



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](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

**Issue:** TX–CW0910

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**For the week of:** February 22 – 28, 2010

**Agricultural Summary:** The Central and Eastern part of the State received up to 1.5 inches of rainfall while the rest of the State received little to no rainfall. Winter wheat has continued to improve due to recent moisture levels and is nearing the jointing stage in the Southern High Plains. In the Cross Timbers, wheat pastures responded positively to the extra precipitation, but are still too wet to put fertilizer on. In the Southern Low Plains, operators expect the oat crop to flourish with the abundance of moisture and warmer days. The Blacklands received recent snow and rainfall, delaying corn planting. Producers in South Central Texas reported that extremely wet field conditions have put them behind schedule. A recent hard freeze this past week delayed some early planting of sorghum in South Texas, with producers hoping to begin mid-week. Vegetables were progressing well in the Lower Valley but some replanting had to be done due to seed problems in heavily saturated soils. Livestock conditions were deteriorating due to the cold, wet weather in the Northern High Plains with hay supplies getting shorter. Muddy pastures in some feeding areas were contributing to foot rot problems in beef cattle in the Cross Timbers. Soil temperatures across the state remain unseasonably cool for this time of year. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate to surplus across the state.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Winter wheat has continued to improve due to recent moisture levels and is nearing the jointing stage in the Southern High Plains. In the Cross Timbers, wheat pastures responded positively to the extra precipitation, but are still too wet to put fertilizer on. Wheat condition was mostly fair to good statewide. In the Southern Low Plains, operators expect the oat crop to flourish with the abundance of moisture and warmer days. Oat condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

**Corn:** The Blacklands received recent snow and rainfall, delaying corn planting. Producers in South Central Texas reported that extreme wet field conditions have put them behind schedule.

**Sorghum:** A recent hard freeze this past week delayed some early planting of sorghum in South Texas, with producers hoping to begin mid-week. Planting has also been delayed in the Coastal Bend because of the wet conditions.

### Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Vegetables were progressing well in the Lower Valley but some replanting had to be done due to seed problems in heavily saturated soils. Sugarcane harvest was halted because of unfavorable field conditions. However, cabbage and spinach harvest was very active in South Texas.

### Livestock, Range and Pasture Report

Livestock conditions were deteriorating due to the cold, wet weather in the Northern High Plains with hay supplies getting shorter. Muddy pastures in some feeding areas were contributing to foot rot problems in beef cattle in the Cross Timbers. Sheep and goats are lambing and kidding in the Edwards Plateau with supplemental feeding on most operations. A blanket of snow covered the area early in the week, increasing soil moisture in the Northern Plains. Soil temperatures across the state remain unseasonably cool for this time of year. Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good.

**Crop Progress Table – February 28, 2010 \***

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2010	2009	Average 2005 – 2009
Corn	Planted	3	9	5
Sorghum	Planted	2	3	3

\* 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 28, 2010**

Crop	Percent					Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2010	2009
Wheat	7	39	36	13	5	68	34
Oats	10	33	32	11	14	63	18
Range & Pasture	4	24	39	24	9	-	-

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 28, 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	3	0	0	1	0	0
Short	16	6	5	0	0	0	0	2	41	11	0	2	3	11	7
Adequate	61	70	60	54	42	18	37	54	44	61	45	39	42	83	93
Surplus	22	24	35	46	58	82	63	44	0	25	55	59	54	6	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 28, 2010 <sup>1/</sup>

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions <sup>2/</sup>	Inches of Accumulation				Percent
	Previous Week (Feb 22 – 28)	Month-to-Date (Feb 1 – 28)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Feb 28)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months of Normal (Nov - Jan)
High Plains	0.33	1.85	3.14	19.64	121
Low Rolling Plains	0.56	2.36	3.29	24.51	76
North Central Texas	0.52	2.52	5.42	35.23	77
East Texas	0.69	3.77	6.02	48.08	60
Trans-Pecos	0.14	0.80	1.86	13.19	103
Edwards Plateau	0.43	2.12	4.35	24.73	113
South Central Texas	0.53	3.57	6.57	36.21	129
Upper Coast	0.42	3.99	7.15	50.31	94
South Texas	0.13	2.20	4.15	24.08	156
Lower Valley	0.06	3.53	4.25	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/rfcshare/precip\\_analysis\\_new.php](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/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

