

Texas Crop Weather



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For the week of August 11- 17, 2003

TX-CW3303

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

Crop Progress Table - August 17, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Dough	95	96	95
Dented	80	83	78
Mature	67	61	59
Harvested	45	48	47
Cotton			
Squaring	95	100	100
Setting Bolls	76	88	93
Bolls Opening	19	23	21
Harvested	8	10	10
Peanuts			
Pegging	97	95	95
Rice			
Headed	100	100	99
Harvested	45	77	57
Sorghum			
Headed	68	80	86
Turning Color	54	61	65
Mature	50	50	54
Harvested	48	44	48
Other Field Crops			
Harvested			
Soybeans	30	32	40
Sunflowers	6	0	3

Crop Condition Table - August 17, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	6	32	29	19	14
Cotton	6	24	39	20	11
Peanuts	26	53	18	3	0
Rice	16	59	19	4	2
Sorghum	8	32	32	20	8
Range & Pasture	5	23	34	24	14

Agricultural Summary: Much of the State got relief from the 100+ degree weather as unseasonably cooler temperatures moved in early week. Highs were in the 80's and low 90's and lows were in the upper 60's. As far as precipitation, the Plains received little or none. The Edwards Plateau, and North and Central Texas generally recorded trace amounts of rain, but some locations reported downpours of over 2 inches. Wind damage and power outages occurred with some of these storms. Most of the rain fell in East Texas, the Upper Coast, the Coastal Bend, and South Texas. These areas reported anywhere from 1 to 6 inches of precipitation, with 2 inches being most typical. The big weather story in the Rio Grande Valley occurred in late week when Tropical Storm Erika made landfall 30 miles south of Brownsville. Winds and rainfall were less than forecast and damage was expected to be minimal. Cooler temperatures during the week slowed soil moisture depletion and heat stress. Irrigation continued where water was available but was slowing in some areas where crops were nearing maturity. Harvest of summer crops continued across the state with only minor delays. Land preparation for fall planting continued. Range and pasture were still showing some green in areas that have been getting rain, but many regions were extremely dry. Cattlemen continued supplemental feeding and hauling water. Poultry in East Texas got some needed relief from the heat.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Preparation for wheat and oat planting continued across many areas. Limited planting of wheat for grazing began in a few locations. Rain is needed before most producers can start planting.

Corn: Farmers were finishing up irrigation of early planted corn across the Plains. Silage cutting was to begin in the next week. Harvest for grain was nearing completion in Central Texas and gained momentum in northern parts of the Blacklands. Corn borer and earworms increased on the Plains. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 58 percent of normal compared with 63 percent last year.

Cotton: Cotton continued to progress rapidly in most areas. Earlier planted dryland fields were beginning to cut-out in some locations. Square and boll drop was occurring in some drought stricken areas. Irrigated fields on the Plains continued to appear favorable. Central Texas and Upper Coast producers were defoliating when conditions allowed. Harvest was delayed in the Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley due to rain. It remained to be seen how much, if any, effect Tropical Storm Erika had on the crop. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 57 percent of normal compared with 63 percent last year.

Sorghum: Irrigated sorghum appeared favorable on the Plains, but dryland fields continued to suffer and were burning up in many locations. Harvest continued throughout North and Central Texas, the Upper Coast, and the Coastal Bend when conditions allowed. Harvest was nearing completion in many locations. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 62 percent of normal compared with 57 percent last year.

Peanuts: Peanuts were generally still looking good except in areas where water was short. Many peanuts were nearing the end of the pegging stage. Pod rot continued to show up in some fields. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 88 percent of normal compared with 83 percent last year.

Rice: Rice harvest continued, but was delayed in many areas due to rain. Rice production was showing good quality and yields. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 83 percent of normal, compared with 93 percent last year.

Soybeans: Irrigated soybeans continued to make good progress, but dryland fields suffered. Rainfall on the Upper Coast was beneficial to the developing crop. 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**, rain halted most field activities. The additional moisture will be helpful in aiding land preparation for fall crops.

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

In **East Texas**, harvest of remaining peas and late spring tomatoes continued as conditions allowed. Some early sweet potato harvest was taking place.

In the **High Plains**, pumpkins were progressing well and harvest of the early crop was set to begin. Vegetable harvest continued in some locations.

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

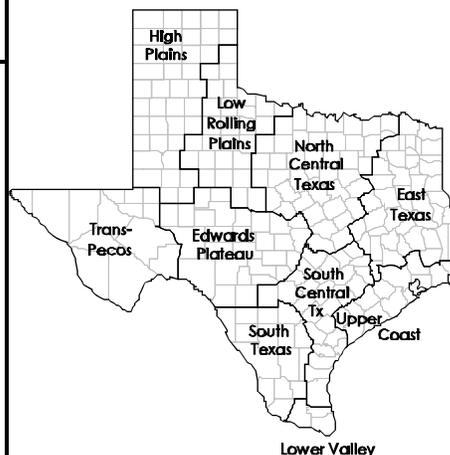
Pecans and Grapes: Pecans were filling out where adequate moisture has been received. In wetter locations, mildew became a problem. In areas that continued to suffer from drought, trees were stressed. Grape harvest was nearing completion in many locations.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Condition of range and livestock continued to decrease on the Plains with the lack of rainfall. Livestock got some relief from the 100+ degree heat. Stock tanks continued to get low in drier locations, and ranchers were hauling water in some dry areas. Pastures in areas of North and Central Texas were still fairly green where precipitation occurred. Supplemental feeding continued in areas where pasture conditions were poor. Calf weaning and cow culling were active across the State. Horn flies remained a problem in many areas. The drop in temperature was a welcomed relief to poultry producers.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Aug 11 - 17) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Aug 1 - 17) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Aug 17) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (May - July) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.11	0.38	7.60	18.87	74
Low Rolling Plains	0.02	0.07	7.61	23.78	57
North Central Texas	0.85	1.63	13.91	34.00	71
East Texas	1.26	1.50	18.23	45.69	79
Trans Pecos	0.13	0.27	5.47	12.96	87
Edwards Plateau	0.24	1.61	11.10	24.01	87
South Central Texas	0.75	0.86	13.28	34.48	75
Upper Coast	1.28	2.57	23.89	47.63	97
South Texas	0.86	0.87	13.50	23.49	105
Lower Valley	1.61	1.61	10.13	25.34	65



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - August 17, 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	65	43	79	61	34	25	13	16	50	40	14	8	0	7	0
Short	30	47	20	37	56	45	20	30	42	42	40	16	20	54	50
Adequate	5	10	1	2	10	27	59	48	7	18	46	44	74	33	50
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	6	1	0	0	32	6	6	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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