

Texas Crop Weather



Released: January 13, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)
 For the week of January 6 - 12, 2003
 TX-CW0203

1-800-626-3142
 www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - January 12, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Cotton			
Harvested	96	97	99
Peanuts			
Harvested	100	100	100
Sorghum			
Harvested	100	100	100
Wheat			
Planted	100	100	100
Emerged	98	97	96
Other field crops			
Planted			
Oats	100	100	98
Harvested			
Pecans	91	87	87

Crop Condition Table - January 12, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	21	42	27	8	2
Range & Pasture	6	30	35	21	8

Agricultural Summary: Drier conditions dominated the first half of the week. Temperatures were generally warmer than normal until a cold front pushed south in the latter half of the week. Freezing temperatures reached as far down as Central Texas. Rainfall totals varied from one-half inch to one inch in Central and Southeast areas. Isolated regions received a little over 2 inches of rain, and one area reported pea-size to tennis ball sized hail. Soil moisture in the Trans-Pecos remained short as the effects of long term drought lingered. East and Southeast regions experienced a surplus of soil moisture, while the rest of the state enjoyed adequate soil conditions for this time of year. Field work resumed in most areas the first half of the week, but quickly shut down as the cold front moved through. Producers in the Southeast continued to contend with saturated pastures and needed four-wheel drive vehicles to tend their cattle. Harvest of remaining summer crops was mostly complete in the Panhandle. Cultivation and fertilization increased in the Rio Grande Valley, South Central and Upper Coast regions. The rainfall received should help the growth of late planted small grains. Livestock were grazing on winter wheat. Supplemental feeding was still necessary across the state. Greenbugs were showing up in some small grains.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Small grain growth was aided by warm weather, but was slowed by cold weather that moved in. Moisture was welcomed in many areas, but poorly drained soils in Central and Southeast areas experienced some damage. In many areas where livestock were grazing small grains, further

damage occurred because fields were wet and muddy. Where field conditions allowed, fertilizer top dressing was beginning in a few locations. In the Trans-Pecos and western portions of the Edwards Plateau, little or no moisture was received, and drought stress was beginning to appear. Green bug and plant disease problems were reported as well as damage from Sand Hill cranes. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 79 percent of normal compared with 54 percent last year.

Corn: Plowing and fertilization was active in the Rio Grande Valley, Central and Southeast locations when conditions allowed.

Cotton: Harvest was virtually complete in most locations except for isolated areas in the Low Plains. There were still modules sitting in fields and gins were busy processing cotton. Most field work consisted of shredding stalks and chiseling. Producers in the Rio Grande Valley were busy with land preparations.

Sorghum: Harvest was complete in most areas. Land preparation was active in the drier locations.

Peanuts: Harvest is basically done. Fields that were too wet the past few weeks dried up and were harvested.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, peppers, onions, cabbage, and green beans were making good progress. Harvest of greens, cabbage and peppers was gaining momentum. Citrus and sugarcane harvest was progressing well. Soil moisture remained plentiful in all locations.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, cabbage harvest resumed after wet weather the previous week. Spinach harvest for fresh market and processing continued. Irrigated carrots and onions made good progress.

In the **High Plains** land preparation moved ahead as conditions warranted.

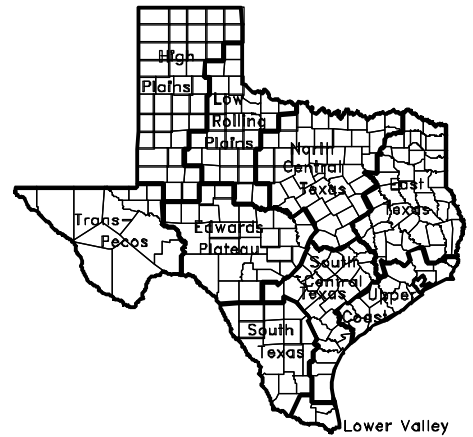
Pecans: Harvest was just about done in all areas. A few producers were going back over the orchards to see if they could get a few more nuts. This season's crop was generally reported as favorable.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Most range and pasture areas received additional moisture during the week. In Central and Southeastern locations, winter grazing fields were severely damaged by trampling in very muddy conditions. In other areas, especially in the Trans-Pecos, range and pastures were suffering from drought conditions. Supplemental feeding was active in almost all areas of the state; heaviest where winter forage was in poor shape. Cattle body condition was good in most areas where decent winter grazing was available. Calving was active in some locations. Sickness in livestock herds continued with the rapidly changing weather conditions. Limited hay baling occurred in a few locations of South Texas.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Jan 6 - 12) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Jan 1 - 12) Accumulation	Total 2002 Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Oct - Dec) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.06	0.06	16.17	18.87	190
Low Rolling Plains	0.11	0.11	19.19	23.78	144
North Central Texas	0.30	0.34	26.79	34.00	96
East Texas	0.31	0.31	30.66	45.69	81
Trans Pecos	0.11	0.11	9.31	12.96	131
Edwards Plateau	0.24	0.24	16.85	24.01	116
South Central Texas	1.05	1.05	22.44	34.48	106
Upper Coast	1.31	1.31	32.32	47.63	112
South Texas	0.62	0.62	17.14	23.49	88
Lower Valley	0.57	0.57	18.33	25.34	124



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District * - January 12, 2003

Amount	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
Percent of Acreage															
Very Short	17	20	9	12	7	1	-	-	70	41	-	-	-	9	-
Short	12	32	18	25	21	6	9	3	30	33	3	-	1	31	33
Adequate	68	39	69	61	62	74	70	84	-	26	71	93	45	56	34
Surplus	3	9	4	2	10	19	21	13	-	-	26	7	54	4	33

* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Plains: 3, 4; East Texas: 5-N, 5-S. Trans-Pecos: 6; Edwards Plateau: 7; South Central Texas: 8-N, 8-S; Supper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

Cooperating Agencies: Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service.