

Texas Crop Weather



Released: September 20, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of September 13 - 19, 2004
 TX-CW3804

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

Crop Progress Table - September 19, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Dented	99	99	98
Mature	84	91	92
Harvested	66	73	71
Cotton			
Setting Bolls	99	100	100
Bolls Opening	35	43	60
Harvested	17	18	20
Peanuts			
Harvested	4	2	8
Rice			
Harvested	98	93	96
Sorghum			
Headed	96	93	98
Turning Color	75	70	87
Mature	61	59	77
Harvested	56	54	56
Wheat			
Planted	34	35	28
Emerged	10	9	9
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Oats	24	27	15
Harvested			
Soybeans	56	65	70
Sunflowers	5	46	53

Crop Condition Table - September 19, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Cotton	22	50	19	5	4
Peanuts	36	51	9	2	2
Sorghum	10	54	26	9	1
Range & Pasture ..	13	42	31	11	3

Agricultural Summary: A warmer, drier weather pattern took hold of the State during the week. Most regions experienced hotter temperatures with little precipitation. Just a few widely scattered showers occurred on the South Plains and down through Central and East Texas. Most rainfall accumulations were under 1/2 inch. A few stronger storms pushed through South Texas, the Coastal Bend, and western portions of the Upper Coast. Large areas received 1/2 to 1 inch of rain with some locations reporting over 2 inch accumulations. A couple of isolated locations recorded downpours of over 5 inches. The Rio Grande Valley experienced widespread precipitation in the 1 to 2 inch range. Soil moisture decreased across the Panhandle and other western regions. Irrigation resumed in some areas as a result. Harvest of summer crops moved forward with favorable conditions. Insects

remained a problem in most regions. Cattle shipments were heavy and replacements were being purchased for winter forages.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat planting moved along at a swift pace. Irrigation began in a few fields on the Panhandle. Some dryland fields in the region will need a good rain before germination.

Corn: Harvest was in full swing on the Panhandle as the weather cooperated. Most producers were very pleased with their yields. Combining on the Blacklands was winding down as many elevators were filled to capacity with grain.

Cotton: More heat units were received on the South Plains and fields progressed accordingly. Bolls were opening across the region and early fields were approaching cut out. Irrigation resumed in drier areas. Boll worms remained a problem in many locations. Harvest was getting underway on the Blacklands and Central Texas and should be in full swing within the coming weeks. A few unharvested fields remained on the Upper Coast and Coastal Bend as passing showers delayed field activity. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 82 percent of normal compared with 51 percent last year.

Sorghum: Fields on the Panhandle and South Plains continued to mature with the warmer temperatures but growth was still behind normal in some locations. Harvest on the Blacklands was nearing completion. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 78 percent of normal compared with 57 percent last year.

Peanuts: Digging continued on the South Plains as conditions remained favorable. Leaf spot remained a problem in many fields. Harvest will begin in South Texas within the next week or so. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 91 percent of normal compared with 83 percent last year.

Rice: Harvest of the first crop was virtually complete. The ratoon crop was reported as favorable.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In **East Texas**, sweet potato harvest continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden** region, cabbage made fair progress. Onion, spinach, and carrot producers continued planting preparations.

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, the tomato crop progressed. Fall plantings were in the planning stages.

Pecans: Harvest began in some regions. Pecan scab and hickory shuckworms were prevalent in some orchards. Growers were spraying accordingly. Overall, pecans were reported to be in good shape for this time of year.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Rangeland and pasture conditions remained in great shape. However, there were a few drier areas in the western half of the State that could use some rain. Hay baling continued across most regions as producers were getting one or more extra cuttings than normal. Army worms were a menace in many hay fields. Cattle continued to be in excellent condition. Supplemental feeding was mostly unnecessary as forage supplies were high. Weaning of Spring calves was active. Shrimp producers on the Trans Pecos were changing marketing strategies to cope with historically low prices.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Sep 13 - 19) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Sep 1 - 19) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Sep 19) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jun - Aug) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.25	0.43	16.35	18.87	111
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.06	17.73	23.78	113
North Central Texas	0.27	0.80	27.67	34.00	181
East Texas	0.28	0.56	32.69	45.69	121
Trans Pecos	0.31	0.50	12.32	12.96	113
Edwards Plateau	0.05	0.56	20.05	24.01	142
South Central Texas	0.70	1.88	24.76	34.48	108
Upper Coast	0.66	1.80	40.01	47.63	104
South Texas	0.26	3.05	17.74	23.49	91
Lower Valley	3.88	5.81	22.12	25.34	99



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - September 19, 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	20	5	15	1	14	4	9	17	20	13	1	0	36	2	0
Short	55	42	38	41	40	35	59	40	40	33	26	12	31	22	5
Adequate	24	49	46	55	46	58	32	43	40	51	68	85	33	58	95
Surplus	1	4	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	5	3	0	18	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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