

Texas Crop Weather



Released: March 21, 2005 (3:00 P.M. CST)

For the week of March 14 - 20, 2005

TX-CW1205

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - March 20, 2005

Crop	2005	2004	Average 2000-2004
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	28	35	33
Emerged	9	12	16
Cotton			
Planted	3	5	4
Rice			
Planted	5	6	9
Sorghum			
Planted	19	24	23
Wheat			
Headed	4	1	2
Other Field Crops Planted			
Soybeans	2	3	3

Crop Condition Table - March 20, 2005

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	27	45	23	4	1
Range & Pasture ..	13	43	31	11	2

Agricultural Summary: Winter like weather conditions occurred early to mid week. Heavy snows crossed the Plains with snow accumulations of eight to nine inches reported. Light to moderate rain showers were reported across many other areas. As skies cleared late in the week, light to moderate frost was reported as far south as Central and South Central Texas. Weather conditions improved late in the week, however by week's end, rain showers and some thunderstorms were reported across the hill country ahead of another cool front. Farming activities continued even with the varying weather conditions. Land preparations, including fertilization, weed control and planting were active in most areas during the week. Pasture conditions generally improved as temperatures warmed and spring grasses emerged from dormancy. Supplemental feeding remained necessary in several areas, however was decreasing in most locations except where weather extremes were harsh.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Improvement in growth and development continued across the state with warmer conditions. Wet snows across the Plains added needed moisture to many grain fields and growth and development responded accordingly. Top dressing remained active in many areas. Rust and insect pressures were reported in some locations. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 85 percent of normal, compared with 52 percent last year.

Corn: Land preparation remained active in most areas throughout the week. Planting was active in many locations, however slowed in a few areas due to passing rain showers and a few other locations remained too wet for planting. Emergence of earlier planted corn remained excellent.

Cotton: Harvest has been completed in most areas, and preparations for planting the new crop were ongoing. Ginning remained active in a few remaining areas. Planting continued in some southern locations where soils were adequately dry.

Sorghum: Land preparation and planting remained active in some southern locations, however activities stalled at times due to passing rains.

Peanuts: Land preparations were active in many locations in late week. Pre-emergence herbicide applications were made in a few areas.

Soybeans: Land preparations and planting was active in a few locations during the week.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, harvest of spinach was active during the week. Cabbage harvest remained active in many locations. Growth and development of spring onions continued and preparations for harvest moved ahead.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, land preparation was active in most areas, however rain showers caused some delays. Planting activities were generally on hold due to wet conditions. Cabbage harvest was active in some areas.

In **East Texas**, land preparations were slow as drying out continued. Preparations for sweet potato planting continued. Some wind damage to watermelon plants was reported.

In the **High Plains**, land preparations were slowed as the result of a wet snow and winter like conditions early in the week.

In the **Trans Pecos**, land preparations continued in most locations. Growth and development of spring onions continued.

Pecans: Bud break continued in varied locations as temperatures warmed. Frost damage appeared to be minimal.

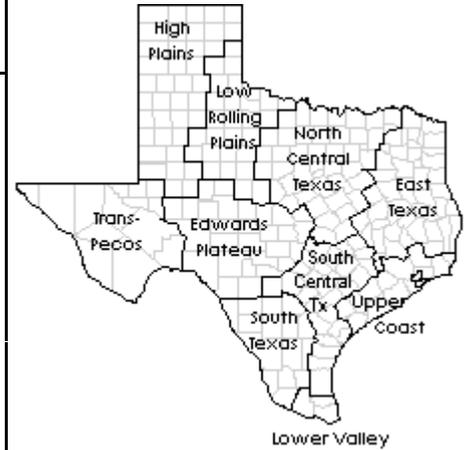
Peaches: Blooming remained active in central and southern locations.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures continued to green up as warm temperatures prevailed in many areas during the week. In areas affected by weather extremes, pastures were somewhat slower to respond. Some locations received additional rainfall or snow during the week, and muddy conditions continued to be a problem. Sprigging and seeding of grasses was active in many locations during the week. Growth and development of alfalfa fields continued, however frost slowed development during mid week. Supplemental feeding remained necessary across the state, however lessened in many areas as pastures responded to warmer temperatures. Sickness in livestock generally improved except in areas where weather extremes occurred.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Mar 14 - 20) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 20) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Mar 20) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Dec - Feb) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.40	0.69	3.41	18.87	204
Low Rolling Plains	0.27	0.93	3.85	23.78	117
North Central Texas	0.10	0.64	5.32	34.00	90
East Texas	0.50	1.14	8.21	45.69	83
Trans Pecos	0.14	0.33	1.88	12.96	124
Edwards Plateau	0.25	1.22	3.90	24.01	91
South Central Texas	0.88	2.05	6.69	34.48	78
Upper Coast	1.37	3.43	9.66	47.63	83
South Texas	0.58	1.52	4.16	23.49	81
Lower Valley	0.04	0.16	1.58	25.34	62



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - March 20, 2005 *

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	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	7
Short	0	21	1	0	3	3	10	0	30	12	0	0	0	7	63
Adequate	48	38	61	77	69	71	59	35	61	79	61	23	26	82	30
Surplus	52	40	37	23	27	26	31	65	5	9	39	77	74	11	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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