

Texas Crop Weather



Released: April 28, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of April 21 - 27, 2003
 TX-CW1703

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

Crop Progress Table - April 27, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	73	74	71
Emerged	63	64	58
Cotton			
Planted	20	18	17
Peanuts			
Planted	3	2	3
Rice			
Planted	86	94	86
Emerged	67	83	70
Sorghum			
Planted	48	46	45
Wheat			
Headed	40	34	44
Other Field Crops Planted			
Soybeans	52	49	48
Sunflowers	20	14	13

Crop Condition Table - April 27, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	8	57	25	7	3
Rice	30	56	13	1	0
Sorghum	7	66	22	3	2
Wheat	4	24	38	22	12
Range & Pasture . . .	6	29	36	18	11

Agricultural Summary: Scattered light showers and storms were common across northern, central and some southern locations during the week. However, hot, windy conditions combined with already depleted topsoil moisture minimized improvement in most areas as a result of these rains. Isolated areas reported heavier rainfall, high winds and some hail. Storms in some areas caused damage, but damage was not widespread. In most areas of the State, especially the Plains region, moisture shortages were prevalent for many producers. Small grains continued to develop and mature under less than ideal conditions. Many producers were baling and grazing off wheat fields rather than hope for future rains. Pre-irrigating activities for cotton and sorghum fields continued as planting time grew closer in northern areas. In southern regions of the state, planting activities were winding down and cultivation activities were underway. Few insect problems were reported during the week. Army worms were reported in some wheat fields in North Central Texas. Some areas of East Texas had problems with flies on livestock. The upper coast reported aphids in some sorghum fields. Pasture conditions varied across the state from poor in many areas of the Plains and West Texas to near excellent in South Texas and along the Gulf Coast. Livestock continued to be in good condition in all areas of the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Scattered showers across the state were of very little help to most wheat fields. Most dryland wheat continued to show signs of stress from heat and wind. Irrigated wheat was doing fairly well. Due to the dry and windy conditions, wheat was developing and maturing rapidly in many areas. More producers were baling or grazing-out fields rather than waiting for rain. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 55 percent of normal compared with 47 percent last year.

Corn: Planting of corn fields was underway in the Panhandle. Planting was complete in most central and southern areas. Most of the planted acreage was progressing well, but was in need of rainfall. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 77 percent of normal compared with 71 percent last year.

Cotton: Land preparations continued in the High Plains and Rolling Plains as producers pre-watered and applied herbicides. Limited planting had started, but most planting was expected to begin in the next week or two. 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 continued to be a concern in many other areas.

Sorghum: Land preparations continued in the Panhandle. Planting was active in Central and North Central Texas. Planting was nearly complete in southern and central areas. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 81 percent of normal compared with 57 percent last year.

Peanuts: Planting was underway in some areas of the High Plains. Land preparations and field work continued in other areas.

Rice: Planting and emergence made progress during the week. Earlier planted fields had emerged and were progressing well. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 91 percent of normal compared to 83 percent last year.

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

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, citrus harvest was winding down. Harvest of sugarcane, carrots, cabbage and onions continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden** region, onions were approaching maturity and harvest was expected to begin within the next two weeks. Carrot and cabbage harvest continued. Some watermelon fields were having problems with whiteflies.

In **Trans-Pecos** region, pecan trees were mostly out of dormancy. Onions were progressing well. Conditions were windy and dry.

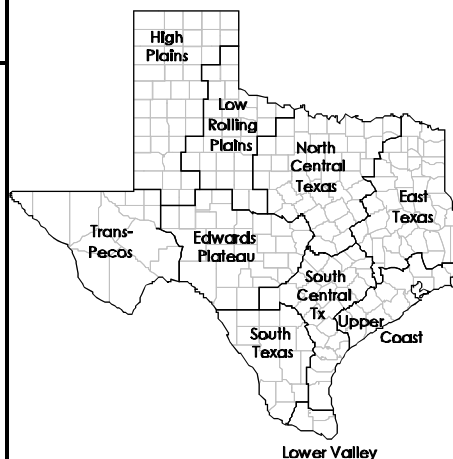
In **East Texas**, spring vegetable and watermelon planting continued. Previously planted watermelons made good progress with warmer weather.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Cattle were grazing out wheat pasture in the Plains. Range and pasture conditions continued to decline in West Texas, High Plains, Rolling Plains, and parts of North Central Texas. 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. Green pastures were available in Central, South, and East Texas, but moisture was decreasing in some locations. Ranchers were busy moving, marketing, and working livestock.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Apr 21 - 27) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Apr 1 - 27) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 27) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.25	0.52	1.32	18.87	37
Low Rolling Plains	0.52	1.05	2.57	23.78	47
North Central Texas	0.44	0.86	4.64	34.00	57
East Texas	0.33	1.14	6.96	45.69	55
Trans Pecos	0.01	0.05	1.35	12.96	111
Edwards Plateau	0.09	0.27	2.73	24.01	69
South Central Texas	0.07	0.31	4.56	34.48	69
Upper Coast	0.08	0.76	7.34	47.63	74
South Texas	0.00	0.31	4.45	23.49	131
Lower Valley	0.04	1.07	3.51	25.34	68



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District* - April 27, 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	47	37	28	38	17	19	2	0	74	36	4	0	5	7	0
Short	37	46	45	53	51	39	29	29	17	52	55	22	38	41	10
Adequate	16	17	27	9	32	37	63	61	7	12	40	69	54	47	90
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	10	2	0	1	9	3	5	0

* 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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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.

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