

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: August 4, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)  
 For the week of July 28 - August 3, 2003  
 TX-CW3103

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

**Crop Progress Table - August 3, 2003**

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
<b>Corn</b>			
Silked . . . . .	98	99	97
Dough . . . . .	79	79	80
Dented . . . . .	63	63	61
Mature . . . . .	56	55	52
Harvested . . . . .	15	24	30
<b>Cotton</b>			
Squaring . . . . .	88	93	96
Setting Bolls . . . . .	49	73	77
Bolls Opening . . . . .	13	16	15
Harvested . . . . .	1	5	5
<b>Peanuts</b>			
Pegging . . . . .	89	88	86
<b>Rice</b>			
Headed . . . . .	95	98	94
Harvested . . . . .	12	33	19
<b>Sorghum</b>			
Headed . . . . .	57	70	74
Turning Color . . . . .	49	51	55
Mature . . . . .	45	42	47
Harvested . . . . .	36	33	40
<b>Other Field Crops</b>			
<b>Harvest</b>			
Soybeans . . . . .	6	9	17

**Crop Condition Table - August 3, 2003**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn . . . . .	5	36	26	19	14
Cotton . . . . .	6	24	42	19	9
Peanuts . . . . .	23	56	20	1	0
Rice . . . . .	16	66	12	4	2
Sorghum . . . . .	6	31	31	22	10
Range & Pasture . . . . .	7	28	35	19	11

**Agricultural Summary:** Once again it was hot and dry over most of the state during the week. Several counties in parts of North and East Texas reported a few scattered showers, which brought some relief. Isolated thunderstorms also occurred in parts of West and South Texas. Across the state, temperatures were in the mid to upper nineties with the heat index rising to over 100 degrees in some areas. Hot, dry, and windy conditions continued to dry out rangeland and row crops across the state. In the Plains, cotton plants were developing well despite the late start and early season weather damage. In other areas of the state, crop development continued to make good progress where additional rain fell, and where irrigation was possible. Harvest of summer crops and hay continued across many areas of the state. Irrigation demands increased in many areas due to the dry conditions. Land preparation for fall planting continued. In some areas, livestock required supplemental feeding to maintain body condition. Stock tank water supplies were evaporating rapidly due to high temperatures and lack of rainfall. Poultry producers in East Texas were concerned by the heat. Grasshoppers remained active in some areas, but overall insect activity in crops was light.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Preparation for small grain planting continued despite dry conditions.

**Corn:** Irrigated corn continued to make progress across the Plains. Harvest was beginning or well underway in most other areas. Light insect problems were reported in several areas. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 59 percent of normal compared with 59 percent last year.

**Cotton:** Cotton on the Plains made good progress with the hot weather in terms of growth and development over the last few days, but the heat was beginning to take its toll in the driest areas. Dryland fields continued to show stress due to high temperatures and lack of water. Irrigation was active. Boll weevils were present in some fields, but were under control. Harvest continued in the Rio Grande Valley and was beginning the Upper Coast and the Coastal Bend. Defoliation activities were gaining momentum in more Southern areas. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 59 percent of normal compared with 69 percent last year.

**Sorghum:** In the Plains, irrigated sorghum continued to make fair to good progress. Dryland acreage was in need of a good general rain. In other areas, harvest had started and was making good progress. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 59 percent of normal compared with 60 percent last year.

**Peanuts:** Peanuts were progressing well and were blooming in most areas. Some fields were showing signs of stress due to the lack of water. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 88 percent of normal compared with 84 percent last year.

**Rice:** Rice harvest continued to move along but was slow in fields affect by heavy winds. Light showers slowed harvest in some locations. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 85 percent of normal, compared with 92 percent last year.

**Soybeans:** Irrigated soybeans continued to make good progress, but dryland soybeans continued to suffer. Water demand was high, and producers were trying to keep up with irrigation demands. Early planted fields have been harvested and others were reaching maturity.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley** land preparation remained active in most locations. Isolated showers were received in a few areas.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, cabbage and cantaloupe harvest continued. Land preparation for fall planting moved forward.

In **East Texas**, harvest of watermelons continued as conditions allowed. Harvest of remaining vegetables crops was just about complete.

In the **High Plains** pumpkins were progressing well. Farmers were optimistic about an above average yield, although fields were still in need of a good rain. Harvest for onion, potatoes, and cabbages was active.

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

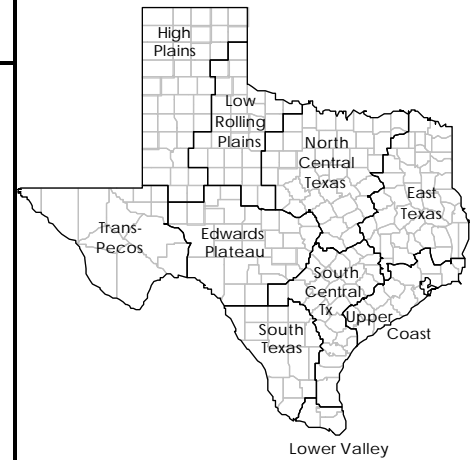
**Pecans and Grapes:** Pecans nut sets were reported to be fair to good. However, pecan scab was showing up in some orchards. Nuts were dropping in some areas. Grape harvest was fully underway. Birds were causing damage to grapes in some areas.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Spotty showers were reported across some areas of the state which brought some relief, however more ranges and pastures were turning brown. Additional rainfall was needed for green up. Some locations across the state were still in good shape for this time of year. Hay cutting was in full swing where conditions allowed. Supplemental feeding continued in areas where pasture conditions were poor. Livestock were mostly in fair to good condition. Stock tanks were getting low in the driest areas. Insect populations, especially armyworms and grasshoppers continued to cause problems in some locations. Quail and deer populations were on the increase in the Cross Timbers area.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Jul 28 - Aug 3) Accumulation	Month-to-date (July 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Aug 3) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (May - July) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.08	0.29	7.22	18.87	74
Low Rolling Plains	0.03	0.07	7.54	23.78	57
North Central Texas	0.25	1.08	12.32	34.00	71
East Texas	0.37	3.42	16.73	45.69	79
Trans Pecos	0.10	1.26	5.21	12.96	87
Edwards Plateau	0.17	1.86	9.49	24.01	87
South Central Texas	0.10	4.35	12.42	34.48	75
Upper Coast	0.60	6.78	21.52	47.63	97
South Texas	0.12	5.08	12.63	23.49	105
Lower Valley	0.09	2.13	8.52	25.34	65



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

**Top Soil Moisture by District - August 3, 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	51	20	46	37	35	36	10	9	38	19	7	0	0	6	5
Short	39	56	43	57	54	35	35	25	48	56	33	10	4	18	35
Adequate	10	24	8	6	11	26	53	64	13	25	57	90	76	71	60
Surplus	0	0	3	0	0	3	2	2	1	0	3	0	20	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.**