

Texas Crop Weather



Released: April 21, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of April 14 - 20, 2003
 TX-CW1603

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

Crop Progress Table - April 20, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	68	65	59
Emerged	59	57	50
Cotton			
Planted	18	16	14
Peanuts			
Planted	2	1	2
Rice			
Planted	65	89	74
Emerged	44	73	54
Sorghum			
Planted	45	45	42
Wheat			
Headed	24	19	29
Other Field Crops Planted			
Soybeans	39	38	36
Sunflowers	18	7	3

Crop Condition Table - April 20, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	5	60	30	5	0
Rice	16	67	17	0	0
Sorghum	11	52	35	2	0
Wheat	5	25	39	20	11
Range & Pasture ...	5	30	36	19	10

Agricultural Summary: Hot and windy was the norm across most of the state during the week. In the High Plains and the Rolling Plains, damaging winds as high as 80mph were reported along with some tornado sightings. While many areas of the state received scattered rain showers, the wind and heat dried out fields enough that there was little benefit from the rains. Some field work in the Panhandle area was suspended to help reduce wind erosion. Windy conditions contributed to decline of soil moisture across the state. Many producers were pre-watering spring crop acreage. Small grains continued to be stressed from a lack of moisture. Planting of spring crops continued at a steady pace. In areas of Central Texas, Yellow Sugarcane Aphids were causing damage to some sorghum and haygrazer fields. In East Texas, cold temperatures from previous weeks have damaged commercial tomato production and slowed growth of grasses. In West Texas spring round-up was under way along with breeding and foaling of horses. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued to decrease in most regions.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Lack of moisture was becoming critical in most dryland wheat. Fields were in need of rain to make a grain crop, and some producers were deciding to bale or graze out fields rather than wait for rain. Damage from the freeze during the previous week was still being assessed. Some fields in Edwards Plateau were detected with infestations of Hessian

Flies. Wheat was booting and heading out in Central, some North Central and Panhandle locations. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 57 percent of normal compared with 46 percent last year.

Corn: Planting of corn fields was underway in the Panhandle. Planting was complete in Central Texas and the Upper Coast. Areas of South Central Texas indicate that plant growth was behind normal for this time of year due to late planting caused by heavy rains in February. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 79 percent of normal compared with 67 percent last year.

Cotton: Land preparations continued in the Panhandle as producers pre-watered and applied herbicides. Planting activities were underway in the Upper Coast, North Central and Central Texas. Good moisture levels in the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend were benefitting the cotton acreage. Moisture shortages were common in Central, Northern, and Western areas. Areas of South Texas noticed some insects in early cotton.

Sorghum: Land preparations continued in the Panhandle. Planting was active in Central and North Central Texas. Planting was nearly complete on the Coastal Bend and the Upper Coast. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 80 percent of normal compared with 58 percent last year.

Peanuts: Planting was underway in some areas of the High Plains. In other areas, land preparations and field work continued. Preparations were interrupted by high winds in a few areas.

Rice: Planting progressed as conditions improved. There were some delays as rain fell in Eastern areas. Earlier planted fields had emerged and were progressing well. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 88 percent of normal.

Soybeans: Land preparation and pre-watering continued in the Panhandle. Planting continued in the Upper Coast and East Texas. Central Texas anticipates planting to begin next week.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, melons not damaged by the hail storm were showing signs of wind damage. Sugarcane and onion harvest continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden** region, planting of watermelons and cantaloupes had been completed. Onions and Pecans made good progress. Carrot and cabbage harvest continued.

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

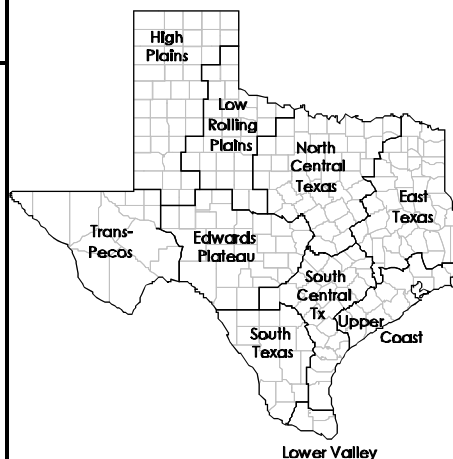
In **East Texas**, producers monitored fruit trees and vegetables burnt back by frost. Spring vegetable planting continued. Dry weather has slowed growth of vegetable crops. Cold weather in previous weeks damaged commercial tomato production and watermelons.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Cattle were grazing out wheat pasture in the Plains. 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 and southern areas of the state, supplemental feeding was winding down as spring grasses emerged. Spring roundup was active as calves were marked, branded, and vaccinated. 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 14 - 20) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Apr 1 - 20) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 20) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.26	0.27	1.07	18.87	37
Low Rolling Plains	0.44	0.53	2.05	23.78	47
North Central Texas	0.14	0.42	4.20	34.00	57
East Texas	0.44	0.81	6.63	45.69	55
Trans Pecos	0.04	0.04	1.34	12.96	111
Edwards Plateau	0.08	0.18	2.64	24.01	69
South Central Texas	0.09	0.24	4.49	34.48	69
Upper Coast	0.22	0.68	7.26	47.63	74
South Texas	0.09	0.31	4.45	23.49	131
Lower Valley	0.00	1.03	3.47	25.34	68



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District* - April 20, 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	40	36	38	34	21	10	12	2	66	33	7	0	0	4	0
Short	48	53	55	63	42	50	38	40	34	53	54	7	19	42	17
Adequate	12	11	7	3	37	39	47	57	0	14	38	84	74	52	77
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	1	9	7	2	6

* 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.

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