



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

Texas Field Office · Post Office Box 70 · Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 916-5581 · (800) 842-1331 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

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For the week of: September 29 – October 5, 2008

Agricultural Summary: Many producers across the state received their first real experience of fall weather, as night temperatures dropped considerably. In some areas of North East Texas and the Trans-Pecos, temperatures even dropped to the 40-50 degree range. However, sunshine and warmer temperatures were prevalent across most regions of the state during the day. The Panhandle along with surrounding areas in Central Texas received the majority of rainfall with mostly 0.10 to 1.5 inches. Accumulations were much lower in areas of the Trans-Pecos, as rainfall ranged from mostly traces to 0.25 inches. The remaining areas of the state remained relatively dry. Cleanup from the damage caused by Hurricane Ike was still ongoing in some areas of the state, as evidence of tree debris and damaged agricultural infrastructure remained. Although most livestock producers welcomed the recent precipitation, many reported that pastures and small grains continued to suffer due to lack of moisture. Armyworms also continued to increase and wreak havoc on hay pastures and meadows. Livestock condition remained good.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Planting of wheat was slowed in the Northern Plains, as many fields have become too dry to resume activities. Statewide, wheat and oat condition was mostly fair to good.

Corn: In the Northern High Plains, harvest was ongoing with many reports of good to excellent yields. Corn condition was mostly fair to good statewide

Cotton: The last few weeks of warm temperatures have contributed to the progression of cotton in the Southern High Plains and Northern Low Plains. However, producers in these two areas grew worried about the possibilities and damaging effects of an early freeze, as more heat units are still needed. In the Northern Low Plains, some producers have been given permission by insurance adjusters to destroy their current crop because of poor conditions. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly poor to fair.

Sorghum: Maturity ranged from both sides of the spectrum in the Northern High Plains. Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly fair to good.

Peanuts: Across the state, early planted peanuts continued to mature as harvest was ongoing. Digging began in some areas of the Northern Low Plains. Peanut condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In North East Texas, there were some reports of severe damage to sweet potato crops due to field rat and mice infestations. Planting of spinach was ongoing in South Texas.

Pecans: Black spot diseases began to increase in some areas of the state. In the Trans-Pecos area, harvesting of the “pawnee” pecan cultivar began, as the “western” pecan cultivar remained in its last phases of filling.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Livestock remained in good condition across most areas of the state. Populations of armyworms continued to increase in the Cross Timbers, causing widespread damage to hay meadows and pastures. As a result, baling of hay increased as producers tried to escape these detrimental effects. Tank levels also began to decline in the Cross Timbers due to the recent dry conditions. In South Texas, quality of range and pasture forage began to decrease as there has been little to no new growth in warm season grasses. However, supplemental feeding continued to decrease, with light culling of cattle.

Weather Information Table ^{1/ 2/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Sep 29 – Oct 5) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Sep 1 – 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – Oct 5) Accumulation	1961 – 1990 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Jun – Aug) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.72	2.55	14.67	18.87	103
Low Rolling Plains	0.90	2.59	16.65	23.78	97
North Central Texas	0.81	1.66	20.61	34.00	82
East Texas	0.04	4.39	30.63	45.69	101
Trans-Pecos	0.26	2.38	8.53	12.96	90
Edwards Plateau	0.86	1.43	14.43	24.01	93
South Central Texas	0.00	1.47	15.19	34.48	81
Upper Coast	0.00	3.14	27.58	47.63	88
South Texas	0.00	2.15	15.03	23.49	134
Lower Valley	0.04	6.84	24.06	25.34	185

1/ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

2/ High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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.

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:
www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis_new.php and www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

Crop Progress Table – October 5, 2008

Crop	Stage	2008	2007	Average 2003 – 2007
– Percent –				
Corn	Mature	89	100	98
	Harvested	68	91	83
Cotton	Bolls Opening	63	69	66
	Harvested	19	22	23
Peanuts	Harvested	12	10	12
Rice	Harvested	99	99	99
Sorghum	Coloring	84	100	91
	Mature	71	94	77
	Harvested	70	89	68
Soybeans	Dropping Leaves	95	95	--
	Harvested	82	83	76
Sunflowers	Harvested	44	31	52
Winter Wheat	Planted	54	46	59
	Emerged	26	20	29
Oats	Planted	44	35	49

Crop Condition Table – October 5, 2008

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2008	2007
Corn	4	38	26	16	16	59	83
Cotton	12	34	29	16	9	66	77
Peanuts	5	65	27	2	1	81	89
Rice	16	50	28	3	3	80	66
Sorghum	5	40	36	14	5	67	72
Soybeans	2	33	29	27	9	57	92
Wheat	2	37	46	13	2	66	65
Oats	0	11	24	30	35	36	55
Range & Pasture	5	30	35	20	10	--	--

1/ The formula for the condition index is $I = (5V + 25P + 60F + 90G + 110E)/100$ where
 I=crop condition Index and V, P, F, G, E = percentage of crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good, excellent.

Top Soil Moisture by District – October 5, 2008 *

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	10	3	3	6	11	23	2	10	19	29	29	0	19	20	30
Short	44	30	28	44	47	44	43	39	34	46	49	44	62	46	3
Adequate	46	63	57	50	42	33	54	50	46	25	20	53	19	32	47
Surplus	0	4	12	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	3	0	2	20

* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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 AgriLife Extension Service

Texas Department of Agriculture

National Weather Service

