



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 August 23 – 29, 2010

Agricultural Summary: Most areas of the state observed 0.01 to 1.0 inch of rainfall while the Low Plains observed little to no rainfall. In the Northern High Plains, wheat seeding continued along with field preparation and compost applications. In the Cross Timbers, army worms were a major issue in irrigated cotton fields and grasshoppers were still causing some problems. Conditions remained extremely hot and dry in South Central Texas, allowing harvest to progress. In the Northern High Plains, irrigated fields of grain sorghum were maturing. Sorghum continued to be harvested in the Northern Low Plains, and was almost complete in South Texas. High aflatoxin levels were becoming more prevalent in corn fields due to the lack of moisture in the Blacklands. The hot, dry weather continued in the Blacklands with soybean harvest well underway. Rice harvest is nearing completion along the Upper Coast. Extreme heat and dry conditions continued in the Edwards Plateau, with peanuts progressing under constant irrigation. Commercial vegetable production has slowed because of the dry weather in North East Texas and some planting of fall vegetables continue. Hay harvest was slowing due to dry conditions around the state. Livestock is in good condition with ranges producing excellent forage throughout the growing season. Spring calving operations were nearing the weaning stage. Topsoil moisture was mostly short to adequate across the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: In the Northern High Plains, wheat seeding continued along with field preparation and compost applications. Wheat and oat growers in the Southern Low Plains are using available moisture to spray weeds and prepare fields for fall seeding.

Cotton: Spider mites coupled with the lack of rainfall were negatively affecting cotton in the Southern High Plains. In the Cross Timbers, army worms were a major issue in irrigated cotton fields and grasshoppers were still causing some problems. Conditions remained extremely hot and dry in South Central Texas, allowing harvest to progress. Cotton condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Corn: High aflatoxin levels were becoming more prevalent in corn fields due to the lack of moisture in the Blacklands. Cooler temperatures have helped corn conditions in the Northern High Plains. Producers have slowed irrigation there but expect to begin again within the coming week. Statewide, corn condition was mostly good to excellent.

Sorghum: In the Northern High Plains, irrigated fields of grain sorghum were maturing. Sorghum continued to be harvested in the Northern Low Plains, and was almost complete in South Texas. Sorghum condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Rice: Rice harvest is nearing completion along the Upper Coast. Statewide, rice condition was mostly fair to good.

Soybeans: Cooler temperatures in the Northern High Plains aided soybean progress. The hot, dry weather continued in the Blacklands with soybean harvest well underway. Statewide, soybean condition was mostly fair to good.

Peanuts: Dryland peanuts were wilting due to a lack of moisture in the Northern Low Plains. Extreme heat and dry conditions continued in the Edwards Plateau, with peanuts progressing under constant irrigation. In South Texas, peanuts were pegging and progressing well. Statewide, peanut condition was mostly good to excellent.

Sunflowers: Sunflowers seemed to respond well with the cooler, dry weather in the Southern High Plains. In the Blacklands, some sunflower producers had fields with significant damage due to head moth.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Commercial vegetable production has slowed because of the dry weather in North East Texas and some planting of fall vegetables continue. Hay harvest was slowing due to dry conditions around the state. Most producers have discontinued cuttings because of the low moisture in the fields.

Pecans: There were some pecans in the Blacklands that were experiencing disease. However, producers in the area expect a good crop overall. Extremely dry conditions continued in South Texas, putting irrigation water requirements on pecans.

Livestock, Range and Pasture Report

Livestock is in good condition with ranges producing excellent forage throughout the growing season. Spring calving operations were nearing the weaning stage. Deer counts have been increasing in the Edwards Plateau and bird hunters were getting feeders full. Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good.

Crop Progress Table – August 29, 2010 *

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2010	2009	Average 2005 – 2009
Corn	Dough	88	98	98
	Dent	71	83	89
	Mature	57	70	68
	Harvested	37	66	59
Cotton	Squaring	100	99	99
	Setting Bolls	94	88	91
	Bolls Opening	15	20	20
	Harvested	6	11	11
Rice	Headed	95	97	99
	Harvested	78	65	75
Sorghum	Headed	94	94	91
	Coloring	74	71	69
	Mature	55	64	61
	Harvested	42	61	58
Soybeans	Setting Pods	100	97	73
	Dropping Leaves	69	50	34
	Harvested	21	29	30
Sunflowers	Harvested	22	7	11

* 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/.

Crop Condition Table – August 29, 2010

Crop	Percent					Index ^{1/}	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2010	2009
Corn	23	52	16	6	3	83	54
Cotton	18	46	28	6	2	80	60
Peanuts	25	64	10	1	0	91	86
Rice	10	50	28	7	5	75	64
Sorghum	10	50	28	7	5	75	49
Soybeans	16	37	32	13	2	73	50
Range & Pasture	5	27	41	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 – August 29, 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	8	6	13	6	15	39	38	37	33	17	5	12	8	20	0
Short	34	62	54	55	73	54	46	53	44	45	55	55	40	47	50
Adequate	56	32	33	39	12	7	16	10	23	34	38	31	50	33	50
Surplus	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2	2	0	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 – August 29, 2010 ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions ^{2/}	Inches of Accumulation				Percent
	Previous Week (Aug 23 – 29)	Month-to-Date (Aug 1 - 29)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Aug 29)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months of Normal (May - July)
High Plains	0.21	1.82	17.18	19.64	105
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	1.02	20.00	24.51	119
North Central Texas	0.12	0.75	20.26	35.23	82
East Texas	0.11	0.74	19.85	48.08	74
Trans-Pecos	1.15	1.67	10.16	13.19	120
Edwards Plateau	0.39	0.82	16.78	24.73	94
South Central Texas	0.11	0.27	20.31	36.21	95
Upper Coast	0.33	1.21	29.42	50.31	128
South Texas	0.27	0.54	18.01	24.08	116
Lower Valley	0.07	0.15	21.41	25.43	197

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/rfcs/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

