

Texas Crop Weather



Released: February 10, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)
 For the week of February 3 - 9, 2003
 TX-CW0603

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

Crop Progress Table - February 9, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
<i>Percent</i>			
Other field crops Harvested			
Pecans	100	100	99

Crop Condition Table - February 9, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<i>Percent</i>					
Wheat	12	45	31	10	2
Range & Pasture	3	25	37	23	12

Agricultural Summary: Wide swings in weather conditions were seen throughout the state. Unseasonably warm temperatures early in the week promoted growth of small grains and other winter forages. However, by mid week cooler and wetter conditions dominated most areas. Winter storms brought snow, ice, rain, and strong winds to many locations. Snow showers made it across the Plains, North Texas, portions of East Texas and the Edwards Plateau. Prior to the mid-week storms, soil moisture levels were becoming short but improved in many areas, especially in parts of the Edwards Plateau, North, East and South Texas. Some areas of Central and Southeast Texas were still struggling with wet fields and pastures. In areas of the Plains, the lack of significant precipitation was becoming a concern. Earlier in the week, fieldwork was active in many areas as producers were plowing and fertilizing, but most activities came to a halt with the inclement weather. Planting of pine seedlings continued in East Texas. Livestock were grazing on winter wheat and pastures. Supplemental feeding was still very active across the state; hay supplies were in good shape. Greenbugs, aphids and wireworms were reported on some small grain fields and treatments continued for controlling these pests. Other issues or events on producers minds included: contamination concerns from Space Shuttle debris in East Texas, Farm Bill issues, marketing of livestock, and attending workshops and seminars.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: In early week, mild temperature were beneficial in areas where moisture levels were adequate. Later in the week, moisture in the form of rain, sleet, snow and ice brought much needed relief to some areas that had been very dry. Irrigation continued on much of the irrigated acreage. Some producers were able to apply nitrogen top-dressing. Aphids, greenbugs and other pest problems were reported. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 75 percent of normal compared with 51 percent last year.

Corn: Plowing and fertilization were active early in the week, but were put on hold toward the end of the week due to poor weather conditions. Corn planting was beginning in the Lower Valley and was expected to start in two to three weeks in other southern areas. Drying out will be needed in most areas before farming

activities can resume.

Cotton: Producers were busy with land preparations where weather and soil conditions allowed. Some cotton was planted in the Rio Grande Valley.

Sorghum: Land preparation was active early in the week in areas where conditions allowed. However, toward the end of the week preparation was put on hold in most areas as soil conditions were too wet.

Peanuts: Land preparation and field work were active where conditions allowed.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, most vegetables were progressing well. Harvest of greens, cabbage and peppers was on-going. Harvest of sugar cane and citrus continued. The onion crop looked to be progressing favorably. Producers were preparing ground for spring planting. Reports indicated good soil moisture for planting.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, spinach and cabbage harvest were active as conditions allowed. Irrigated carrots and onions were making good progress. Cold condition affected some winter vegetables.

In **East Texas** land preparations were taking place for early spring vegetable planting. It will be a few more weeks before other fruits and vegetables are to be planted. Some fruit trees were beginning to swell. Some peach producers were watching the condition of their trees, for possible late freeze damage.

In the **High Plains** land preparation were active during early week, but were stalled later as rain, snow and ice fell.

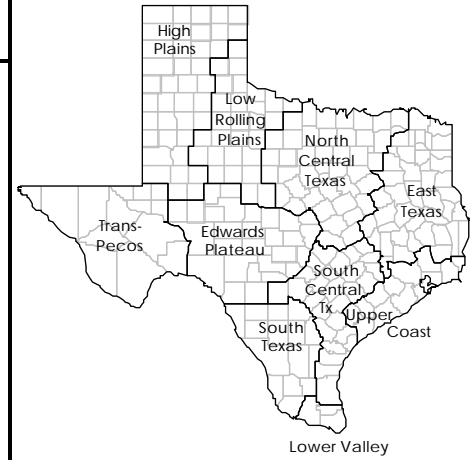
Pecans: Harvest was nearing completion in all remaining areas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Forage conditions continue to vary across the state. Rainfall was needed in many areas. In some areas spring grasses were emerging. In some Central and Southeastern locations, pastures remain wet and muddy. In other areas, especially in the Western part of the state, range and pastures received some relief, but were still in need of additional moisture. Supplemental feeding increased a great deal due to the excessive cold weather in almost all areas of the state. Cattle grazing was at a stand still in some areas, due to the cold weather. Livestock continued to fare well despite the cold windy conditions. Spring calving and lambing was underway in many areas. Cattlemen were busy checking cows that were calving and tending to their needs. Sickness in livestock herds continued due to rapidly changing weather conditions. Some ranchers were starting to brand. Producers were reporting that livestock were consuming more hay during the last few weeks. Cold temperatures caused poultry growers to use large amounts of fuel to maintain warm temperatures.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Feb 3 - 9) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Feb 1 - 9) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Feb 9) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Nov - Jan) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.04	0.04	0.10	18.87	78
Low Rolling Plains	0.05	0.05	0.54	23.78	101
North Central Texas	0.35	0.35	0.78	34.00	74
East Texas	0.92	0.92	1.90	45.69	46
Trans Pecos	0.06	0.06	0.17	12.96	59
Edwards Plateau	0.13	0.13	0.37	24.01	51
South Central Texas	0.53	0.53	1.91	34.48	84
Upper Coast	0.75	0.97	2.73	47.63	68
South Texas	0.57	0.57	1.31	23.49	91
Lower Valley	0.45	0.45	1.12	25.34	93



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District* - February 9, 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	15	28	25	34	7	5	2	0	59	32	0	0	0	1	0
Short	45	38	37	50	50	14	18	2	39	33	1	0	0	8	8
Adequate	39	34	38	16	43	61	67	64	2	35	59	84	10	73	67
Surplus	1	0	0	0	0	20	13	34	0	0	40	16	90	18	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.**