

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: March 31, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)  
 For the week of March 24 - 30, 2003  
 TX-CW1303

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

**Crop Progress Table - March 30, 2003**

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
<i>Percent</i>			
<b>Corn</b>			
Planted . . . . .	42	50	42
Emerged . . . . .	20	37	31
<b>Cotton</b>			
Planted . . . . .	6	8	8
<b>Rice</b>			
Planted . . . . .	37	42	28
<b>Sorghum</b>			
Planted . . . . .	29	34	31
<b>Wheat</b>			
Headed . . . . .	3	6	6
<b>Other Field Crops Planted</b>			
Soybeans . . . . .	6	8	8
Sunflowers . . . . .	1	0	0

**Crop Condition Table - March 30, 2003**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<i>Percent</i>					
Wheat . . . . .	6	37	36	15	6
Range & Pasture . .	8	27	36	19	10

**Agricultural Summary:** Weather conditions fluctuated drastically during the week. The week began with warm, wet and windy conditions. By mid-week, some parts of the Plains and the Trans-Pecos saw snow flurries, while other areas experience light rainfall. Heavy rains, hail and thunderstorms were reported in Central and East Texas. By late week, cooler temperatures were seen in many areas, dropping into the twenties in some areas of the state. The week's precipitation helped small grains and reduced the amount of pre-irrigation water producers will need for row crops. More rain was needed in the Plains to fill the soil profile. In areas where conditions remained mostly dry, small grains continued to be stressed from a lack of moisture. Planting of spring crops continued at a moderate rate where soil moisture and temperatures were adequate. The high cost of fuels remains a concern. Wind problems delayed application of fertilizers and herbicides in some areas. Green bugs continued to be a problem in some areas. In East Texas, fire ants and Texas leaf ants were very active. Peach and pecan trees were blooming. Warm temperatures and plenty of sunlight allowed pasture and range conditions to improve. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued to be necessary in some areas. In some areas where rains have fallen many stock tanks were now full.

**Field Crops Report**

**Small Grains:** Condition of small grains varied throughout the state. Small grains continue to benefit in areas where rain and snow fell. Cold temperatures, along with high winds, caused some stress in many areas, especially drier locations. Some producers in the Plains have delayed irrigating wheat because of high fuel prices. In South Texas, small grains continued to develop with some leaf rust reported. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 66 percent of normal compared with 43 percent

last year.

**Corn:** Planting and land preparations moved ahead in drier locations, activities were slowed in the wettest areas. Early planted fields were emerging with good stands. Corn planting was nearly complete in most southern areas, but remained active in the North and Central Texas. Some growers were switching to sorghum because of the late date.

**Cotton:** Land preparations continued in drier locations. Some producers were finishing up herbicides applications. Planting conditions were enhanced by recent rains. In the Coastal Bend some cotton may have to be replanted due to heavy rains during the week. In the High Plains, pre-irrigation of cotton fields continued.

**Sorghum:** Land preparations continued in drier locations, but remained slow in areas where rains fell. Planting continued in parts of the Valley, South and Central Texas. Earlier planted fields continued to emerge and benefitted from good moisture levels.

**Peanuts:** Land preparations and field work were active where conditions allowed. Preparations were interrupted by rain and high winds in a few areas.

**Rice:** Planting progressed, but wet ground caused delays for some growers.

**Soybeans:** Planting made some progress. Groundwork continued to be slow in the Upper Coast, where conditions remained wet.

**Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, producers continued to harvest sugarcane, citrus, greens, carrots, and cabbage. Preparations continued for spring onion harvest. Melon crops were progressing. Some operations delayed harvest due to wet fields.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, recent rainfall has been beneficial. Seed bed preparations had begun for planting watermelons. Harvest of carrots and onions continued slowly.

In **Trans Pecos Region**, pecan trees and grape vines made good progress in budding and leafing. The onion crop continued to progress.

In **East Texas**, planting of cool season vegetables continued, and fruit trees were blooming. Blueberries were starting to bloom. Land preparation and planting of watermelons continued where conditions allowed.

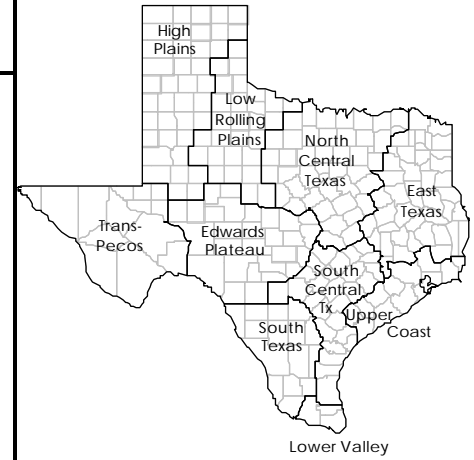
**Peaches & Pecan:** Early and mid-season orchards were blooming in many areas. Some orchards were affected by hail during the week.

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report**

Weather condition were hard on livestock as a sudden drop in temperatures and additional precipitation were experienced. Additional supplemental feeding was required in varied location across the state. On the Plains, high winds and rain fell early in the week. In other areas of the state, warm, drier weather made a welcome appearance. Range and pasture conditions improved due to rainfall and warmer temperatures. Spring grasses continued turning green and emerging in more locations. Lice were a major problem for cattle herds in some areas. Spring calving, lambing, and kidding continued in many locations.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Mar 24 -30) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Mar 30) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months ( Dec - Feb ) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.13	0.50	0.80	18.87	76
Low Rolling Plains	0.17	0.45	1.52	23.78	109
North Central Texas	0.09	0.89	3.78	34.00	100
East Texas	0.28	1.83	5.82	45.69	62
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.29	1.30	12.96	118
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.87	2.46	24.01	78
South Central Texas	0.33	1.29	4.25	34.48	92
Upper Coast	0.65	2.06	6.58	47.63	84
South Texas	0.69	2.00	4.14	23.49	91
Lower Valley	0.21	1.07	2.44	25.34	48



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

### Top Soil Moisture by District\* - March 30, 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	24	28	34	24	6	0	0	0	57	17	0	0	0	1	0
Short	54	48	58	56	29	1	0	0	36	24	3	0	0	19	0
Adequate	22	24	8	20	62	74	62	69	7	57	68	34	48	54	98
Surplus	0	0	0	0	3	25	38	31	0	2	29	66	52	26	2

\* 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.**