

Texas Crop Weather



Released: October 14, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CDT)

For the week of October 6 - 12, 2003

TX-CW4103

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - October 12, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Mature	99	100	100
Harvested	90	90	92
Cotton			
Bolls Opening	71	89	90
Harvested	25	30	37
Peanuts			
Harvested	9	16	27
Rice			
Harvested	100	100	100
Sorghum			
Headed	99	100	100
Turning Color	85	97	99
Mature	67	88	91
Harvested	61	72	79
Wheat			
Planted	76	68	63
Emerged	50	48	36
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Oats	73	58	53
Harvested			
Pecans	10	3	4
Soybeans	84	85	87
Sunflowers	69	87	82

Crop Condition Table - October 12, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Cotton	6	18	37	21	18
Peanuts	23	46	27	3	1
Range & Pasture	10	34	31	17	8

Agricultural Summary: Texans had to contend with heavy rain across most regions of the State. In the Plains, rain gauge readings ranged from trace amounts to 4 inches, with most areas recording a half inch to almost 2 inches. Hail losses to cotton and sorghum were reported in a few locations. Large areas of the Edwards Plateau, Central Texas, and the Upper Coast received minimum accumulations of 2 inches of rain, with many locations reporting 4 to 6 inches. Some isolated locations received in excess of 7 to 9 inches of rain. In the Trans Pecos region, rainfall varied from a trace up to 4 inches for the week. South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley received more rain than any other region, with all locations reporting at least 3 inches of rain. Accumulations of 5 to 6 inches were common and a few isolated locations reported over 10 inches of rain. At one point, 2 feet of water was flowing across I-35 between San Antonio and Laredo. Temperatures across the State were below average due to the rain and cloud cover. Soil moisture improved considerably across all regions, and stock tanks were filling up. Despite all the rain, there were still locations on the Plains and in North Central Texas that were short on moisture. Field work was completely shut down in most areas. Cotton boll damage was seen in some locations because of the excess moisture. Native pastures have responded well to the rain, but growth has been limited due to shorter days.

Body condition scores on cattle remained good. Insect populations were active in many locations, and continued to cause damage.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Rains were very beneficial to wheat and oats. The excess moisture, along with below average temperatures, produced excellent stands. Planting was suspended in most areas. With improved soil moisture, many dryland producers will put their crop in the ground as soon as they get the chance. Many producers plan to graze their cattle on small grains within the next couple of weeks, if field conditions permit. Armyworms continued to be a major problem in some areas. Some fields were being sprayed while others were waiting for the first frost to finish them off.

Corn: Harvest on the Plains was delayed. Most of what was being harvested was late planted, but yields were reported as favorable.

Cotton: Heavy rains and hail were not welcomed news for cotton producers. Excess moisture strung out bolls in locations where the heaviest rain fell. Hail wiped out some cotton acres on the Plains. The amount of acres lost or damaged was yet to be determined. Boll development was slow due to unseasonably cool weather. Harvest was delayed until fields dry out. Applications of harvest aids were postponed. More heat units were needed for maturation of many cotton fields. In the rest of the State, producers were shredding stalks when conditions allowed. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 51 percent of normal, compared with 67 percent last year.

Sorghum: Harvest was mostly delayed on the Plains. Later planted fields were not maturing on schedule due to cooler temperatures. Some acreage was lost to hail. Some dryland acreage was being grazed or baled for hay.

Peanuts: Harvest was hampered by the rain. Many producers began digging in early week before the rains arrived. Late planted peanuts were slow to mature due to the current conditions. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 84 percent of normal, compared with 85 percent last year.

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

Soybeans: Soybean harvest was delayed in remaining fields on the Plains. 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. Sugarcane harvest was scheduled to begin as soon as conditions allowed. Preparation for fall onion planting continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, cabbage, spinach, and onions made good progress with the increased moisture. Irrigation was halted for obvious reasons.

In **East Texas**, most field work was halted. The fall pea crop yield was looking favorable. Late watermelons were having trouble maturing with cooler temperatures and lack of adequate sunlight.

In the **High Plains**, some pumpkin fields were lost to hail. Those pumpkins that had cosmetic hail damage were deemed undesirable for Halloween decorations. Most other field work was delayed due to weather.

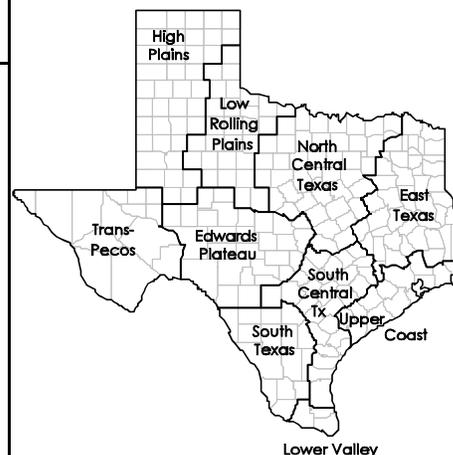
Pecans: Many pecans were ripening and falling. Producers were rushing to get them in before the wet conditions damaged the nuts. Fall webworms continued to show up in some orchards.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pasture conditions improved in most regions. Remaining summer grasses were growing just a bit more before winter forages took over. Haying activities were halted for the most part. Many producers were still planning another cutting before year's end. Supplemental feeding continued in some locations. Cattle were in mostly good condition. Cattlemen expressed optimism with good prices being received at auctions and other markets. Wildlife food plots that were planted should get a great start with all the excess moisture.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Oct 6 - 12) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Oct 1 - 12) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Oct 12) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.39	0.50	10.74	18.87	45
Low Rolling Plains	0.43	0.67	12.01	23.78	49
North Central Texas	1.43	1.86	20.07	34.00	87
East Texas	1.45	2.05	25.90	45.69	110
Trans Pecos	1.67	1.82	9.52	12.96	60
Edwards Plateau	2.52	2.62	18.97	24.01	116
South Central Texas	1.80	2.08	22.22	34.48	125
Upper Coast	3.01	3.06	35.26	47.63	123
South Texas	3.41	3.42	23.32	23.49	159
Lower Valley	3.18	3.27	20.32	25.34	112



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - October 12, 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	6	21	34	12	7	6	1	0	34	5	0	0	0	3	0
Short	43	43	26	26	25	13	9	4	21	15	2	0	0	7	0
Adequate	46	32	38	54	59	50	77	64	33	67	74	28	11	60	33
Surplus	5	4	2	8	9	31	13	32	12	13	24	72	89	30	67

* 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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