



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: March 15 - 21, 2010

Agricultural Summary: The majority of the state received 0.01 to 2.0 inches of rainfall with minimal precipitation in the Trans-Pecos. Winter wheat in the High and Low Plains continued to improve with the warm, wet conditions and has started growing rapidly. Oat fields were maturing well across most of the State with signs of growth and development. Producers in the Blacklands were applying fertilizer and fungicide applications. Producers in the Upper Coast were able to get some corn planted with the warmer, dry days but some fields remained too wet for plantings. Field preparations and sorghum planting will resume with drier conditions in the Edwards Plateau. Producers were waiting for soil conditions to dry in the Southern High Plains before they finish preparing land for cotton. Warmer temperatures this past week allowed for garden soil preparation and onion sets were out in the Northern Low Plains with fruit trees blooming in the Cross Timbers. Supplemental feeding of livestock is low with cattle grazing on winter forage and new spring forage re-growth around the state. Varying extreme warm and cold temperatures the past week in North and South East Texas was putting stress on the livestock. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate to surplus across the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Winter wheat in the High and Low Plains continued to improve with the warm, wet conditions and has started growing rapidly. The wheat crop has begun to head out in some fields in South Central Texas. Wheat condition was mostly fair to good statewide. Oat fields were maturing well across most of the State with signs of growth and development. Producers in the Blacklands were applying fertilizer and fungicide applications. Fields progressed well with the fair weather experienced last week in South Texas. Oat condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Corn: In the Northern High Plains, there was a great deal of field activity early in the week but snowfall towards the end slightly delayed corn planting. Producers in the Upper Coast were able to get some corn planted with the warmer, dry days but some fields remained too wet for plantings.

Sorghum: Field preparations and sorghum planting will resume with drier conditions in the Edwards Plateau. However in the Coastal Bend, planting continued with some emergence being slowed due to the cool nights.

Cotton: Producers were waiting for soil conditions to dry in the Southern High Plains before they finish preparing land for cotton. In the Trans-Pecos, land preparation was mostly finished with some acreage furrowed and pre-irrigated.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Warmer temperatures this past week allowed for garden soil preparation and onion sets were out in the Northern Low Plains with fruit trees blooming in the Cross Timbers. Cabbage and spinach harvest continued in South Texas.

Livestock, Range and Pasture Report

Supplemental feeding of livestock is low with cattle grazing on winter forage and new spring forage re-growth around the state. Varying extreme warm and cold temperatures the past week in North and South East Texas was putting stress on the livestock. Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good.

Crop Progress Table – March 21, 2010 *

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2010	2009	Average 2005 – 2009
Corn	Planted	38	42	41
Cotton	Planted	3	1	4
Rice	Planted	10	8	12
Sorghum	Planted	24	24	29
Soybeans	Planted	1	2	4
Winter Wheat	Headed	3	6	4
Oats	Headed	3	10	7

* 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.

Crop Condition Table – March 21, 2010

Crop	Percent					Index ^{1/}	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2010	2009
Wheat	10	43	33	10	4	72	38
Oats	13	39	23	11	14	67	25
Range & Pasture	5	29	39	19	8	-	-

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 – March 21, 2010

Condition	Percent of Acreage, by District ^{1/}														
	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	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	0	0	0	1	1	0
Short	14	13	9	0	0	0	0	4	48	16	0	3	3	15	10
Adequate	79	71	74	64	74	43	73	67	27	73	61	67	81	83	90
Surplus	4	16	17	36	26	57	27	28	0	11	39	30	15	1	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 – March 21, 2010 ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions ^{2/}	Inches of Accumulation				Percent
	Previous Week (March 15 – 21)	Month-to-Date (March 1 – 21)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Mar 21)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months of Normal (Dec, Jan, Feb)
High Plains	0.61	1.01	4.15	19.64	200
Low Rolling Plains	0.72	1.09	4.38	24.51	146
North Central Texas	0.96	2.09	7.51	35.23	102
East Texas	0.64	2.08	8.10	48.08	83
Trans-Pecos	0.10	0.14	2.00	13.19	137
Edwards Plateau	0.83	1.08	5.43	24.73	150
South Central Texas	0.84	0.99	7.56	36.21	141
Upper Coast	0.82	1.43	8.58	50.31	114
South Texas	0.57	0.60	4.75	24.08	166
Lower Valley	0.35	0.35	4.60	25.43	201

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

Cooperating Agencies:

Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Texas Department of Agriculture
National Weather Service

