

Texas Crop Weather



Released: July 28, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)

For the week of July 21 - 27, 2003

TX-CW3003

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - July 27, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
<i>Percent</i>			
Corn			
Silked	95	96	92
Dough	72	73	72
Dented	59	60	57
Mature	47	49	47
Harvested	8	13	20
Cotton			
Squaring	80	87	91
Setting Bolls	37	58	62
Bolls Opening	10	13	12
Harvested	0	2	2
Peanuts			
Pegging	80	81	79
Harvested	5	5	5
Rice			
Headed	90	95	90
Harvested	5	5	5
Sorghum			
Planted	100	100	100
Headed	53	68	68
Turning Color	47	49	51
Mature	40	39	42
Harvested	28	29	35
Wheat			
Harvested	100	100	100
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Sunflowers	100	100	99

Crop Condition Table - July 27, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn	6	36	28	16	14
Cotton	6	28	40	18	8
Peanuts	22	57	18	3	0
Rice	17	65	12	4	2
Sorghum	7	40	32	16	5
Range & Pasture	9	30	37	16	8

Agricultural Summary: It was hot and dry over most areas of state during the week, but a mid week cool front brought rain to parts of Central and East Texas. A few counties recorded over 5 inches of rain. Only a few scattered showers were reported in other areas, most measuring less than an inch of rainfall. By late week, late afternoon sea breeze showers brought some beneficial moisture to a few locations in south and central areas. The dry weather and hot temperatures in the Plains region continued to dry out rangeland and row crops. Producers in this region continued to irrigate crops as needed. Cotton development in the Plains was behind normal, but overall, plants were developing well despite the late start. In most other areas of the state, harvest of sorghum and corn was underway. In East Texas, rains during the week slowed hay baling in several areas, but made producers optimistic about the third cutting later this season. In the Trans Pecos region, the third cutting of Alfalfa was underway and going well. Several areas reported some problems with pests, but overall insect

activity in crops was light. Livestock were mostly in good condition across the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Harvest was complete. Despite the dry conditions, producers were beginning to prepare for late summer planting.

Corn: In the Plains, corn was doing well under irrigation. Fields in the Blacklands and Central Texas were mostly mature and harvest was just beginning in a few areas. Harvest was well underway in most other areas. A variety of light insect infestations were reported in several areas. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 60 percent of normal compared with 55 percent last year.

Cotton: Cotton on the Plains made good progress with the hot weather. Dryland fields were showing increased stress due to high temperatures and lack of water. Irrigation was active in the absence of rainfall. Many earlier planted fields were squaring and more plants were blooming. Some boll weevils and aphids were found in some fields. Harvest was underway in the Rio Grande Valley. Defoliation activities were active in areas of the Rio Grande Valley, South Texas, and Coastal Bend regions. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 61 percent of normal compared with 67 percent last year.

Sorghum: In the Plains, fields were being irrigated as the heat caused stress to plants in some fields. Dryland acreage was in need of a good general rain. In other areas, harvest had started. Harvest activities were slowed by rain in those areas that received rainfall. In areas hardest hit by Hurricane Claudette, producers were adjusting their equipment to harvest what they can out of fields that were blown over by high winds. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 67 percent of normal compared with 61 percent last year.

Peanuts: Fields made good progress under irrigation. Rain at this point could improve the overall outlook of the crop. Pegging and pod development progressed a little ahead of schedule in some fields. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 87 percent of normal compared with 84 percent last year.

Rice: Harvest was underway in several areas. Where harvest had not started, fields were drying out and producers were preparing for harvest. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 86 percent of normal, compared with 87 percent last year.

Soybeans: Early planted fields have been harvested and others were reaching maturity. Crop progress was generally good across other parts of the state, but later planted dryland fields were showing signs of moisture stress.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley** producers engaged in field preparation.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, cabbage and cantaloupe harvest were underway. Producers were also planting fall cabbage. Watermelon harvest had been completed.

In **East Texas**, harvest of watermelons continued as conditions allowed. Overall, the crop was reported to be of good quality.

In the **High Plains** pumpkins and melons were progressing well, but were in need of a good rain. Onion harvest was underway with fair yields reported.

In the **Trans Pecos** region, harvest of watermelons and potatoes continued.

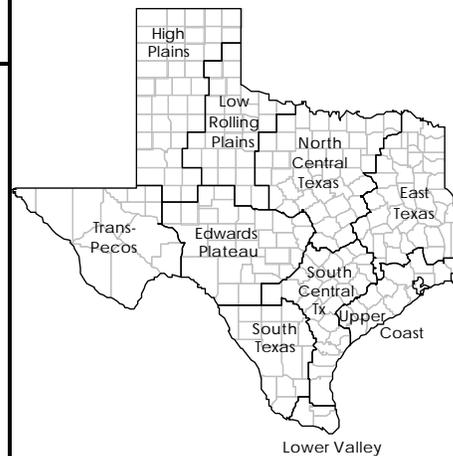
Pecans and Grapes: Pecans were growing well and many nuts were entering gel stage. In some areas nuts were dropping. Grapes in some areas of West Texas have suffered from dry weather, but harvest had begun.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures in areas that received rain were in good condition. Hay cutting was in full swing where conditions allowed. Supplemental feeding continued in areas where pasture conditions were poor, mostly in northern areas of the state where hot and dry weather prevailed. Livestock were mostly in good condition. Stock tanks were getting low in the driest areas. Some grasshopper activity has been reported, but noticeably less than in recent years.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (July 21 - 27) Accumulation	Month-to-date (July 1 - 27) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Jul 27) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Apr - Jun) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.21	7.14	18.87	93
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.04	7.51	23.78	72
North Central Texas	0.21	0.87	12.07	34.00	65
East Texas	1.42	3.05	16.36	45.69	56
Trans Pecos	0.32	1.17	5.11	12.96	85
Edwards Plateau	0.09	1.69	9.32	24.01	66
South Central Texas	0.52	4.25	12.32	34.48	35
Upper Coast	1.34	6.38	20.92	47.63	61
South Texas	0.41	4.96	12.51	23.49	44
Lower Valley	0.04	2.04	8.43	25.34	55



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - July 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	35	15	34	23	29	34	9	6	28	22	8	0	0	2	3
Short	55	58	51	62	47	35	29	20	53	47	23	0	8	12	24
Adequate	10	27	11	15	24	25	60	69	18	31	63	63	32	76	73
Surplus	0	0	4	0	0	6	2	5	1	0	11	37	60	10	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.**