

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: April 18, 2005 (3:00 P.M. CDT)

For the week of April 11 - 17, 2005

TX-CW1605

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

**Crop Progress Table - April 17, 2005**

| Crop                                 | 2005           | 2004 | Average<br>2000-2004 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|------|----------------------|
|                                      | <i>Percent</i> |      |                      |
| <b>Corn</b>                          |                |      |                      |
| Planted .....                        | 64             | 63   | 59                   |
| Emerged .....                        | 56             | 58   | 52                   |
| <b>Cotton</b>                        |                |      |                      |
| Planted .....                        | 18             | 18   | 15                   |
| <b>Rice</b>                          |                |      |                      |
| Planted .....                        | 68             | 79   | 74                   |
| Emerged .....                        | 44             | 68   | 54                   |
| <b>Sorghum</b>                       |                |      |                      |
| Planted .....                        | 45             | 48   | 43                   |
| <b>Wheat</b>                         |                |      |                      |
| Headed .....                         | 19             | 26   | 25                   |
| <b>Other Field Crops<br/>Planted</b> |                |      |                      |
| Soybeans .....                       | 49             | 48   | 37                   |
| Sunflowers .....                     | 11             | 11   | 7                    |

**Crop Condition Table - April 17, 2005**

| Item                  | Excellent      | Good | Fair | Poor | Very poor |
|-----------------------|----------------|------|------|------|-----------|
|                       | <i>Percent</i> |      |      |      |           |
| Corn .....            | 22             | 53   | 23   | 2    | 0         |
| Wheat .....           | 12             | 44   | 33   | 9    | 2         |
| Range & Pasture . . . | 21             | 45   | 24   | 8    | 2         |

**Agricultural Summary:** Weather conditions were generally more stable most of the week. A few areas received additional moisture during early week, however these were mostly minimal amounts and farming operations were only on hold for a short time. Sunshine and warmer temperatures along with plenty of wind was present during the majority of the week. Late week saw a return to unstable conditions across most regions of the state. Most areas of the Plains experienced a round of severe weather with widespread hail and some localized flooding. During the majority of the week, land preparation moved ahead in all areas along with fertilization and pre-plant herbicide applications. Weed treatments were also active in various locations, depending on wind speeds in the area. Pre-watering was active in many locations as planting will begin soon. Pasture green-up was ongoing in all areas, however moisture is needed in most areas as sustained winds have dried out surface profiles and stress was apparent in many locations. Supplemental feeding remained necessary in a few areas, however decline continued as spring grasses continued to emerge. A few areas remained relatively dry and moisture stress was slowing development of pastures and earlier planted crops.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Wheat and oats continued to show signs of growth and development, however dry surface profiles have slowed further progress. Weed control, fungicide and insect control treatments were active in many locations when conditions allowed. Rust and insect pressure was severe in some locations and many producers continued to bail instead of waiting for thrashing. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 75 percent of normal, compared with

65 percent last year.

**Corn:** Land preparation remained active in many areas, however some soils were in need of further drying while others were extremely dry due to high winds. Planting was active and emergence remained mostly acceptable. Soil insect problems were noted in a few locations. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 86 percent of normal, compared with 85 percent last year.

**Cotton:** Land preparation including herbicide applications remained active in many areas as weather permitted. Planting moved ahead in areas where soil temperatures were acceptable. Emergence of earlier planted cotton was mostly acceptable in all reporting areas.

**Sorghum:** Land preparation and planting remained active in southern and central locations. Land preparation was stalled at times in a few areas of the plains due to high wind speeds. Emergence of earlier planted sorghum was mostly acceptable, although some hail and wind damage was reported.

**Peanuts:** Land preparation was active in many locations across the state. High winds continued to cause some damage in some locations around the state. Several producers have received contracts and planting will begin soon.

**Soybeans:** Land preparation and planting was active in some locations during the week, however weather conditions caused minor delays from time to time in a few areas.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, harvest of greens, cabbage, carrots, onions and some citrus continued. Rain was needed in some locations as later planter crops were showing signs of moisture stress.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, land preparation was active in most areas. Rainfall was needed in some locations. Spinach and cabbage harvest was active throughout the week.

In **East Texas**, land preparation was active, however heavy rainfall in a few areas slowed progress and drying out will be necessary before farming can continue. Planting moved ahead in dry areas and preparations for sweet potato planting remained active.

