

Texas Crop Weather



Released: September 15, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of September 8 - 14, 2003
 TX-CW3703

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

Crop Progress Table - September 14, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Dough	100	100	100
Dented	98	98	98
Mature	87	85	89
Harvested	67	65	65
Cotton			
Setting Bolls	99	100	100
Bolls Opening	34	51	57
Harvested	17	19	20
Peanuts			
Harvested	0	4	8
Rice			
Harvested	89	97	94
Sorghum			
Headed	91	96	98
Turning Color	64	83	90
Mature	57	72	78
Harvested	54	62	67
Wheat			
Planted	22	19	20
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Oats	17	7	8
Harvested			
Soybeans	62	67	72
Sunflowers	42	58	46

Crop Condition Table - September 14, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	4	28	32	19	17
Cotton	5	18	38	23	16
Peanuts	24	47	23	5	1
Rice	13	72	13	2	0
Sorghum	5	27	34	24	10
Range & Pasture	5	22	37	22	14

Agricultural Summary: A series of cold fronts brought rain to the state as it moved across from the Northwest towards the Southeast during the latter half of the week. Rainfall amounts varied in West Texas and in the Panhandle region, but were generally light. A good general rain fell in most other areas, where rainfall accumulations totaled several inches in many localities. Heaviest rainfall amounts fell in central, and coastal areas. Harvest, planting and other field activities were delayed in many areas due to the wet conditions. Earlier in the week, row crop producers in several counties of the Southern High Plains suffered losses from hail storms. Around the state, wheat and oat planting was underway. Hay producers were optimistic over the increased likelihood of another good cutting. Livestock were in good condition and markets were strong for this time of year. Supplemental feeding continued in some areas, though pasture and range conditions were improving. Armyworm activity was increasing in East Texas.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Many producers were engaged in planting activities as weather permitted. In some areas where planting had started, plants had starting to emerge.

Corn: Harvest continued in the panhandle region, although work was delayed in some areas by rainfall. In some areas, producers will have to wait for corn to dry down before harvesting. Elsewhere, corn harvest was virtually complete. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 54 percent of normal compared, with 60 percent last year.

Cotton: Cotton maturity was making progress in the Plains. Some limited preharvest activities were taking place, but for the most part harvest was still several weeks away. Some cotton acreage in the western part of the Plains was damaged by hail early in the week. Elsewhere, cotton harvest was underway, though delayed in some areas by heavy rainfall. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 51 percent of normal, compared with 65 percent last year.

Sorghum: In the Plains, sorghum development was making progress, but conditions varied widely. Irrigated fields were in good condition, but dryland fields were in poorer condition. Later planted fields were fairing better than those planted early. Several fields were destroyed by hail. Elsewhere, harvest was mostly complete. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 57 percent of normal, compared with 57 percent last year.

Peanuts: Most fields were making good progress. Some fields were damaged in the hail storm in the Plains early in the week. Some slight disease problems were present. Several producers were anticipating harvest to begin in two to three weeks. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 84 percent of normal, compared with 84 percent last year.

Rice: Harvest continued as conditions allowed. In some areas where initial harvest was complete, producers were flooding fields in preparation for a ratoon crop. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 87 percent of normal, compared with 93 percent last year.

Soybeans: Irrigated fields in the Panhandle were progressing well. Harvest was wrapping up in North Central Texas. Later planted fields along the Upper Coast were looking good.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, land preparation continued for fall crops as weather conditions allowed.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, cabbage planting had started. Field preparation for spinach continued. Activities were hampered by rain showers.

In **East Texas**, sweet potato harvest continued where conditions allowed.

In the **High Plains**, pumpkins were looking very good and some harvest activities had started. Watermelon harvest continued.

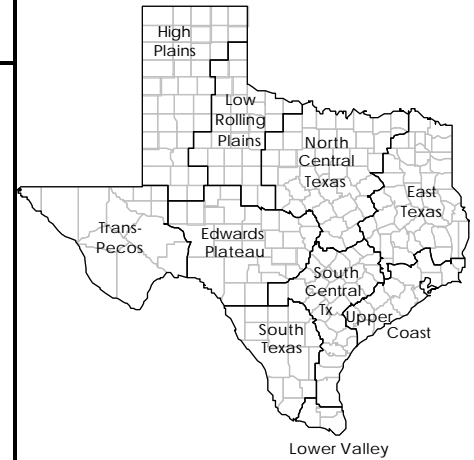
Pecans: Overall, pecans were looking good across the state. In the Edwards Plateau region, some producers were finishing spraying for pecan weevil while some others were dealing with web worms.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding continued during the week, but at lower levels than previously seen this summer. In several areas, auction sale numbers were on the rise as producers began making their fall runs. Stock tank water levels were good in many areas, though levels were still low in areas of the Plains and North Central Texas. Cooler temperatures and rainfall during the week brought noticeable improvement to range and pasture land in many areas. In the panhandle, ranchers were busy shipping winter and early spring calves. In some areas of Central Texas, producers were fertilizing pastureland. Most livestock were in good condition throughout the state.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Sep 8 -14) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Sep 1 - 14) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Sep 14) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jun - Aug) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.36	0.91	9.87	18.87	78
Low Rolling Plains	2.26	2.27	11.11	23.78	65
North Central Texas	2.11	2.19	17.76	34.00	108
East Texas	1.61	2.90	23.16	45.69	117
Trans Pecos	0.34	0.38	6.91	12.96	87
Edwards Plateau	1.45	1.65	14.97	24.01	132
South Central Texas	3.06	4.44	18.14	34.48	100
Upper Coast	3.10	4.51	30.39	47.63	131
South Texas	1.65	3.29	17.57	23.49	137
Lower Valley	2.58	4.24	14.81	25.34	93



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - September 14, 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	19	26	29	25	12	13	0	1	45	28	10	0	0	6	0
Short	44	51	37	35	27	27	41	11	55	37	31	4	0	25	50
Adequate	21	22	34	38	42	50	58	76	0	35	55	27	37	59	50
Surplus	16	1	0	2	19	10	1	12	0	0	4	69	63	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.