

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: February 18, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)  
 For the week of February 10 - 16, 2003  
 TX-CW0703

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

**Crop Progress Table - February 16, 2003**

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
<b>Corn</b>			
Planted . . . . .	1	0	2

**Crop Condition Table - February 16, 2003**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat . . . . .	11	46	30	10	3
Range & Pasture	3	23	37	25	3

**Agricultural Summary:** Dry, warm and windy conditions were present during the first part of the week over most areas of the state. However, by mid week, light scattered showers and overcast skies covered most of the Plains, Central, Eastern and Southern locations. A few isolated storms were heavy. Soil moisture levels improved or remained adequate in areas where precipitation was received. More rainfall was needed in areas of the Plains to sustain growth of small grains and for summer row crops, but producers were still optimistic about the upcoming growing season. In Coastal areas, some ranchers were pleased with the improved water table level, however many producers remained unable to get into their wet and soggy fields. Every passing storm has made it more difficult to finish land preparations for this year's row crops. Warm temperatures during the week promoted growth of small grains and other winter forages. Some insects were reported on small grain fields and treatments continued for controlling these pests. Other fieldwork during the week consisted of planting, harvesting of vegetables, plowing, shredding stalks, chiseling, and applying fertilizers. Livestock were grazing on winter wheat and pastures. Supplemental feeding was still very active across the state. Hay supplies were rated fair to good shape. Herd reduction continued in some areas as hay stocks were decreasing. In the Rio Grande Valley, vegetables continued to make progress.

**Field Crops Report**

**Small Grains:** Mild temperatures were beneficial in areas where moisture levels were adequate, allowing for increased growth of small grain. The lack of soil moisture in the Plains was still a problem. In some areas, fields remained wet and in need of sunshine. Some producers were able to apply nitrogen top-dressing. Insect and other pest problems were reported. State-wide wheat condition was rated at 74 percent of normal compared with 49 percent last year.

**Corn:** Planting and land preparation continued in areas of the Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Valley. Emergence of recently planted acreage began in the Valley. Wet conditions continued

to delay planting in southern locations. More 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 early planting continued in the Rio Grande Valley.

**Sorghum:** Land preparation was active in areas where conditions allowed. Limited planting had begun in parts of the Valley.

**Peanuts:** Land preparation and field work were active where conditions allowed in peanut growing areas of the state.

**Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, most vegetables were progressing well with the mild conditions. Harvest of greens, cabbage, sugarcane and citrus continued. Spring melon planting has started. Producers were preparing ground for spring planting. Reports indicated good soil moisture for spring planting.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, spinach and cabbage harvest were active as conditions allowed. Irrigated carrots and onions were making good progress. Harvest of carrots was beginning in a few fields. Some insect pressure was occurring on spinach.

In **Trans Pecos Region** mild temperatures and light showers assisted in the growth of the onion crop. Pecan producers were finished harvesting and were pruning trees. Vineyards were busy pruning vines.

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 will be planted. The pruning of fruit trees continues. Dormant sprays were applied to fruit trees. The planting of cool season onions and potatoes continued.

In the **High Plains** land preparation was active during the week.

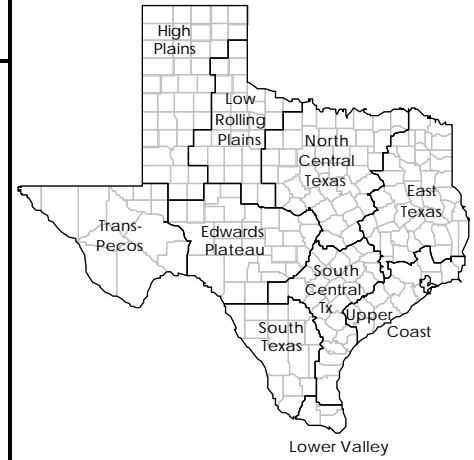
**Pecans:** General maintenance continued in orchards across the state.

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report**

Grazing conditions improved slightly due to warmer temperature. Rainfall was needed in many areas. In some areas, spring grasses were turning green and emerging. In some central and southeastern locations, pastures remained wet and muddy. Farmers were feeding hay and supplement until pastures dry out and green up. Supplemental feeding of cattle was heavy in the Plains, East Texas and West Texas, however light rain brought some relief. More moisture was still needed in some Western locations. Spring calving and lambing was underway in many areas. Cattlemen were busy checking cows that were calving and tending to their needs. Deer and wildlife appear to be in good condition.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Feb 10 - 16) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Feb 1 - 16) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Feb 16) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Nov - Jan) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.01	0.05	0.11	18.87	78
Low Rolling Plains	0.01	0.06	0.55	23.78	101
North Central Texas	0.24	0.59	1.02	34.00	74
East Texas	0.49	1.41	2.39	45.69	46
Trans Pecos	0.08	0.14	0.25	12.96	59
Edwards Plateau	0.18	0.31	0.55	24.01	51
South Central Texas	0.44	0.97	2.35	34.48	84
Upper Coast	0.88	1.85	3.61	47.63	68
South Texas	0.41	0.98	1.72	23.49	91
Lower Valley	0.05	0.50	1.17	25.34	93



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

**Top Soil Moisture by District\* - February 16, 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	22	22	7	25	1	3	0	0	65	17	0	0	0	3	0
Short	42	37	50	58	29	8	6	1	31	38	0	0	0	22	10
Adequate	35	41	43	17	68	56	78	77	4	41	51	60	9	62	65
Surplus	1	0	0	0	2	33	16	22	0	4	49	40	91	13	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; Upper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

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