

Texas Crop Weather



Released: November 17, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)

For the week of November 10 - 16, 2003

TX-CW4603

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - November 16, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Cotton			
Bolls Opening . . .	97	100	100
Harvested	53	51	66
Peanuts			
Harvested	80	58	72
Sorghum			
Turning Color . . .	98	100	100
Mature	91	98	99
Harvested	77	84	92
Wheat			
Planted	93	90	90
Emerged	81	83	75
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Oats	94	88	84
Harvested			
Pecans	41	31	32
Soybeans	98	97	97
Sunflowers	91	97	96

Crop Condition Table - November 16, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Cotton	7	20	36	22	15
Peanuts	21	47	25	5	2
Wheat	4	28	36	17	15
Range & Pasture . .	6	30	33	19	12

Agricultural Summary: Many areas of the State received rain during the week as seasonal Autumn weather took hold. The Panhandle region reported mostly light rain, with accumulations ranging from a quarter to a half inch. Isolated locations recorded a little over an inch of rain. Other regions reporting measurable rainfall included East Texas, the Trans Pecos, and the Rio Grande Valley. In East Texas, rain gauge totals ranged from one-half to 2 inches, with isolated locations recording up to 4 inches. The Trans Pecos region reported from a trace to a half inch of rain, and in the Rio Grande Valley, rain measured from a trace to 2 inches with 1 inch accumulation being most typical. Temperatures throughout the State varied greatly. In early week, temperatures were in the 80's in all regions. But by mid-week, a cold front rolled in and temperatures fell into the 30's in the Panhandle, and were in the 40's and 50's in most other areas. The Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley escaped the cold with readings in the 60's and 70's. Soil moisture conditions improved where rains fell, and winter forages responded well. In areas of the State such as North Central and Central Texas, moisture was still in short supply as pastures were showing stress and stock tank levels were dropping. Harvest of remaining summer crops and small grain planting was delayed in many areas. Cotton producers were still waiting on a hard freeze. Stockers were being turned out on wheat and oat pasture where growth was adequate. Supplemental feeding increased slightly.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Planting of remaining wheat and oat fields was delayed where moisture was received. Earlier planted fields responded well to the rain, but more rain was needed to make up for the moisture deficit from the past couple of months. In drier areas, field conditions continued to decline. Stockers were being turned out in fields where adequate forage was available. Armyworm and greenbug infestations continued to cause problems in some areas. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 56 percent of normal, compared with 87 percent last year.

Corn: Only a few fields remained unharvested in the Panhandle. Land preparation continued for next year's crop.

Cotton: Harvest was slowed in many areas as fields were too wet to get into. Stripping and defoliation continued where conditions allowed. Many farmers on the South Plains were waiting on the first hard freeze before harvesting. For those fields that have not yet reached maturity, progress was slowed due to cool, damp weather. Stalk destruction was ongoing in areas where condition allowed. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 54 percent of normal, compared with 64 percent last year.

Sorghum: Combining continued where conditions allowed, but was delayed in many areas due to excess moisture. Reported yield have varied widely. Poorer yielding fields were being fenced in for cattle grazing.

Peanuts: Peanut harvest continued in some areas, but was winding down in most locations. Many peanuts were dug and were awaiting harvest. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 82 percent of normal, compared with 68 percent last year.

Rice: Harvest of the ratoon crop was well over half completed.

Soybeans: Virtually all soybeans were harvested across the State.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, land preparation was ongoing for spring planting. Onions were progressing well. Harvest of citrus and sugarcane was in full swing.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, harvest of cabbage and cucumbers continued. Spinach, carrots, and onions made good progress during the week.

In **East Texas**, Sweet potato harvest neared completion. Fieldwork was halted in some locations due to wet weather.

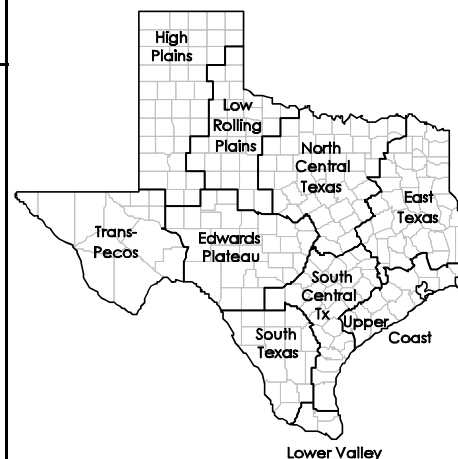
Pecans: Harvesting was ongoing where conditions allowed. More pecans were maturing and hulls were opening. In some locations, producers were hoping for a freeze to increase nut drop. Many growers were optimistic about quality and yields.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures benefitted in areas where showers fell. In drier areas, pastures were showing signs of stress. Hay operations in some areas had their last cutting delayed due to weather. Cattle showed signs of sickness with the rapid change in temperatures. An increasing number of stockers were being turned out in small grains fields. Supplemental feeding increased in dry pastures where forage quality was a concern for cows expected to calve in the spring. Prices remained high, and cattlemen were marketing calves and cull cows at a fast rate.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Nov 10 - 16) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Nov 1 - 16) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Nov 16) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Aug - Oct) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.30	0.37	11.12	18.87	54
Low Rolling Plains	0.10	0.91	12.92	23.78	54
North Central Texas	0.08	0.92	20.99	34.00	83
East Texas	1.13	1.30	27.85	45.69	93
Trans Pecos	0.12	0.14	9.88	12.96	78
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.32	19.37	24.01	115
South Central Texas	0.12	0.20	25.08	34.48	116
Upper Coast	0.46	0.46	37.55	47.63	112
South Texas	0.61	0.84	25.50	23.49	139
Lower Valley	0.73	0.80	23.54	25.34	140



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - November 16, 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	20	29	50	5	19	11	4	11	33	11	13	0	0	1	0
Short	66	52	33	31	36	41	48	28	26	36	24	0	9	9	0
Adequate	14	17	16	63	45	47	46	51	41	52	56	66	64	81	100
Surplus	0	2	1	1	0	1	2	10	0	1	7	34	27	9	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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STATISTICS SERVICE
NASS - USDA
P.O. BOX 70
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767

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