

Texas Crop Weather



Released: April 26, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of April 19 - 25, 2004
 TX-CW1704

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

Crop Progress Table - April 25, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	70	72	67
Emerged	63	62	56
Cotton			
Planted	21	19	16
Peanuts			
Planted	1	3	3
Rice			
Planted	85	80	83
Emerged	80	60	66
Sorghum			
Planted	50	47	43
Wheat			
Headed	49	35	39
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	62	48	44
Sunflowers	11	19	12

Crop Condition Table - April 25, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	30	38	26	4	2
Rice	19	61	20	0	0
Wheat	9	37	31	17	6
Range & Pasture ..	14	39	30	11	6

Agricultural Summary: Weather conditions were open and favorable for fieldwork and planting for most of the week. Winds help dry soils for fieldwork to resume before rains late in the week. Isolated storms early in the week delivered precipitation to a few areas of the northern Panhandle. On Thursday, a weather disturbance started to generate a series of storms in the Panhandle and across some northern counties. Over the weekend, storms and showers were frequent across most eastern, central and southern parts of the state. Moderate to heavy amounts of moisture fell in these areas. Some areas of the Cross Timbers, Blacklands, and East Texas received up to 5 inches of rain. In the Coastal Bend, heavy downpours dropped from 6 to 8 inches of rain, causing severe flooding. The only region seeing zero to minimal moisture was the Trans Pecos area. Hailstorms were reported in the Panhandle and Plains regions, causing power outages and some damage to buildings. Pastures were in good to excellent condition in most areas. Haying activities were at full speed in more areas. First cuttings of alfalfa hay were reported in some regions. Planting of Sudan and other hay crops was taking place. Most livestock were in excellent condition, and were requiring little or no supplemental

feeding. Shrimp growers in the Trans Pecos were preparing ponds.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat remained in fair to good condition across most areas. In the Plains, more acreage was approaching the heading stage. Some wheat was being irrigated in drier areas. Some producers continued to cut wheat for hay or silage. Others were still considering carrying wheat for grain harvest. In areas previously affected by freeze, insect and rust disease damage was more obvious. In southern and central areas, wheat was starting to turn color. Cattle continued to graze on small grains. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 67 percent of normal compared with 55 percent last year.

Corn: Planted acreage in central and southern areas made good progress and was beginning to need moisture before weekend rains. Some acreage was being treated for weeds. Corn planting in the Panhandle was underway. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 84 percent of normal compared with 77 percent last year.

Cotton: Cotton planting and preparations resumed as fields dried by early week. In southern areas, replanting took place in fields damaged by earlier storms. Most acreage in South Texas had been making good progress prior to Sunday's heavy downpours. By Sunday afternoon, many cotton fields in the Coastal Bend were flooded and had standing water. Damage from rains was still being evaluated.

Sorghum: Producers in central and northern areas rushed to get acreage planted before the weekend rains. For the most part, planted sorghum in southern regions was making excellent progress. Storms along Coastal areas flooded many fields, and some acreage was standing in water by Sunday afternoon.

Peanuts: Land preparations were active where conditions allowed. Planting continued in a few isolated areas.

Rice: Producers made some progress planting early in the week. In some areas, producers struggled to get land worked and planted.

Soybeans: Preparations and planting were active before late week rains. Planting and weed control measures occurred in the Upper Coast.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pecans: Application of zinc was active in some areas. Pecans were in full bloom in the Trans Pecos region. Moisture for pecan trees has been very favorable this season.

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, onion harvest was active. Harvest of citrus, cabbage and greens, and sugarcane continued. Preparations for melon harvest had begun.

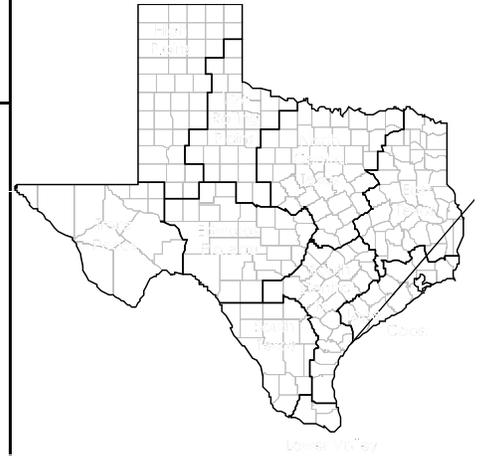
In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, Watermelons were in excellent condition. Onions were progressing well, and were nearing harvest. Weed pressure was apparent in some fields.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Livestock were in excellent condition across the state as showers benefitted range and pastures. Some pastures were being treated for weeds. Spring calving continued, and working of cattle and branding was active. Marking of lambs and goats, and shearing of sheep was underway in the Edwards Plateau. Stock pond levels continued to improve with rainfall received during the week. Supplemental feeding was minimal across the state.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Apr 19 - 25) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Apr 1 - 25) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 25) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.20	2.52	6.66	18.87	193
Low Rolling Plains	0.54	2.33	8.49	23.78	191
North Central Texas	1.92	3.18	10.51	34.00	110
East Texas	1.87	3.53	14.85	45.69	106
Trans Pecos	0.02	1.96	5.01	12.96	261
Edwards Plateau	0.49	3.08	8.04	24.01	139
South Central Texas	1.46	3.44	9.18	34.48	93
Upper Coast	0.98	3.64	15.36	47.63	131
South Texas	0.56	2.64	6.40	23.49	119
Lower Valley	0.72	3.29	7.47	25.34	117



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - April 25, 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	2	7	7	2	8	9	1	1	23	12	0	0	0	6	0
Short	15	14	20	26	38	33	31	12	31	26	18	10	5	20	10
Adequate	76	75	65	72	54	43	65	82	46	61	73	83	73	69	40
Surplus	7	4	8	0	0	15	3	5	0	1	9	7	22	5	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.

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