

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: January 21, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)  
 For the week of January 13 - 19, 2003  
 TX-CW0303

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

**Crop Progress Table - January 19, 2003**

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
<b>Cotton</b>			
Harvested . . . . .	98	99	100
<b>Wheat</b>			
Emerged . . . . .	99	99	97
<b>Other field crops Harvested</b>			
Pecans . . . . .	95	92	92

**Crop Condition Table - January 19, 2003**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat . . . . .	21	45	26	6	2
Range & Pasture	5	28	37	21	9

**Agricultural Summary:** Conditions throughout the week were rapidly changing as weather ranged from wet, warm, and windy to dry and very cold. Once the rainy and foggy conditions ended, temperatures moderated briefly during mid-week but dropped again when an Arctic Blast brought the coldest air this winter. Temperatures dipped into the teens in the Northern Panhandle and as low as the twenties as far down as Central Texas. Freezing temperatures were recorded in some parts of South Texas and were in thirties along the Rio Grande Valley. Windy conditions were common in many parts of the state. Wind assisted in some drying of wet fields and pastures. Soil moisture levels were adequate in many areas, but some areas of Central and Southeast were still contending with very wet fields and pastures. The Trans-Pecos and parts of the Edwards Plateau region continued to be short on moisture. Field work was active where soil conditions allowed and where producers were able to brave the bitterly cold weather. Only a small percentage of remaining summer crops still needed to be harvested in the high and lower Plains. Cultivation and fertilization continued in the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend. Very wet field conditions in North Central, East and Upper Coast regions brought most field work to a halt. Producers in many locations were falling behind in fertilizing and preparing ground for the 2003 season. Cold temperatures slowed the growth of small grains. Livestock were grazing on winter wheat and pastures. Supplemental feeding was very active across the state. Greenbugs were showing up in some small grain fields as were ticks on livestock. Freezing temperatures were expected to reduce the populations of these pests.

**Field Crops Report**

**Small Grains:** Small grains were progressing favorably despite the wide swing in weather. Most of the state wheat crop was rated in good condition, but some dryland acreage was in need of new moisture. Where field conditions allowed, produc-

ers were attempting to fertilize. 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 some disease problems were reported. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 81 percent of normal compared with 54 percent last year.

**Corn:** Plowing and fertilization was active in the Rio Grande Valley and some South Texas locations. Wet fields kept many producers in North and Central Texas from making any progress.

**Cotton:** Harvest was virtually complete in most locations except for isolated areas in the Low Plains. More gins were closing down for the season, but many were still ginning 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 areas where conditions allowed.

**Peanuts:** Harvest is basically done. Land preparation and field work was active where conditions allowed.

**Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, most vegetables were progressing well as moisture levels remained favorable. Harvest of greens, cabbage and peppers was on-going. Citrus and sugarcane harvest was progressing well. Producers were preparing ground for spring planting. Nurseries were planting for spring transplants.

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. Extremely cold temperatures were expected to kill some insects in spinach and carrots.

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

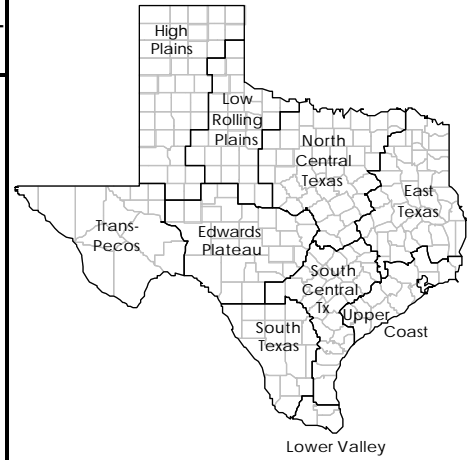
**Pecans:** Harvest is virtually complete and was nearing completion in all remaining areas.

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report**

Most range and pastures were in fair to good condition. In Central and Southeastern locations, grazing fields were extremely wet and were being 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. Spring calving was beginning to increase. Ticks were on the increase before the cold front arrived. Sickness in livestock herds continued due to the rapidly changing weather conditions.

**Weather Information Table <sup>1</sup>**

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Jan 13 - 19) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Jan 1 - 19) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - 19) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Oct - Dec) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.06	0.06	18.87	190
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.11	0.11	23.78	144
North Central Texas	0.00	0.34	0.34	34.00	96
East Texas	0.01	0.32	0.32	45.69	81
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.11	0.11	12.96	131
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.24	0.24	24.01	116
South Central Texas	0.03	1.08	1.08	34.48	106
Upper Coast	0.00	1.31	1.31	47.63	112
South Texas	0.00	0.62	0.62	23.49	88
Lower Valley	0.00	0.57	0.57	25.34	124



<sup>1</sup> Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

**Top Soil Moisture by District\* - January 19, 2003**

Condition	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	9	24	4	21	10	2	0	0	55	26	0	0	0	6	0
Short	20	33	43	15	12	8	5	3	45	29	1	0	0	22	7
Adequate	68	43	53	63	62	64	76	75	0	42	51	76	20	68	60
Surplus	3	0	0	1	16	26	19	22	0	3	48	24	80	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.**