

Texas Crop Weather



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For the week of March 22 - 28, 2004

TX-CW1304

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - March 28, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
<i>Percent</i>			
Corn			
Planted	50	36	42
Emerged	30	16	29
Cotton			
Planted	9	5	7
Rice			
Planted	12	29	25
Emerged	4	0	4
Sorghum			
Planted	32	26	31
Wheat			
Headed	3	3	5
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	12	5	7

Crop Condition Table - March 28, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<i>Percent</i>					
Wheat	5	25	42	22	6
Range & Pasture . .	6	27	41	16	10

Agricultural Summary: Widely scattered rain and warmer temperatures were common across many regions of the State during the week. Trace amounts of rain were observed in the Panhandle, with isolated locations recording up to ½ inch. For much of the rest of the State, overcast skies and an occasional shower were the norm. Accumulations were generally under ½ inch, with many areas reporting little or no rainfall. At the end of the week, strong thunderstorms associated with a cold front pushed through portions of North Central and Northeast Texas. Straight line winds caused some damage to poultry houses and dairies. Rainfall amounts were light due to the speed of the storms. Temperatures were above normal across all regions; up to 85 degrees in many locations. Lows ranged from around 40 degrees in the Panhandle to the 60's in the Rio Grande Valley. Soil temperatures were also above normal for this time of year, causing some producers to consider early planting. Soil moisture was adequate across most areas, but still lacking a little in some locations in the western half of the State. Most producers welcomed the drier weather as it allowed field work to continue. Land preparation and planting of various summer crops moved forward in all regions. Cattle continued to graze on rapidly improving pastures. Calving, lambing and kidding were ongoing. Harvest of crawfish in extreme Southeast Texas was in full swing.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Improvement from the last few weeks of precipitation and warm weather was evident across all regions. Producers were restocking cattle to many fields to take advantage of spring growth. Wheat was beginning to

head out in Central Texas and parts of the Blacklands. Fields were approaching boot stage from the Southern Low Plains through North Central Texas. Green bugs and brown wheat mites have been observed in the Panhandle. In the Blacklands, producers were hoping for more sunshine to improve the situation with powdery mildew and rust on wheat. Growers were spraying accordingly. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 59 percent of normal compared with 66 percent last year.

Corn: Corn planting was in full swing in Central Texas. Many counties in the region were finishing up. Planting dates were quickly approaching in the Panhandle, and producers should begin planting within the next few weeks. Land preparation and pre watering were active. Earlier planted corn in southern and central regions had emerged and was up to 6 inches tall.

Cotton: Producers in the Panhandle and the South Plains were busy with field preparations such as cultivation to keep sand down and applying yellow herbicides. Cotton was being planted in Central Texas and the Upper Coast when conditions allowed. Planting was nearing completion in the Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Valley. Emergence was reported in earlier planted fields. Adequate moisture was present in most cotton producing areas.

Sorghum: Planting continued in Central Texas and will begin shortly in the Blacklands. Field preparations were ongoing in the Panhandle and South Plains. Earlier planted fields in southern regions had emerged and were off to a good start.

Peanuts: Land preparations and fieldwork resumed where conditions allowed.

Rice: Planting picked up momentum as fields dried out from previous rains.

Soybeans: Planting was picking up speed in the Upper Coast and Blacklands. Field preparation continued on the Plains.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pecans and Grapes: Trees were beginning to bud in Central Texas and the Edwards Plateau. Grape vines were getting pruned on some vineyards on the South Plains.

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, harvest of citrus, greens, cabbage, and carrots continued. Spring melons appeared to be progressing well. Moisture was adequate.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, onions continued to develop and were reported to be in favorable condition. Spinach harvest was nearly complete. Cabbage harvest was ongoing. Some cabbage remaining in the field showed mildew and other fungal problems.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Cattle remained in fair to good condition with the Spring green-up and adequate moisture over the past few weeks. Many improved wheat pastures were being restocked. Supplemental feeding decreased in most regions. Cattle activities across the State included calving, culling, replacing heifers, and branding. Pasture and rangeland in eastern and coastal regions dried out from excessive moisture. Weeds were a problem in many regions, and some producers were spraying accordingly. Lambing and kidding were active in the Edwards Plateau. Stock tank levels were higher than a month ago, but most producers in western regions would still like more rain.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Mar 22 - 28) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 28) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Mar 28) 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	0.19	2.39	6.16	23.78	137
North Central Texas	0.11	1.33	7.33	34.00	109
East Texas	0.65	2.17	11.27	45.69	103
Trans Pecos	0.04	1.64	3.05	12.96	124
Edwards Plateau	0.04	2.17	4.96	24.01	88
South Central Texas	0.08	1.19	5.67	34.48	82
Upper Coast	0.09	2.25	11.68	47.63	126
South Texas	0.07	1.68	3.49	23.49	57
Lower Valley	0.03	2.19	3.94	25.34	44



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - March 28, 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	6	2	8	0	3	1	33	8	0	0	2	6	0
Short	47	15	35	19	25	8	10	11	30	31	13	4	2	13	10
Adequate	32	71	59	68	67	72	64	81	36	57	72	89	65	80	90
Surplus	0	3	0	11	3	20	23	7	1	4	15	7	31	1	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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