pasture . .	6	25	40	19	10

Agricultural Summary: Conditions across the state were mostly warmer and drier, with foggy mornings and overcast skies in the many areas of the state. Isolated showers occurred early and late week in all districts except for the Panhandle and far west Texas. The drying trend during the week allowed producers to enter their fields and resume land preparations and planting activities. Adequate moisture and warming soils accelerated the greening of winter crops, pastures and rangeland around the state. Some pre-watering and land preparation for row crops, including deep breaking, fertilizing and listing had begun in the Plains. In the western half of the state, more rain was still needed to maintain vegetation growth and fill stock tanks. Supplemental feeding of livestock was still active in some locations, but was decreasing with improved range and pasture conditions.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Further improvement and growth from the warmer temperatures and some sunshine was evident in most wheat and oat fields around the state. From South Texas to North Central Texas, more wheat fields were heading out. Grazing of small grain by cattle was still ongoing throughout the state, but cattle were being pulled off fields intended for grain. Statewide, the wheat condition

was rated at 52 percent of normal compared with 70 percent last year.

Corn: Corn planting was in full swing in Central Texas. Sandy soils were dry enough to plant by late in the week, but clay soils were taking longer to dry out enough to allow machinery in fields. Planting was behind schedule in the Coastal districts due to prolonged wet conditions, but some corn planting was possible. In the High Plains, fieldwork continued for some producers.

Cotton: Warmer temperatures and sunshine following recent rains allowed field work to progress in most regions late in the week. In southern areas of the state where fields were dry enough, planting continued. In the Plains, field preparations to prevent blowing sand on cotton fields continued. Pre-planting conditions continued to improve in the Southern Plains.

Sorghum: Except for the Plains districts, planting continued in most areas of the state, except where fields were still too wet. Grain sorghum was reported to be emerging in some Coastal Bend and South Central Texas fields.

Peanuts: Land preparations and fieldwork resumed where conditions allowed.

Rice: Planting continued in a few fields where conditions allowed.

Soybeans: Preparations and planting activities increased as the week progressed and field conditions became drier.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pecans: Budding out of pecan trees made progress.

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, sugarcane, citrus, carrots and greens continued to be harvested. Preparations for onion harvest had begun.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, onions continued to develop. Spinach and cabbage harvest activities were moving toward completion.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Cattle remained in fair to good condition. Pasture and rangeland conditions continued to improve in most areas of the state. Some pastures in areas of the Coastal districts and East Texas were still very wet. Supplemental feeding levels were decreasing across most of the state, except in some areas of the High Plains where forage conditions have suffered. Calving, lambing and kidding were active in most regions. Sheep shearing continued. Producers in parts of the Plains, Trans-Pecos, and Edwards Plateau still needed more moisture for continued grass and weed growth and to raise water levels in stock tanks. In West Texas, a few ranchers started branding cattle and moving bulls to begin the breeding season.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Mar 15 - 21) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 21) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Mar 21) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Dec - Feb) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	1.67	4.14	18.87	169
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	2.20	5.97	23.78	137
North Central Texas	0.14	1.22	7.22	34.00	109
East Texas	0.23	1.52	10.62	45.69	103
Trans Pecos	0.40	1.60	3.01	12.96	124
Edwards Plateau	0.21	2.13	4.92	24.01	88
South Central Texas	0.10	1.11	5.59	34.48	82
Upper Coast	0.10	2.16	11.59	47.63	126
South Texas	0.04	1.61	3.42	23.49	57
Lower Valley	0.67	2.16	3.91	25.34	44



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - March 21, 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	21	11	3	2	5	0	2	0	51	5	0	0	0	1	0
Short	37	14	8	15	5	5	10	4	37	33	2	2	2	11	7
Adequate	42	62	79	83	76	79	72	59	12	62	67	58	36	84	27
Surplus	0	13	10	0	14	16	16	37	0	0	31	40	62	4	66

* 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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