

Texas Crop Weather



Released: October 6, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of September 29 - October 5, 2003
 TX-CW4003

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

Crop Progress Table - October 5, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
<i>Percent</i>			
Corn			
Mature	98	98	99
Harvested	85	82	87
Cotton			
Bolls Opening	62	83	84
Harvested	23	27	32
Peanuts			
Harvested	6	10	21
Rice			
Harvested	99	100	99
Sorghum			
Headed	98	100	100
Turning Color	80	94	97
Mature	65	84	88
Harvested	60	70	76
Wheat			
Planted	68	60	55
Emerged	35	36	28
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Oats	63	45	41
Harvested			
Pecans	5	0	2
Soybeans	74	81	84
Sunflowers	66	84	75

Crop Condition Table - October 5, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<i>Percent</i>					
Cotton	5	17	37	23	18
Peanuts	23	46	27	3	1
Range & Pasture . . .	9	30	34	17	10

Agricultural Summary: Unseasonably cooler weather was the story most of the week. Cool temperatures moved in from the north but brought very little rain to the State. Thermometer readings were as low as the 40's on the High Plains and were in the 50's for the rest of the State except for extreme southern locations. High temperatures were in the 70's and 80's across all regions. Trace amounts of rain fell across some areas of the Plains. A few isolated locations received up to half an inch, but the vast majority of the region received no rain. North Central Texas reported limited precipitation as did the Rio Grande Valley. One location in the Trans Pecos region reported 3 inches of rain causing runoff flooding. By late week, strong thunderstorms rolled through parts of the Edwards Plateau and Central Texas. Soil moisture was still lacking in many areas but depletion had slowed with milder temperatures. The cool weather also slowed development of cotton. Harvest of summer crops and hay moved ahead in many locations. Land preparation and fall planting continued where possible. Native pastures were still in decent shape in most areas, but supplemental feeding remained necessary in various locations. Body condition scores on cattle remained good. Some insect populations were active in many locations and were causing some damage.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat and oat planting continued across the Plains, North Texas, and the Blacklands. Some earlier planted wheat was in the 2-3 leaf stage. Many fields have come up with good stands, but many dryland fields were needing rain for emergence to occur. Irrigated fields were receiving their first watering. A good general rain was needed across all of the wheat producing areas. Armyworms were becoming a major problem in some fields.

Corn: Harvest on the Plains continued and was nearing completion in many locations. Harvest in most other areas of the state was completed.

Cotton: Boll development in late planted cotton was slowed due to the onset of colder temperatures. More heat units were needed for maturation. Many producers were beginning to apply harvest aids, especially in the Southern High Plains. Limited harvest had begun in the area. In the Blacklands, harvest should be wrapping up in next week or so. Of the few fields that were left in the Coastal Bend, quality was poor due to excess rain the past couple of weeks. Many producers in the region were shredding stalks. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 50 percent of normal, compared with 68 percent last year.

Sorghum: Harvest was in full swing on the Plains. Irrigated yields were reported as favorable. Some dryland acreage was being grazed or baled for hay.

Peanuts: Harvest began in some locations while most producers were planning to begin in the next week or two. Early planted runners were being dug in some areas. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 84 percent of normal, compared with 84 percent last year.

Rice: Harvest was complete in most areas. Second cutting rice was making slow progress because of the milder conditions.

Soybeans: Remaining soybeans on the Plains were turning color and dropping leaves. Harvest was mostly completed on the Upper Coast.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, early orange harvest was delayed due to wet ground. Preparation for fall onion planting continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, cabbage has emerged and some irrigation was taking place. Spinach planting continued. Onion producers expected to have planting completed within the next week or two.

In **East Texas**, sweet potato harvest was underway with favorable yields but also quite a bit of insect damage. Fall vegetables such as turnips and mustard greens were being planted.

In the **High Plains**, pumpkin harvest was in full swing with good yields being reported.

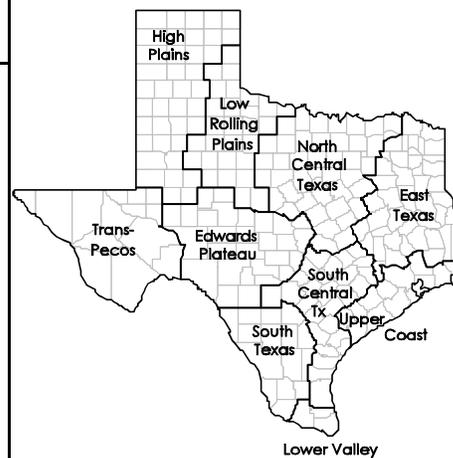
Pecans: Some early harvest had begun in some locations while producers in other areas were preparing for harvest. Fall webworms were showing up in some orchards. Overall, most pecans continued to progress well across the state.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pasture conditions were holding steady in most areas. While many pastures were short on rain, moisture depletion had slowed due to cooler weather. Summer grasses were mostly gone in northern regions and winter forages were beginning to take over. Haying activities were in full swing in many area as producers were getting their last cutting of the season. Supplemental feeding continued in some locations. Cattle were in mostly good condition. Activities included cattle shipping, culling, and weaning spring calves. Cattlemen were in good spirits as the market continued to be in their favor. In the Trans Pecos region, white shrimp producers were gearing up for harvest. Wildlife food plots were being planted for this winter.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Sep 29 - Oct 5) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Sep 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Oct 5) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.14	0.11	10.35	18.87	45
Low Rolling Plains	0.26	0.24	11.58	23.78	49
North Central Texas	0.43	0.43	18.64	34.00	87
East Texas	0.60	0.60	24.45	45.69	110
Trans Pecos	0.15	0.15	7.85	12.96	60
Edwards Plateau	0.10	0.10	16.45	24.01	116
South Central Texas	0.28	0.28	20.42	34.48	125
Upper Coast	0.05	0.05	32.25	47.63	123
South Texas	0.01	0.01	19.91	23.49	159
Lower Valley	0.09	0.09	17.14	25.34	112



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - October 5, 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	30	26	56	11	14	15	8	3	50	24	2	0	0	5	0
Short	42	54	30	54	40	33	57	26	32	32	9	0	0	12	5
Adequate	28	18	14	33	46	49	34	67	18	43	78	78	49	81	70
Surplus	0	2	0	2	0	3	1	4	0	1	11	22	51	2	25

* 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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