

Texas Crop Weather



Released: November 3, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)
 For the week of October 27 - November 2, 2003
 TX-CW4403

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

Crop Progress Table - November 2, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Harvested	99	99	99
Cotton			
Bolls Opening . .	94	96	97
Harvested	39	42	54
Peanuts			
Harvested	48	40	55
Sorghum			
Turning Color . . .	95	100	100
Mature	84	94	97
Harvested	70	79	87
Wheat			
Planted	89	86	82
Emerged	74	76	63
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Oats	88	79	75
Harvested			
Pecans	29	17	20
Soybeans	94	94	95
Sunflowers	88	93	93

Crop Condition Table - November 2, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Cotton	6	20	35	22	17
Peanuts	22	50	22	4	2
Wheat	9	32	34	13	12
Range & Pasture . .	12	32	31	15	10

Agricultural Summary: Weather conditions across the state remained variable with mostly mild cool nights and unseasonably warm days. Windy conditions were prevalent in many areas. Scattered showers fell in the southern and coastal areas late in the week. Some light to moderate showers also fell in other areas. The dry weather pattern continued to benefit producers with farming activities all around the state. In the Plains region, harvest of sorghum, cotton, sunflower, dry beans, guar, and peanuts continued at a steady pace. Application of harvest aids to cotton fields was active in some areas. Planting of small grains made progress. Many dryland fields were suffering from moisture stress. Top soil moisture remained short to adequate in the Plains. Statewide conditions were also very good for cutting and baling hay during early to mid week. In South Texas and the Valley, wet fields limited progress of harvest and planting activities. Late week rain caused some delays for some growers. Cattle were in good condition and markets were very active as cattle prices remained high.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Small grain producers continued to plant winter wheat, oats and rye across all areas of the state. Emerged dryland wheat and oats were making slow progress in many areas. Some fields were showing signs of stress due to the prolonged dry spell. Irrigated wheat was in better shape as watering was active. Armyworm and greenbug infestations were causing problems in some areas. Cattle numbers grazing on wheat pastures were on the increase. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 63 percent of normal, compared with 86 percent last year.

Corn: Harvest was mostly complete. Land preparation continued for next year.

Cotton: Harvest activities gained momentum with open weather across the Plains and other remaining areas. In the Southern High Plains yields have varied widely but some fields already harvested had exceeded expectations. Some farmers continued to defoliate fields while other were needing more heat units and time for more bolls to develop. In other areas of the State, producers were shredding stalks as conditions allowed. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 52 percent of normal, compared with 63 percent last year.

Sorghum: Harvest activities continued as conditions remained favorable. Some of the later planted acreage still needed more time to mature. Some of the dryland acreage affected by the freeze last week was expected to be failed by insurance adjusters.

Peanuts: Digging and other harvest activities gained momentum as weather remained favorable. However, in South Texas harvest was slowed down due to rainfall. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 83 percent of normal, compared with 76 percent last year.

Rice: Harvest of the ratoon crop made progress during the week.

Soybeans: Soybean harvest on the Plains was mostly complete. Good yields were reported.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, most of the area received rain on fields that were just recovering from previous wet conditions. This has caused further delays in citrus and sugarcane harvest.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, harvest of cabbage, cucumbers and spinach resumed with favorable weather conditions. Preparation for planting of cabbage, broccoli, spinach, carrots and onions continue to make good progress.

In **East Texas**, Sweet potato harvest continued, with some growers finished and others need 1 to 2 weeks to complete. Yields and quality remained good.

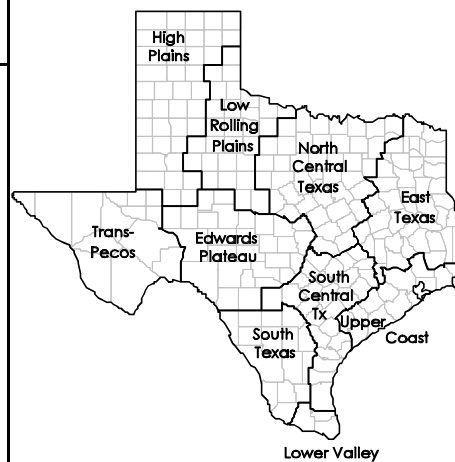
Pecans: Harvest activities continued with good weather in most areas. Production remained varied across the state.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Most rangeland and pastures continued to be in fair to good condition, but many in northern areas were getting short on moisture. Cattle conditions remain fair to good with some supplemental feeding in some locations. Prices remained high and cattle markets were active. Haying activities continued in most areas of the state as producers were working on what will be the last cutting of the season for most. Many ranchers were gearing up for deer season.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Oct 27 - Nov 2) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Oct 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Nov 2) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Aug - Oct) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.51	10.75	18.87	54
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.67	12.01	23.78	54
North Central Texas	0.02	1.86	20.09	34.00	83
East Texas	0.03	2.70	26.55	45.69	93
Trans Pecos	0.00	2.04	9.74	12.96	78
Edwards Plateau	0.05	2.70	19.10	24.01	115
South Central Texas	0.15	4.74	24.89	34.48	116
Upper Coast	0.13	4.89	37.09	47.63	112
South Texas	0.07	4.76	24.73	23.49	139
Lower Valley	0.15	5.69	22.79	25.34	140



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - November 2, 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	21	28	52	30	23	19	9	6	36	10	1	0	0	2	0
Short	53	47	25	46	45	47	44	24	33	31	8	0	2	18	0
Adequate	26	23	22	24	31	33	43	65	31	58	77	43	73	66	60
Surplus	0	2	1	0	1	1	4	5	0	1	14	57	25	14	40

* 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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