

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: January 27, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)  
 For the week of January 20 - 26, 2003  
 TX-CW0403

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

**Crop Progress Table - January 26, 2003**

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
<b>Cotton</b>			
Harvested . . . . .	100	100	100
<b>Wheat</b>			
Emerged . . . . .	100	100	98
<b>Other field crops Harvested</b>			
Pecans . . . . .	98	96	96

**Crop Condition Table - January 26, 2003**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat . . . . .	19	46	25	7	3
Range & Pasture	4	27	36	22	11

**Agricultural Summary:** Temperatures ranged from unseasonably warm in early week to extremely cold by week's end. Record breaking highs were recorded in some areas during the week followed by widespread freezes and some light precipitation along the Gulf Coast and central areas over the weekend. Temperatures dipped into the teens in the Plains and as low as the twenties as far down as Central Texas. Freezing temperatures were also recorded as far as South Texas. Windy conditions were persistent in many parts of the state which continued to assist in drying-out wet fields and pastures. Soil moisture levels were still adequate in many areas, but winds were depleting moisture levels in northern areas. Some areas of Central and Southeast were still contending with wet fields and pastures. In the Western part of the state, moisture levels were very short. Fieldwork was active where soil conditions allowed and where producers were able to brave the bitterly cold weather. Harvest of summer crops was virtually complete with only a few scattered fields remained unharvested. Cultivation and fertilization continued in localities where conditions allowed. Cold temperatures slowed the growth of small grains. Livestock were grazing on winter wheat and pastures. Supplemental feeding was very active across the state and increased where conditions deteriorated. Greenbugs were present in some small grain fields as were ticks and lice on livestock. Freezing temperatures slowed the treatment of some these pests.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Small grains were still holding on with the ever-changing weather. Much of the state's wheat crop was rated in good condition, but was mostly dormant due to the cold. Dryland acreage was in need of new moisture. Where field conditions allowed, producers were attempting to fertilize. Greenbug and some disease problems were reported. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 79 percent of normal compared with 51 percent last year.

**Corn:** Plowing and fertilization was active where conditions allowed. 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 some were still ginning cotton. Most field work consisted of shredding stalks and chiseling. Producers, in areas where weather allowed, 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. Some spring melons have been planted.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, spinach harvest continued to be very active as the processing facilities were extremely busy keeping up with the demand. Cabbage harvest was active and progressed as the weather allowed. Irrigated carrots and onions made good progress. Irrigation of winter vegetables was increasing.

In **Trans Pecos Region** fall onions were breaking winter dormancy. Pecan harvested was active, but winding down. Some pre-irrigation was taking place.

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

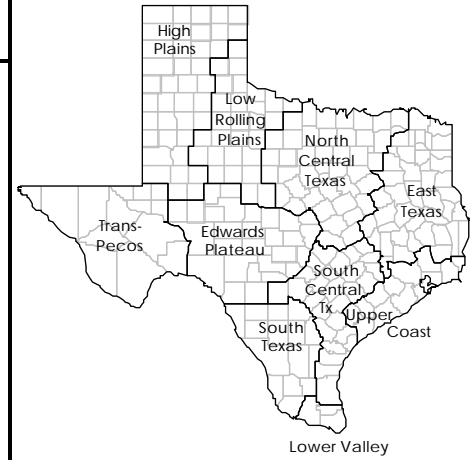
**Pecans:** Harvest is virtually complete and was nearing completion in all remaining areas.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Most range and pastures were in fair to good condition. In some Central and Southeastern locations, grazing fields were still wet but improved with breezy conditions. In other areas, especially in the Western part of the state, 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 and where weather conditions were extreme. Cattle body condition was good in most areas where decent winter grazing was available. Spring calving was underway in many Areas. Sickness in livestock herds continued due to the rapidly changing weather conditions. Freezing temperatures resulted in additional heating costs to poultry operations.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week ( Jan 20 - 26 ) Accumulation	Month-to-date ( Jan 1 - 26 ) Accumulation	Year-to-date ( Jan 1 - 26 ) 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	0.38	0.49	0.49	23.78	144
North Central Texas	0.09	0.43	0.43	34.00	96
East Texas	0.59	0.91	0.91	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	0.28	1.36	1.36	34.48	106
Upper Coast	0.18	1.49	1.49	47.63	112
South Texas	0.10	0.72	0.72	23.49	88
Lower Valley	0.10	0.67	0.67	25.34	124



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

**Top Soil Moisture by District\* - January 26, 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	10	24	11	20	10	3	1	0	58	29	0	0	0	5	0
Short	14	32	23	41	36	15	18	6	35	33	1	0	0	31	10
Adequate	75	41	66	38	51	61	65	88	7	37	77	80	27	61	65
Surplus	1	3	0	1	3	21	16	6	0	1	22	20	73	3	25

\* 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.**