



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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**For the week of:** February 15 – 21, 2010

**Agricultural Summary:** The Cross Timbers, Blacklands, Northern Low Plains and South Texas only received 0.01 to 0.25 inch of rainfall and the Lower Valley observed up to 1.5 inches but the majority of the State had no precipitation. Rains in the Northern Low Plains last week have re-saturated wheat fields and pasture. Also, mud presented a problem for some operators. However, the wheat crop was responding well from the recent supplemental moisture and is in good shape in the Southern Low Plains. In South Central Texas and the Cross Timbers, the excessive rainfalls have prevented the planting of corn which is expected to begin when field conditions improve over the next few weeks. Extremely wet conditions continued to hamper the planting of grain sorghum in the Coastal Bend. In the Trans-Pecos, pecan harvest neared completion. Recent rains have produced a flush of cool-season vegetation green up in the Edwards Plateau. A dry week prompted the start of cabbage and spinach harvest in parts of South Texas. In the Northern High Plains, supplemental feeding of livestock continued to be very active due to snowpack with anticipated hay shortages. Across the rest of the state, livestock was in mostly fair to good condition with little reported supplemental feeding due to the warmer weather. Crop and rangeland were very wet because of the excessive moisture and field crop activities were still limited in the Blacklands. The warmer temperatures and excellent soil moistures provided good growing conditions as the spring planting season approaches. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate to surplus across the state.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Rains in the Northern Low Plains last week have re-saturated wheat fields and pasture. Also, mud presented a problem for some operators. However, the wheat crop was responding well from the recent supplemental moisture and is in good shape in the Southern Low Plains. In the Northern High Plains, there was minimal field crop activity due to recent rains, delaying the planting of spring oats.

**Corn:** In South Central Texas and the Cross Timbers, the excessive rainfalls have prevented the planting of corn which is expected to begin when field conditions improve over the next few weeks.

**Sorghum:** Extremely wet conditions continued to hamper the planting of grain sorghum in the Coastal Bend.

### Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Recent rains have produced a flush of cool-season vegetation green up in the Edwards Plateau. A dry week prompted the start of cabbage and spinach harvest in parts of South Texas.

**Pecans:** In the Trans-Pecos, pecan harvest neared completion.

### Livestock, Range and Pasture Report

In the Northern High Plains, supplemental feeding of livestock continued to be very active due to snowpack with anticipated hay shortages. Across the rest of the State, livestock was in mostly fair to good condition with little reported supplemental feeding due to the warmer weather. Crop and rangeland were very wet because of the excessive moisture and field crop activities were still limited in the Blacklands. The warmer temperatures and excellent soil moistures provided good growing conditions as the spring planting season approaches. Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good.

**Crop Progress Table – February 21, 2010 \***

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2010	2009	Average 2005 – 2009
Corn	Planted	1	1	0
Sorghum	Planted	1	1	1
Pecans	Harvested	100	100	100

\* Visit our web site to view the crop progress regional maps, available the following working day of this release at [www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Texas/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/maps/index.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Texas/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/maps/index.htm).

**Crop Condition Table – February 21, 2010**

Crop	Percent					Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2010	2009
Range & Pasture	4	23	36	24	13	-	-

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 – February 21, 2010

Condition	Percent of Acreage, by District <sup>1/</sup>														
	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
Very Short	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	18	3	0	0	1	0	0
Short	22	10	11	12	7	0	2	1	43	17	0	3	3	12	7
Adequate	61	73	67	65	66	21	43	63	39	62	31	21	38	81	93
Surplus	16	15	22	21	27	79	55	35	0	18	69	76	58	7	0

1/ 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.

### Precipitation Table – February 21, 2010 <sup>1/</sup>

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions <sup>2/</sup>	Inches of Accumulation				Percent
	Previous Week (Feb 15 – 21)	Month-to-Date (Feb 1 – 21)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Feb 21)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months of Normal (Nov - Jan)
High Plains	0.02	1.52	2.81	19.64	121
Low Rolling Plains	0.17	1.80	2.73	24.51	76
North Central Texas	0.16	2.00	4.90	35.23	77
East Texas	0.05	3.08	5.33	48.08	60
Trans-Pecos	0.00	0.66	1.72	13.19	103
Edwards Plateau	0.00	1.69	3.92	24.73	113
South Central Texas	0.27	3.04	6.04	36.21	129
Upper Coast	0.11	3.57	6.73	50.31	94
South Texas	0.18	2.07	4.02	24.08	156
Lower Valley	1.12	3.47	4.19	25.43	170

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/ufcshare/precip\\_analysis\\_new.php](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ufcshare/precip_analysis_new.php) and [www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html)

#### Cooperating Agencies:

Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
 Texas Department of Agriculture  
 National Weather Service

