



# Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

Texas Field Office · Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767 · 800-842-1331 · [www.nass.usda.gov/tx](http://www.nass.usda.gov/tx)

*Issue: TX-CW3610, September 7, 2010*

*For the week of August 30 – September 5, 2010*

**Agricultural Summary:** Most areas of the state observed 0.01 to 1.5 inches of rainfall while South Central, South Texas, and the Lower Valley experienced 2.0 to 5.0 inches of rainfall. Parts of the Northern High Plains observed little to no rainfall. Wheat seeding continued and emergence was just beginning in the Northern High Plains, however most wheat fields to be planted were dry and farmers were waiting for more moisture. Cotton was progressing well with the warm days and good heat unit accumulation in the Northern High Plains. Cotton progress was continuing in most areas of the Southern High Plains where they received rain, as some bolls were opening. In the Northern High Plains, grain sorghum was starting to color with the late plantings progressing well. Sorghum plants experienced severe leaf damage due to hail that fell in parts of the Southern High Plains. Corn irrigation remains active in some areas but has ceased in parts of the Northern High Plains, and corn silage harvest has begun. Aflatoxin continued to be the primary concern for corn farmers with high humidity and light rains, making it difficult to complete harvesting in the Blacklands. Soybean irrigation has slowed in the Northern High Plains. Rice harvest is nearing completion along the Upper Coast. Peanuts continue to progress in the Southern High Plains, as well as the Northern Low Plains. Small amount of rainfall occurred last week in North East Texas, slowing hay production with concerns of short supplies for winter feedings. Livestock was in good condition across the state. Early weaning has begun on cattle. There were reports of several head of cattle dying from eating Perilla Mint in North East Texas. Topsoil moisture was mostly short to adequate across the state.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Wheat seeding continued and emergence was just beginning in the Northern High Plains, however most wheat fields to be planted were dry and farmers were waiting for more moisture. Land was being prepared for winter wheat seeding in the Northern Low Plains. Wheat producers have started preparing to sew wheat for early grazing in the Southern Low Plains.

**Cotton:** Cotton was progressing well with the warm days and good heat unit accumulation in the Northern High Plains. Cotton progress was continuing in most areas of the Southern High Plains where they received rain, as some bolls were opening. In the Northern Low Plains, the cotton crop received some hail damage. Cotton harvest was beginning in the Blacklands, and well underway in South East Texas, South Central Texas, and the Upper Coast. Cotton condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

**Corn:** Corn irrigation remains active in some areas but has ceased in parts of the Northern High Plains, and corn silage harvest has begun. Aflatoxin continued to be the primary concern for corn farmers with high humidity and light rains, making it difficult to complete harvesting in the Blacklands. Corn harvest was near completion in Central, South Central, South East, and South Texas. Statewide, corn condition was mostly good to excellent.

**Sorghum:** In the Northern High Plains, grain sorghum was starting to color with the late plantings progressing well. Sorghum plants experienced severe leaf damage due to hail that fell in parts of the Southern High Plains. Sorghum harvest was progressing in the Northern Low Plains, and nearing completion in the Cross Timbers, and Blacklands. Sorghum condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

**Rice:** Rice harvest is nearing completion along the Upper Coast. Untimely rains and heat has affected many fields. Statewide, rice condition was mostly fair to good.

**Soybeans:** Soybean irrigation has slowed in the Northern High Plains. Soybean harvest has begun in the Blacklands. Statewide, soybean condition was mostly fair to good.

**Peanuts:** Peanuts continue to progress in the Southern High Plains, as well as the Northern Low Plains. Peanut crop continues to develop in South Texas. Statewide, peanut condition was mostly good to excellent.

**Sunflowers:** Sunflowers continue to develop and progress well in the Southern High Plains.

### **Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**

Small amount of rainfall occurred last week in North East Texas, slowing hay production with concerns of short supplies for winter feedings. Due to a replant of watermelons that were damaged earlier this year in the Trans-Pecos, harvest will extend into next month. Land preparation began this week for fall crops such as cabbage, onions, and spinach in South Texas.

**Pecans:** Pecans have been dropping due to heat stress, scab, and black spot in the Blacklands. Pecans were developing and appear to be drought stressed in North East Texas and the Edwards Plateau. The crop looks short and in the beginning of the gel stage in the Trans-Pecos.

### **Livestock, Range and Pasture Report**

Livestock was in good condition across the state. Early weaning has begun on cattle. There were reports of several head of cattle dying from eating Perilla Mint in North East Texas. Rangeland continued to respond to the moisture and livestock were benefitting from the increased vegetation in the Trans-Pecos. Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good.

**Crop Progress Table – September 5, 2010 \***

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2010	2009	Average 2005 – 2009
Corn	Dough	94	99	99
	Dent	83	90	94
	Mature	58	71	72
	Harvested	44	67	63
Cotton	Setting Bolls	96	90	95
	Bolls Opening	23	22	24
	Harvested	9	12	13
Rice	Headed	100	100	100
	Harvested	97	84	87
Sorghum	Headed	96	96	95
	Coloring	80	72	73
	Mature	56	65	65
	Harvested	44	63	62
Soybeans	Dropping Leaves	77	55	50
	Harvested	40	34	42
Sunflowers	Harvested	38	8	18
Wheat	Planted	3	3	5

\* 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/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Texas/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/maps/).

**Crop Condition Table – September 5, 2010**

Crop	Percent					Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2010	2009
Corn	17	54	15	7	7	78	54
Cotton	18	47	27	6	2	80	60
Peanuts	25	65	9	1	0	92	87
Rice	12	48	36	3	1	79	64
Sorghum	8	52	28	8	4	75	49
Soybeans	10	39	35	13	3	71	61
Range & Pasture	3	28	39	21	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 – September 5, 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	13	4	12	6	12	29	31	32	20	20	9	0	3	13	0
Short	48	60	39	30	59	33	49	46	54	39	42	23	33	52	10
Adequate	36	35	48	55	29	36	20	22	26	38	49	52	62	35	90
Surplus	3	1	1	9	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	25	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 – September 5, 2010 <sup>1/</sup>**

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions <sup>2/</sup>	Inches of Accumulation				Percent
	Previous Week (Aug 30 – Sep 5)	Month-to-Date (Aug 1 – 31)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Sep 5)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months of Normal (May - July)
High Plains	0.11	1.88	17.29	19.64	105
Low Rolling Plains	0.78	1.24	20.78	24.51	119
North Central Texas	1.15	0.83	21.41	35.23	82
East Texas	1.32	1.26	21.17	48.08	74
Trans-Pecos	0.33	1.86	10.49	13.19	120
Edwards Plateau	0.54	0.82	17.32	24.73	94
South Central Texas	1.17	0.52	21.48	36.21	95
Upper Coast	1.39	1.80	30.81	50.31	128
South Texas	1.32	0.58	19.33	24.08	116
Lower Valley	1.31	0.31	22.72	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/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

