

Texas Crop Weather



Released: May 5, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of April 28 - May 4, 2003
 TX-CW1803

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

Crop Progress Table - May 4, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	83	84	81
Emerged	69	71	65
Silked	0	1	4
Cotton			
Planted	24	21	21
Squaring	0	2	2
Peanuts			
Planted	7	9	13
Rice			
Planted	93	98	94
Emerged	80	89	83
Sorghum			
Planted	49	49	48
Headed	0	2	2
Wheat			
Headed	72	54	62
Harvested	1	0	1
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	63	58	59
Sunflowers	24	33	25

Crop Condition Table - May 4, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	9	53	26	7	5
Rice	12	69	16	3	0
Sorghum	7	60	26	5	2
Wheat	3	19	37	24	17
Range & Pasture . . .	5	25	35	22	13

Agricultural Summary: Hot, windy and dry conditions dominated most areas of the state, with the exception of afternoon thunderstorms and showers in parts of the Low Plains, Cross Timbers and North Central Texas. Isolated areas reported heavy rainfall and hail. Small tornadoes were reported across the Plains, with some minor damage reported. Rain was also received in parts of South Texas. In most areas of the State, soil moisture continued to be depleted as constant dry winds blew for most of the week. Planting of spring crops continued where conditions allowed, but some producers were waiting for rain before planting. Small grains continued to develop and mature under less than ideal conditions. Planting activities were increasing for cotton and sorghum in northern areas. In the southern regions of the state, planting activities continued to wind down and cultivation activities were underway. Insect and disease problems were reported in some areas during the week. Many producers continued to bale wheat for hay or remove cattle as forage supplies decreased. Pasture conditions varied across the state, ranging from poor in western areas to good in southern areas. Livestock continued to be in good condition in most areas of the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Growth and development of small grains continued in areas where rains had fallen. In drier areas, yield potential was decreasing with the lack of moisture. Baling of small grains and cutting wheat for silage continued to be active in many areas. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 49 percent of normal compared with 45 percent last year.

Corn: Planting of corn was very active on the Plains and was mostly complete in other areas. Most of the planted acreage was progressing well, but was in need of rainfall. Producers were side dressing corn with fertilizer and cultivating for weeds. Despite good corn stands, moisture will be critical within the next weeks. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 75 percent of normal compared with 70 percent last year.

Cotton: Planting activity was beginning in more areas of the Plains and still was making progress in central areas. Producers continued to pre-water and apply herbicides. Some light insect problems were reported in the Coastal Bend area. Moisture shortages continued to be a concern in most areas.

Sorghum: Land preparations continued in the Plains and Central Texas. Planting was active in Central and North Central Texas. Some dryland locations were too dry, and planting will be on hold until rain is received. Planting was nearly complete in southern and central areas. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 79 percent of normal compared with 57 percent last year.

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

Rice: Planting and emergence made progress during the week. Growth and development were considered mostly normal in earlier planted fields. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 86 percent of normal compared to 88 percent last year.

Soybeans: Land preparation and pre-watering remained active where possible. Planting continued in some locations. Planting in some dryland locations will be slow until moisture is received.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley** harvest of carrots, cabbage, potatoes and onions continued. Some whitefly spraying of watermelons and cantaloupe was reported.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden** area planting continued but was winding down for some vegetable crops. Onions were approaching maturity and harvest was expected to begin within the next week. Green beans were blooming. Carrot and cabbage harvest continued. Some watermelon fields were having problems with whiteflies.

In **Trans-Pecos** region, pecan orchards required heavy irrigation. Applications of zinc were in progress in a few locations. Onions were progressing well. Conditions were windy and dry.

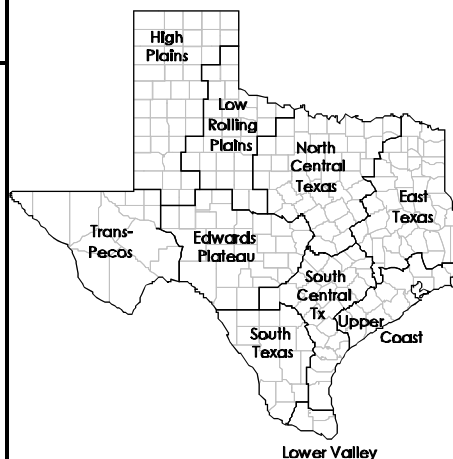
In **East Texas**, spring vegetable and watermelon planting continued. Watermelons continue to make good progress with warmer weather. Some melons were showing signs of wind damage. Strawberry harvest was about complete. Vegetables and fruits were making fair to good growth with only light insects and disease pressure.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pasture conditions showed improvement in some areas that received additional rainfall. However, high winds and warm temperatures slowed recovery in other areas. Livestock conditions remained good in most areas. Supplemental feeding was necessary for livestock in some areas. Flies and lice continued to cause problems. Livestock coming off of small grain pastures were showing fair to good weight gains. Ranchers were busy moving, marketing, and working livestock.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Apr 28 - May 4) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Apr 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - May 4) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Feb - Apr) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.08	0.60	1.40	18.87	49
Low Rolling Plains	0.23	1.26	2.80	23.78	53
North Central Texas	0.65	1.16	5.29	34.00	56
East Texas	0.21	1.16	7.17	45.69	53
Trans Pecos	0.03	0.07	1.38	12.96	98
Edwards Plateau	0.06	0.28	2.79	24.01	55
South Central Texas	0.01	0.32	4.57	34.48	49
Upper Coast	0.03	0.79	7.37	47.63	67
South Texas	0.19	0.50	4.64	23.49	101
Lower Valley	0.06	1.13	3.57	25.34	85



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District* - May 4, 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	54	40	31	42	30	21	5	2	81	47	4	0	9	11	0
Short	35	52	46	47	37	42	50	35	12	45	63	29	60	46	10
Adequate	11	8	23	8	33	35	44	55	7	8	33	65	29	40	90
Surplus	0	0	0	3	0	2	1	8	0	0	0	6	2	3	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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