

Texas Crop Weather

Released: December 12, 2005 (3:00 P.M. CST)
For the week of December 5- 11, 2005
TX-CW5005

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

Crop Progress Table - December 11, 2005

Crop	2005	2004	Average 2000-2004
	- Percent -		
Cotton			
Harvested	90	59	80
Sorghum			
Harvested	98	88	95
Wheat			
Planted	98	94	97
Emerged	85	90	89
Oats			
Planted	98	100	97
Emerged	84	--	--
Pecans			
Harvested	73	71	69

Crop Condition Table - December 11, 2005

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
	- Percent -				
Wheat	1	9	27	34	29
Oats	0	3	16	30	51
Range & Pasture ..	0	5	22	33	40

Agricultural Summary: Weather conditions turned windy and cold as the first arctic front of the season crossed the state during early to mid week. Freezing temperatures were reported in most areas, and many areas were at or below freezing for two to three days. Freezing rain along with some light sleet and snow was received in several locations across the state. Road ways became slick and many areas were without electricity for several hours. Remaining harvest was delayed in several areas due to the icy conditions, however most producers were able to resume harvest by week's end. Small grains suffered extensively in all areas as the extreme cold temperatures and lack of moisture caused additional losses in many areas. Reports indicated that the only good small grains were the ones that had received irrigation in the previous months. Range and pastures continued to suffer from lack of adequate moisture and in many areas cool season forages were still unavailable to livestock. Supplemental feeding increased as producers attempted to maintain body condition in their herds, but additional supplies remained very hard to obtain. Range fires became more numerous across many areas of the state as the result of the low humidity and high winds.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Land preparation continued as weather conditions allowed. Planting and replanting was generally on hold as producers were waiting on adequate moisture before investing in seed and other crop expenses. Emergence of earlier planted fields remained poor and death losses in recently emerged small grains were extensive due to the extreme cold temperatures during the week. Some reports were received indicating

that germination was not possible with the present moisture levels. Plant diseases remained present in some locations across the Plains. State-wide, wheat condition was rated at 35 percent of normal compared with 85 percent last year. Statewide, oat condition was rated at 22 percent of normal.

Cotton: Harvest continued, but was interrupted at times by very cold temperatures, high winds, sleet and some snow in several locations across the Plains. Some modules were damaged by high wind gusts during the week. Reports of extremely good yields continued to be received from many areas. Ginning operations remained active and the majority of gins continued to run behind due to the high volume of harvested cotton.

Corn: Land preparation for next year's crop was underway, but delays were common in most areas due to the adverse weather conditions during the week.

Sorghum: Land preparation and fertilization was ongoing, however delays were common due to the extreme weather conditions during the week.

Peanuts: Harvest continued in a few locations, however was delayed at times due to the cold and icy conditions. In areas where land preparation was ongoing, delays were experienced from time to time due to the bad weather conditions.

Soybeans: Land preparation for next year's crop moved ahead, but was slow or on hold until the weather conditions improved.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, spinach, onions, tomatoes and cabbage were making good progress. Irrigation was heavy in all locations, especially on vegetable crops. Harvest of early spinach and cabbage was ongoing. Sugarcane harvest remained active during the week.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, early planted cabbage and spinach made good progress. Spinach development remained slower than normal in a few locations. Harvest of early cabbage and spinach continued. Irrigation remained necessary in all locations.

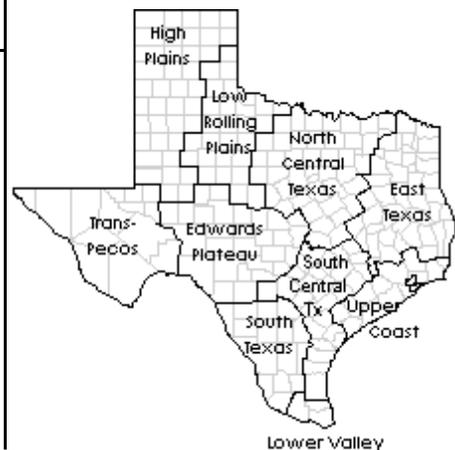
Pecans: Harvest activity was ongoing in remaining orchards across the state. Harvest was delayed from time to time due to the weather conditions of last week.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pasture conditions remained poor across the majority of the state. Moisture in the form of ice and snow was received in a few locations, however accumulations were very light and little to no good was realized from the event. Emergence of cool season forages remained slow as soils remained dry across the state. Supplemental feeding increased during the extreme cold as producers were attempting to maintain body condition in their livestock herds. Herd reduction continued in most areas as hay supplies remained low and locating additional hay was also difficult. Field grazing became more difficult as low moisture levels increased losses in small grains especially in fields that were being grazed. Hauling water to livestock continued to be necessary for many producers and was contributing to herd reduction in most areas. The number of range fires continued to increase across the state as the dry conditions along with high winds and low humidity levels were common due to the passage of the cold front.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Dec 5 - Dec 11) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Dec 1 - 11) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Dec 11) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous 3 months (Sep - Nov) % of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.00	16.05	18.87	45
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.00	17.68	23.78	45
North Central Texas	0.03	0.03	19.08	34.00	26
East Texas	0.22	0.26	24.77	45.69	42
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.00	12.15	12.96	71
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.00	18.77	24.01	46
South Central Texas	0.10	0.10	18.78	34.48	42
Upper Coast	0.20	0.33	37.74	47.63	64
South Texas	0.02	0.02	11.75	23.49	31
Lower Valley	0.73	0.73	11.92	25.34	53



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - December 11, 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	58	40	57	59	67	81	57	39	38	39	45	35	0	24	13
Short	35	45	37	32	32	17	38	43	51	49	47	39	18	56	62
Adequate	7	15	6	7	1	2	5	18	11	12	8	26	79	19	25
Surplus	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	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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