

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: July 14, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)

For the week of July 7 -13, 2003

TX-CW2803

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

**Crop Progress Table - July 13, 2003**

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
<b>Corn</b>			
Silked .....	76	86	76
Dough .....	62	63	59
Dented .....	45	52	49
Mature .....	18	32	26
Harvested .....	1	1	4
<b>Cotton</b>			
Squaring .....	54	73	76
Setting Bolls .....	22	26	29
Bolls Opening .....	4	9	7
<b>Peanuts</b>			
Pegging .....	36	61	57
<b>Rice</b>			
Headed .....	56	81	72
<b>Sorghum</b>			
Planted .....	96	99	98
Headed .....	49	64	56
Turning Color .....	42	43	43
Mature .....	27	27	32
Harvested .....	15	15	24
<b>Wheat</b>			
Harvested .....	94	99	97
<b>Other Field Crops</b>			
<b>Planted</b>			
Soybeans .....	99	100	100
Sunflowers .....	96	98	97
<b>Harvested</b>			
Oats .....	98	99	96

**Crop Condition Table - July 13, 2003**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn .....	6	38	26	19	11
Cotton .....	9	28	35	16	12
Peanuts .....	24	57	16	1	2
Rice .....	18	63	18	1	0
Sorghum .....	8	43	35	11	3
Range & Pasture .....	7	35	36	15	7

**Agricultural Summary:** Last week attention turned toward to the Gulf as Tropical Storm Claudette veered toward the Texas coast. Producers from the Rio Grande Valley to the Upper Coast kept a close eye on the storm. Landfall was expected to be in the Corpus Christi area with winds of at least 65 mph with possible strengthening to a minimal hurricane. The Plains experienced hot and unusually humid conditions. Some locations got rain but a majority of the area received none. The most precipitation fell in East Texas, the Upper Coast, the Coastal Bend, and the Rio Grande Valley. Many areas recorded 1 to 2 inches for the week with some locations reporting up to 5 inches. Showers moving up from the Gulf mostly dissipated as they made their way into Central Texas. The Trans Pecos region reported scattered showers with amounts totaling under an inch. Scattered rain was also recorded in North Texas and the Edwards Plateau. Crops that received recent moisture were responding well. Earlier planted row crops were quickly approaching maturity and were being harvested in South Texas. Crops in the High Plains were making fast progress with the high temperatures and humidity. Hay harvest continued where conditions allowed. Pastures and ranges were improving in areas which have received recent moisture. Some parts of the State remained dry and were in need

of rain. Livestock were mostly in good condition with some supplemental feeding taking place. Weeds were becoming a major problem in some locations and producers were spraying accordingly. Flies were increasing on cattle. Harvest of summer vegetables and fruits was at various stages of completion.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Harvest was virtually complete in most areas of the Plains. In other parts of the State, producers were working recently harvested fields.

**Corn:** Development was favorable for irrigated corn on the Plains. Some early planted fields were tasseling. Fields in the Blacklands and Central Texas were drying down and producers in southern locations were preparing for harvest. Coastal Bend corn harvest was scheduled to begin in several days, but concern about Tropical Storm Claudette had farmers uncertain about future plans. Harvest had begun in the lower Valley. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 62 percent of normal compared with 72 percent last year.

**Cotton:** Cotton on the Plains made good progress with the warmer weather. Planting of failed cotton fields to alternative crops had been mostly completed. Many earlier planted fields were squaring and some plants were blooming. Irrigation was beginning in fields that failed to receive adequate rainfall the past few weeks. Boll weevils and cotton aphids were a problem in some fields. Central Texas cotton benefitted from good rain. Claudette was on producers' minds in the Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley as harvest neared. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 61 percent of normal compared with 65 percent last year.

**Sorghum:** Producers were wrapping up with most planting activities across the Plains with some dryland acres still being planted. Due to recent rains, most of the acreage continued to make good progress. More fields across north central growing areas were turning color. Central Texas producers were gearing up for harvest within the next few weeks. Producers in the Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Valley were beginning harvest as conditions allowed but were shutting down as the tropical storm loomed in the Gulf. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 71 percent of normal compared with 66 percent last year.

**Peanuts:** Plants made good progress and were pegging and making nuts. Most peanut areas benefitted greatly from the increased moisture. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 88 percent of normal compared with 87 percent last year.

**Rice:** Fields were heading out and making good progress. Many fields were running a little behind in development due to the late start. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 88 percent of normal, compared with 92 percent last year.

**Soybeans:** Planting of remaining soybeans on the Plains was complete. Early planted fields were reaching maturity along the Upper Coast. Crop progress was generally good across the state.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley** harvest of remaining vegetables was delayed due to scattered rainfall. Watermelon and cantaloupe harvest was nearing completion.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, producers with unharvested cantaloupes and onions were accessing damage from excessive rain the week before. Producers that missed the heavy rain were continuing harvest in the late week. Watermelon harvest neared completion.

In **East Texas**, harvest of watermelons was in full swing as conditions allowed. Peach yields were favorable due to early season rains. In other vegetable fields, fungus problems were developing.

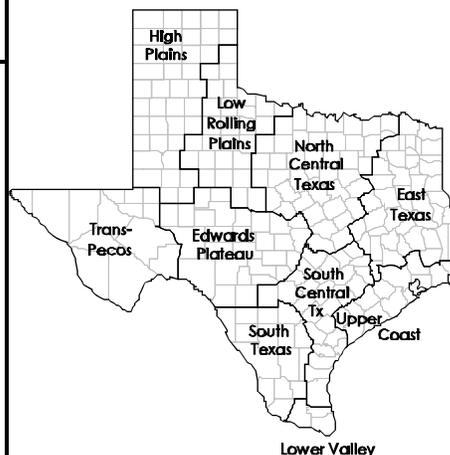
**Pecans and Grapes:** Pecans were growing well and many nuts were entering dough stage. Development was favorable with recent rainfall. Grapes were also in good condition and plumping up nicely.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures were responding well in areas that recently received rainfall. Hay cutting was in full swing where conditions allowed. Non-beneficial weeds were a problem in many pastures. Many producers were cutting and spraying brush. Supplemental feeding continued in areas where pasture conditions were poor. Hay supplies were abundant in almost all areas of the State. Livestock were mostly in good condition. Weaning and selling of calves was in progress for many producers. Stock tanks, which had been getting low, were filled by rains in some areas. Horn and heel flies remained a nuisance.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (July 7 - 13) Accumulation	Month-to-date (July 1 - 13) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Jul 13) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Apr - Jun) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.05	0.19	7.12	18.87	93
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.04	7.51	23.78	72
North Central Texas	0.23	0.62	11.82	34.00	65
East Texas	0.79	1.48	14.79	45.69	56
Trans Pecos	0.08	0.25	4.19	12.96	85
Edwards Plateau	0.12	1.19	8.82	24.01	66
South Central Texas	0.71	2.48	10.55	34.48	35
Upper Coast	1.50	3.41	17.95	47.63	61
South Texas	0.26	2.89	10.44	23.49	44
Lower Valley	0.26	1.42	7.81	25.34	55



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

**Top Soil Moisture by District - July 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	8	3	7	5	6	14	3	6	37	19	3	0	1	4	5
Short	30	32	39	31	44	36	35	17	53	38	25	6	13	21	45
Adequate	60	51	51	63	47	47	59	56	10	38	58	60	62	66	50
Surplus	2	14	3	1	3	3	3	21	0	5	14	34	24	9	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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