

Texas Crop Weather



Released: August 11, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of August 4 - 10, 2003
 TX-CW3203

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

Crop Progress Table - August 10, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
<i>Percent</i>			
Corn			
Silked	100	100	99
Dough	90	88	88
Dented	73	71	69
Mature	64	58	55
Harvested	28	37	40
Cotton			
Squaring	91	97	99
Setting Bolls	63	82	87
Bolls Opening	17	19	18
Harvested	4	8	8
Peanuts			
Pegging	95	91	91
Rice			
Headed	99	100	97
Harvested	24	60	39
Sorghum			
Headed	64	76	80
Turning Color	51	55	59
Mature	47	45	50
Harvested	43	37	43
Other Field Crops			
Harvested			
Soybeans	10	27	31

Crop Condition Table - August 10, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn	6	33	30	19	12
Cotton	5	26	39	20	10
Peanuts	25	53	20	2	0
Rice	11	74	15	0	0
Sorghum	8	34	33	16	9
Range & Pasture	4	23	36	23	14

Agricultural Summary: Hot temperatures and dry conditions dominated most areas of the state during the week. Temperatures surpassed 100 degrees in many locations for several days. The dry and hot weather caused soil moisture to dry up and stressed crops. A few storms managed to drop scattered rainfall in counties of North, Central, East Texas, and some Coastal areas. Developing crops continued to make good progress where moisture was adequate. Irrigation was in full swing where water was available. Harvest of summer crops continued across the state with only minor delays occurring. Baling of hay continued. Weed and insect pressures were low, but increased in some areas. Damage from grasshoppers, armyworms, corn borer, and web worms was visible in a few locations. Land preparation for fall planting continued. Range and pasture conditions were becoming extremely dry. Livestock conditions remained fair to good, and varied due to pasture availability and stocking rate. Cattlemen continued supplemental feeding and hauling water. Poultry in East Texas were affected by the heat. Very hot and dry conditions sparked rangeland fires.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Preparation for wheat and oat planting continued despite dry

conditions. Many producers were waiting for rain before planting.

Corn: Farmers continued to irrigate corn across the Plains. In the Blacklands and other central areas, harvest made good progress with open conditions. Corn borer and other pests increased in the Plains. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 60 percent of normal compared with 59 percent last year.

Cotton: Due to the hot and dry conditions, cotton progressed rapidly in most locations. The heat continued to take its toll in the driest areas. Dryland fields continued to show stress due to high temperatures and lack of water. Irrigation remained active. Some dryland acreage was beginning to cut-out due to the extreme conditions. Cotton pests were on the increase in some fields, but were under control. Harvest continued in southern areas under mostly open weather. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 58 percent of normal compared with 68 percent last year.

Sorghum: In the Plains, irrigated sorghum was developing well and continued to make fair to good progress. Some dryland fields were burning up, and some fields needed rainfall to continue to develop. In other areas, harvest had started and was making good progress. Yields varied from area to area, but many fields with poor rainfall were showing below average yields. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 59 percent of normal compared with 60 percent last year.

Peanuts: Peanuts were still looking good except in areas where water was short. Some fields were beginning to show stress where water was not adequate. Pod rot was showing up in some fields. Producers were treating fields that had pests. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 88 percent of normal compared with 82 percent last year.

Rice: Rice harvest continued to move forward but was slower in fields affected by heavy winds and light showers. Rice production was showing good quality and yields. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 88 percent of normal, compared with 93 percent last year.

Soybeans: Irrigated soybeans continued to make good progress, but dryland soybeans continued to suffer. Harvest of earlier planted soybeans continued to expand along more areas of the state.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley** land preparation remained active in most locations. Additional moisture will be needed to aid in preparation.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, harvest of remaining vegetables was near completion and other activities were minimal. Land preparation for fall planting moved forward.

In **East Texas**, harvest of watermelons continued as conditions allowed. Some early sweet potato harvest was taking place. Harvest of remaining vegetables crops was just about complete.

In the **High Plains**, pumpkins were progressing well. Vegetable harvest continued in some locations.

In the **Trans Pecos** region, harvest of vegetable crops continued. Cantaloupe prices were low, but watermelon prices were holding steady.

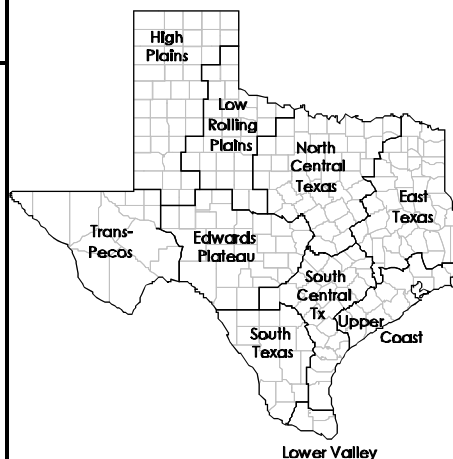
Pecans and Grapes: Pecans continued to make good to fair progress across the state. Nut dropping continued in some locations. Pecan growers were anticipating a bumper crop in some parts of the state. In some areas, pecan trees were stressed by dry and hot conditions. Grape harvest was nearing completion in some locations.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Condition of range and livestock continued to decrease as the hot and dry weather continued. Range condition was deteriorating quickly in the 100+ degree heat. Stock tanks were getting low or dry, and ranchers were hauling water in some dry areas. Pastures in some locations were still in fair 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. Insect populations, especially armyworms, grasshoppers, and other pests, continued to cause problems in some locations. Salt water shrimp were growing and developing well.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Aug 4 - 10) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Aug 1 - 10) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Aug 10) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (May - July) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.27	0.27	7.49	18.87	74
Low Rolling Plains	0.05	0.05	7.59	23.78	57
North Central Texas	0.74	0.78	13.06	34.00	71
East Texas	0.24	0.24	16.97	45.69	79
Trans Pecos	0.13	0.14	5.34	12.96	87
Edwards Plateau	1.37	1.37	10.86	24.01	87
South Central Texas	0.11	0.11	12.53	34.48	75
Upper Coast	1.09	1.29	22.61	47.63	97
South Texas	0.01	0.01	12.64	23.49	105
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	8.52	25.34	65



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - August 10, 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	64	37	60	67	54	65	20	24	49	34	11	5	0	10	3
Short	32	48	32	31	39	25	48	48	41	49	38	32	24	41	60
Adequate	4	15	8	2	7	8	32	28	9	17	51	63	76	48	37
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	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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