

Texas Crop Weather



Released: April 4, 2005 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of March 28 - April 3, 2005
 TX-CW1405

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

Crop Progress Table - April 3, 2005

| Crop | 2005 | 2004 | Average 2000-2004 |
|--------------------------|----------------|------|----------------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | | |
| Corn | | | |
| Planted | 56 | 59 | 49 |
| Emerged | 32 | 42 | 36 |
| Cotton | | | |
| Planted | 11 | 14 | 10 |
| Rice | | | |
| Planted | 24 | 30 | 41 |
| Emerged | 4 | 13 | 16 |
| Sorghum | | | |
| Planted | 33 | 37 | 35 |
| Wheat | | | |
| Headed | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| Other Field Crops | | | |
| Planted | | | |
| Soybeans | 20 | 30 | 16 |
| Sunflowers | 4 | 4 | 2 |

Crop Condition Table - April 3, 2005

| Item | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Very poor |
|---------------------|----------------|------|------|------|-----------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Wheat | 24 | 45 | 23 | 7 | 1 |
| Range & Pasture ... | 12 | 48 | 30 | 9 | 1 |

Agricultural Summary: Weather conditions were generally unsettled across the state during the week. Thunderstorms accompanied by hail and varied amounts of rainfall crossed portions of the state during early to mid week. In mid week some locations in north and north central Texas reported varying amounts of snowfall resulting from another weather front crossing the state. Windy conditions were present in late week and in some areas wind speeds were high enough to cause damage to fields that had been prepared for planting. In areas where conditions were favorable, producers were able to continue planting while other producers were concentrating on land preparation. Pre-plant herbicide applications, fertilization and some weed control measures were active in varied locations. In a few other locations, producers were busy applying insect control products or fungicides to their small grain fields. Pastures continued to improve as temperatures were generally warmer and moderate to high winds helped with the drying out. Supplemental feeding remained necessary, but many producers were feeding only minimal amounts. Moisture stress remained visible in pastures across a few areas and pre watering, prior to planting was also necessary in a few other locations.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat and oats continued to show signs of good growth and development as generally soil moisture remained adequate. Top dressing was active in many locations as soils were finally dry enough to support equipment. Weed control applications, control measures for insect populations and treatment for plant diseases were active in varying locations around the state. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 85 percent of normal, compared with 65 percent last year.

Corn: Land preparation was active in a few areas during the week, however high winds in late week made some preparations difficult. Planting in central and southern locations continued. In some locations, wet conditions prevented earlier corn planting and producers are now planting alternate instead.

Cotton: Ginning activities continued in a few remaining locations. Land preparation including herbicide applications were active in many areas as weather permitted, however high winds caused delays at varied times during the week. Emergence of earlier planted cotton was mostly acceptable in all reporting areas.

Sorghum: Land preparation and planting remained active in southern and central locations, however was stalled at times due to rainy and wet conditions. Emergence of earlier planted sorghum was mostly acceptable.

Peanuts: Land preparation was active in many locations across the state during the week. High winds caused field damage in some locations and also prevented applications of pre-plant herbicides. Planting should begin in late month in central and southern areas.

Soybeans: Land preparation and planting was active in a few locations during the week as weather conditions permitted, however weather related delays were common.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, cabbage harvest remained active in many locations during the week. Harvest of carrots, greens and some onions was also active in a few locations. Growth and development of onions remained excellent.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, land preparation was active in most areas, however rain showers caused some delays from time to time. Spinach and cabbage harvest was active as weather conditions permitted. Spinach harvest was winding down in some locations.

In **East Texas**, land preparation was active, however some delays were necessary as some locations received additional rainfall. Planting moved ahead where soils were adequately dry.

In the **High Plains**, land preparation was active during the week as conditions allowed.

In the **Trans Pecos**, land preparation remained active in most locations during the week. Growth and development of spring onions continued.

Pecans: Bud break continued to move northward as temperatures and day length improved. Irrigation continued in a few orchards and some producers were applying their first application of zinc.

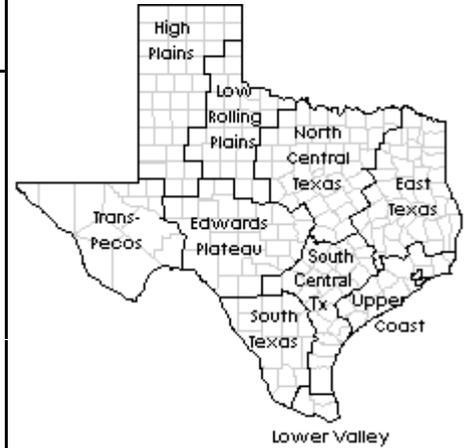
Peaches: Frost was again reported, however no damage was reported. Some orchards experienced light hail, but little damage was reported.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Improvement in range and pastures continued across the state. A few southern locations were experiencing relatively dry conditions and pasture improvement was slow. Additional moisture including snow was received in some locations during the week. Sprigging and seeding of grasses remained active in many areas during the week. Fertilization was active in a few locations during the week. Growth and development in alfalfa fields remained satisfactory; however frost damage was noticeable in some locations in the Trans Pecos region. Planting of hay crops was active in many central areas during the week. Supplemental feeding remained necessary across the state, however has been greatly reduced in many locations.

Weather Information Table ¹

| National Weather Service Climatic Divisions | Previous week (Mar 28 - Apr 3) Accumulation | Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 31) Accumulation | Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 3) Accumulation | 1961-90 Annual Normal | Previous three months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| High Plains | 0.07 | 1.01 | 3.73 | 18.87 | 173 |
| Low Rolling Plains | 0.00 | 1.35 | 4.27 | 23.78 | 132 |
| North Central Texas | 0.04 | 1.82 | 6.50 | 34.00 | 97 |
| East Texas | 0.18 | 2.32 | 9.39 | 45.69 | 88 |
| Trans Pecos | 0.16 | 0.59 | 2.14 | 12.96 | 183 |
| Edwards Plateau | 0.00 | 1.76 | 4.44 | 24.01 | 125 |
| South Central Texas | 0.04 | 2.35 | 6.99 | 34.48 | 113 |
| Upper Coast | 0.00 | 3.74 | 9.97 | 47.63 | 111 |
| South Texas | 0.00 | 1.57 | 4.21 | 23.49 | 133 |
| Lower Valley | 0.00 | 0.17 | 1.59 | 25.34 | 45 |



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - April 3, 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 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Short | 6 | 27 | 16 | 13 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 33 | 23 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 20 | 77 |
| Adequate | 64 | 43 | 66 | 74 | 82 | 64 | 84 | 72 | 60 | 72 | 82 | 87 | 79 | 75 | 20 |
| Surplus | 29 | 25 | 16 | 13 | 8 | 33 | 10 | 22 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 9 | 17 | 5 | 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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