

Texas Crop Weather



Released: April 14, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of April 7 - 13, 2003
 TX-CW1503

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

Crop Progress Table - April 13, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	63	59	52
Emerged	48	53	45
Cotton			
Planted	15	13	12
Peanuts			
Planted	1	0	1
Rice			
Planted	60	82	63
Emerged	29	56	39
Sorghum			
Planted	41	43	40
Wheat			
Headed	13	13	18
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	30	27	25
Sunflowers	16	1	1

Crop Condition Table - April 13, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	14	57	27	2	0
Rice	15	68	15	2	0
Wheat	5	32	38	18	7
Range & Pasture	8	30	33	20	9

Agricultural Summary: Weather conditions varied greatly across the state. The Panhandle received trace amounts of rain in some areas, while most of the rest of the state recorded no rainfall. A cold front mid-week dropped temperatures down into the 20's and 30's. North Central and East Texas experienced hail storms and at least one tornado. There was locally severe damage to crops from the hail and a few cattle deaths. Freezing temperatures effected late boot and heading wheat as well as emerging summer crops. The extent of the damage remained to be seen. Rain in East and Southeast regions ranged from 1 to 2 inches, but some locations received up to 5 inches. The Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau areas received little or no rain and experienced freeze damage on some crops. The Rio Grande Valley had a major storm blow through at mid-week. A super cell, spurred on by a stalled cold front, started at Falcon Reservoir and moved east along the Rio Grande, spanning about a mile on each side on the river. Before moving out to the Gulf, it caused severe damage to some onions, cotton, melons, citrus and sorghum with baseball sized hail, 60 mph winds and torrential downpours. Soil moisture continued to decline in the Panhandle and Low Plains, and many producers were pre-watering spring crop acreage. More rain is needed in the Panhandle to fill the soil profile. Small grains continued to be stressed from a lack of moisture. Planting of spring crops continued at a rapid pace. Lice and flies were a problem for cattle in some areas. Supplemental feeding of livestock was decreasing in most regions.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Lack of moisture was becoming critical in some dryland wheat. Fields were in need of rain to make a grain crop. Cold temperatures caused damage to maturing wheat from the Panhandle through Central Texas. The severity of frost damage remained to be seen. There was hail damage in North Central areas. Russian Wheat Aphids and Brown Wheat Mites appeared in some fields. Wheat was booting and heading out in Central and some North Central locations. Irrigated wheat producers continue to contend with high fuel prices. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 62 percent of normal compared with 44 percent last year.

Corn: Pre-watering of corn fields continued in the Panhandle and some planting began. Planting was completed in Central Texas and the Upper Coast. Earlier planted fields were emerging with good stands. Some locations in Central and North Central Texas suffered freeze damage. Some fields in North Central locations received hail damage.

Cotton: Land preparations continued in the Panhandle as producers pre-watered and applied herbicides. Planting was completed in the Rio Grande Valley and was finishing up on the Coastal Bend. Cotton was severely damaged by a storm in the Valley. Planting began in Central Texas and the Upper Coast.

Sorghum: Land preparations continued in the Panhandle. Planting started in Central and North Central Texas. Some fields suffered freeze damage. Planting was nearly complete on the Coastal Bend. Some sorghum fields in the Rio Grande Valley received storm damage.

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

Rice: Planting progressed as conditions improved. There were some delays as rain fell in Eastern areas. Earlier planted fields began to emerge.

Soybeans: Land preparation and pre-watering continued in the Panhandle. Planting continued in the Upper Coast and East Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, producers continued harvesting spring onions. Some field of watermelons, cantaloupes, and onions were severely damaged or destroyed by a storm. Sugarcane, cabbage, carrots, greens, and citrus harvest continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden Region**, producers were assessing freeze damage to watermelons and cantaloupes from the previous week's cold front. Carrot, onion, and cabbage harvest continued.

In **Trans Pecos Region**, pecan trees were budding out. Fall onions were beginning to bulb. Wine grapes were in full leaf and growing rapidly. High winds depleted soil moisture.

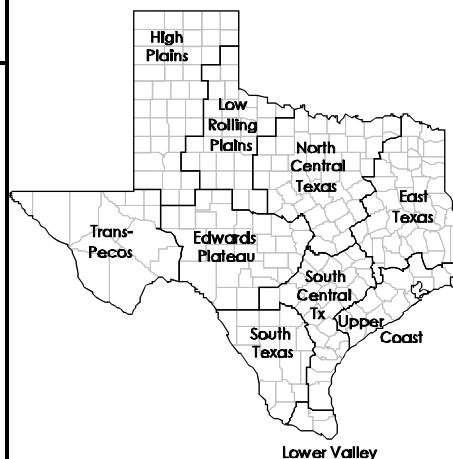
In **East Texas**, producers monitored fruit trees and vegetables burnt back by frost. Spring vegetable planting continued but was delayed by cold weather. Damage to blueberries and peaches crops were being evaluated. Some transplanted watermelons were lost to the freeze.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Cattle were grazing out wheat pasture in the Panhandle. Range and pasture conditions continued to decline in the area as no significant moisture fell. Additional supplemental feeding was required in locations where dry native grasses were the only grazing. In Eastern areas of the state, supplemental feeding was winding down as spring grasses emerged. Spring roundup was beginning as calves were marked, branded, and vaccinated. Lice and flies were a problem in many areas. Green pastures were available in Central, South, and East Texas, but moisture was decreasing in some locations.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Apr 7 - 13) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Apr 1 - 13) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 13) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.01	0.01	0.81	18.87	37
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.09	1.61	23.78	47
North Central Texas	0.00	0.28	4.06	34.00	57
East Texas	0.00	0.37	6.19	45.69	55
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.00	1.30	12.96	111
Edwards Plateau	0.10	0.10	2.56	24.01	69
South Central Texas	0.11	0.15	4.40	34.48	69
Upper Coast	0.43	0.46	7.04	47.63	74
South Texas	0.22	0.22	4.36	23.49	131
Lower Valley	1.03	1.03	3.47	25.34	68



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District* - April 13, 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	37	40	39	40	11	2	0	0	57	24	2	0	0	3	0
Short	50	41	55	51	43	28	5	11	33	54	26	0	22	25	7
Adequate	13	19	6	9	46	62	81	74	7	22	65	86	58	66	69
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	8	14	15	3	0	7	14	20	6	24

* 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.

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID AT
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Texas Crop Weather (USPS 396-770) is published weekly by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, 300 E. 8th St., Austin, TX 78701, (512) 916-5581.
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID at Austin, TX.
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Texas Crop Weather, P.O. Box 70, Austin, TX 78767.

AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE
P.O. BOX 70
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

T
E
X
A
S