In the **High Plains**, land preparation was active during the week as conditions allowed. High winds caused some delays during early to mid week and rain delayed activities late in the week.

In the **Trans Pecos**, land preparation remained active in most locations during the week. Growth and development of spring onions continued. Cotton planting continued and baling alfalfa was active in a few locations.

**Pecans:** Bud break continued as conditions improved across the state. Irrigation continued in a few orchards and zinc applications were active in some locations. Pecan nut case bearer traps were placed for monitoring in some southern and central areas.

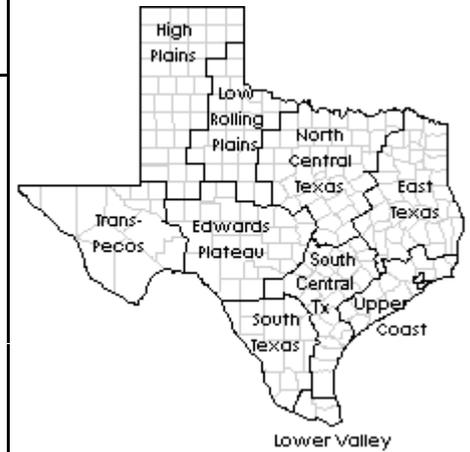
**Peaches:** Most pruning has been completed and producers are waiting to see if lack of chill hours will impact their production later in the season.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Improvement in range and pastures continued, however soil surface moisture was short in many areas and continued improvement was slow. Sprigging and seeding of grasses remained active in many areas during the week. Fertilization was active in a few locations during the week as conditions allowed. Growth and development in alfalfa fields remained satisfactory and baling the first cutting was active. Planting of hay crops continued as conditions allowed and baling early planted fields occurred in a few locations. Supplemental feeding remained necessary in some areas.

**Weather Information Table <sup>1</sup>**

| National Weather Service Climatic Divisions | Previous week (Apr 11- 17) Accumulation | Month-to-date (Apr 1 - 17) Accumulation | Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 17) Accumulation | 1961-90 Annual Normal | Previous three months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal |
|---|---|---|--|-----------------------|---|
| High Plains                                 | 0.25                                    | 0.27                                    | 4.00                                       | 18.87                 | 173   |
| Low Rolling Plains                          | 0.04                                    | 0.05                                    | 4.32                                       | 23.78                 | 132   |
| North Central Texas                         | 0.00                                    | 0.30                                    | 6.80                                       | 34.00                 | 97  |
| East Texas                                  | 0.52                                    | 1.63                                    | 11.02                                      | 45.69                 | 88  |
| Trans Pecos                                 | 0.13                                    | 0.13                                    | 2.27                                       | 12.96                 | 183   |
| Edwards Plateau                             | 0.00                                    | 0.04                                    | 4.48                                       | 24.01                 | 125   |
| South Central Texas                         | 0.01                                    | 0.15                                    | 7.14                                       | 34.48                 | 113   |
| Upper Coast                                 | 0.31                                    | 0.50                                    | 10.47                                      | 47.63                 | 111   |
| South Texas                                 | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                    | 4.21                                       | 23.49                 | 133   |
| Lower Valley                                | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                    | 1.59                                       | 25.34                 | 45  |



<sup>1</sup> Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

**Top Soil Moisture by District - April 17, 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   | 11  | 8   | 5  | 2  | 0   | 2   | 10 | 10 | 0   | 15  | 2  | 12   | 45   |
| Short      | 23                 | 41  | 36  | 34  | 35 | 14 | 8   | 11  | 52 | 36 | 34  | 60  | 17 | 44   | 44   |
| Adequate   | 66                 | 35  | 49  | 58  | 58 | 73 | 79  | 79  | 38 | 52 | 62  | 25  | 71 | 41   | 11   |
| Surplus    | 10                 | 19  | 4   | 0   | 2  | 11 | 13  | 8   | 0  | 2  | 4   | 0   | 10 | 3    | 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.**

**PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID AT  
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

Texas Crop Weather (USPS 396-770) is published weekly by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, 300 E. 8th St., Austin, TX 78701, (512) 916-5581. **PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID** at Austin, TX and at additional mailing offices.  
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Texas Crop Weather, P.O. Box 70, Austin, TX 78767.

Penalty for Private Use, \$300

**AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE  
NASS - USDA  
P.O. BOX 70  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767**

**T  
E  
X  
A  
S**