

# Texas Crop Weather



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For the week of November 17 - 23, 2003

TX-CW4703

1-800-626-3142

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**Crop Progress Table - November 23, 2003**

| Crop                     | 2003           | 2002 | Average<br>1998-2002 |
|--------------------------|----------------|------|----------------------|
|                          | <i>Percent</i> |      |                      |
| <b>Cotton</b>            |                |      |                      |
| Bolls Opening . . .      | 98             | 100  | 100                  |
| Harvested . . . . .      | 61             | 63   | 73                   |
| <b>Peanuts</b>           |                |      |                      |
| Harvested . . . . .      | 86             | 76   | 80                   |
| <b>Sorghum</b>           |                |      |                      |
| Turning Color . . .      | 99             | 100  | 100                  |
| Mature . . . . .         | 94             | 99   | 100                  |
| Harvested . . . . .      | 80             | 88   | 94                   |
| <b>Wheat</b>             |                |      |                      |
| Planted . . . . .        | 95             | 93   | 92                   |
| Emerged . . . . .        | 84             | 87   | 80                   |
| <b>Other Field Crops</b> |                |      |                      |
| <b>Planted</b>           |                |      |                      |
| Oats . . . . .           | 95             | 92   | 87                   |
| <b>Harvested</b>         |                |      |                      |
| Pecans . . . . .         | 52             | 43   | 39                   |
| Soybeans . . . . .       | 99             | 99   | 98                   |
| Sunflowers . . . . .     | 93             | 98   | 98                   |

**Crop Condition Table - November 23, 2003**

| Item                | Excellent      | Good | Fair | Poor | Very poor |
|---------------------|----------------|------|------|------|-----------|
|                     | <i>Percent</i> |      |      |      |           |
| Wheat . . . . .     | 5              | 32   | 38   | 18   | 7         |
| Range & Pasture . . | 8              | 30   | 33   | 18   | 11        |

**Agricultural Summary:** Weather during the week included of a wide range of extreme conditions which began with torrential rains and tornadoes in early week. It continued with unseasonable warm temperatures and gusty winds during mid-week, and finally ended with freezing or very cold temperatures at week's end. The majority of the rain fell on the Upper Coast and East Texas. Many areas in those regions received 5 inches of rain with isolated locations getting as much as 10 inches. Flash flooding occurred in creeks and urban areas. Tornadoes and high winds swept through several counties causing structure and tree damage. North Central Texas reported general rainfall accumulations ranging from a trace to 1 inch with some locations recording up to 2 inches. Other regions that received limited precipitation included Central Texas, the Edwards Plateau, South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley. Daytime temperatures during mid-week were in the 70's and 80's. High winds were common across the State. However, by early Sunday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, a very strong cold front plowed southward through the state. Thermometer readings plummeted into the teens in the Panhandle and freezing temperatures were approaching central areas by midnight. Soil moisture conditions improved where moderate rains fell, but in areas where downpours took place, excessive soil erosion occurred. Regions in the western half of the State were still short on soil moisture. Harvest of remaining summer crops was mostly wide open as producers took advantage of the warm weather mid week. Cotton producers on the South Plains finally got the hard freeze they were waiting on to kill their crop. Stockers continued to be turned out on wheat and oat pastures.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Wheat was looking a little better in the Panhandle from the rain the previous week. However warm and windy conditions had depleted moisture from many fields. Irrigated fields continued to be in favorable condition. Planting of remaining acres of wheat and oats moved along. Wheat in North Central Texas had responded well to the moisture it received. Much more moisture will be necessary to make a grain crop out of the dryland acres. Producers continued to turn out stockers on wheat pastures where stands were adequate. Greenbugs and armyworms were present in many areas. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 62 percent of normal, compared with 85 percent last year.

**Corn:** This season's crop has been harvested. Southern regions began fertilizing fields where conditions allowed.

**Cotton:** Harvest was fast and furious on the South Plains and Panhandle. Some harvest was delayed due to high winds but producers in most locations were stripping at a fast clip. The much awaited hard freeze finally arrived toward the end of the week. Acres of late planted cotton that was not yet mature were finished as far as growth was concerned.

**Sorghum:** Combining increased with the favorable field conditions. Reported yields have varied widely. Freezing temperatures halted any future growth. Producers in southern regions were fertilizing fields as conditions allowed.

**Peanuts:** Peanut harvest was winding down in most regions. Yields were reported as mostly favorable.

**Rice:** Harvest of the ratoon crop progressed during the week and neared completion in most locations.

**Soybeans:** This season's soybeans were all harvested.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

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

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, some irrigation of spinach and onions was necessary. Some tip-burn due to high winds was reported for spinach. Beet and cabbage harvest continued. Onion planting continued.

In **East Texas**, Sweet potato harvest was complete.

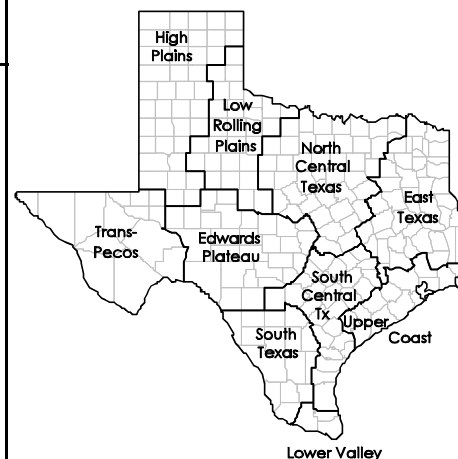
**Pecans:** Harvest was ongoing and nearing completion in many locations. Freezing conditions should help defoliate trees and break open hulls. High winds in some areas were forcing producers to rush to pick up blown down pecans before rotting.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures continued to be in fairly decent shape for this time of year. In drier areas, signs of moisture stress were showing up. Supplemental feeding increased due to the season. Stockers were being put out to wheat pasture. The last hay cutting of the year was completed in most locations. With the change from wet to warm to freezing, cattle were showing signs of sickness. Livestock marketing remained heavy as prices stayed high.

**Weather Information Table <sup>1</sup>**

| National Weather Service Climatic Divisions | Previous week (Nov 17 - 23) Accumulation | Month-to-date (Nov 1 - 23) Accumulation | Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Nov 23) Accumulation | 1961-90 Annual Normal | Previous three months (Aug - Oct) Percent of Normal |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| High Plains                                 | 0.00                                     | 0.37                                    | 11.12                                      | 18.87                 | 54                                                  |
| Low Rolling Plains                          | 0.02                                     | 0.93                                    | 12.94                                      | 23.78                 | 54                                                  |
| North Central Texas                         | 0.48                                     | 1.40                                    | 21.47                                      | 34.00                 | 83                                                  |
| East Texas                                  | 2.10                                     | 3.40                                    | 29.95                                      | 45.69                 | 93                                                  |
| Trans Pecos                                 | 0.00                                     | 0.14                                    | 9.88                                       | 12.96                 | 78                                                  |
| Edwards Plateau                             | 0.20                                     | 0.52                                    | 19.57                                      | 24.01                 | 115                                                 |
| South Central Texas                         | 1.03                                     | 1.23                                    | 26.11                                      | 34.48                 | 116                                                 |
| Upper Coast                                 | 3.08                                     | 3.54                                    | 40.63                                      | 47.63                 | 112                                                 |
| South Texas                                 | 0.21                                     | 1.05                                    | 25.71                                      | 23.49                 | 139                                                 |
| Lower Valley                                | 0.00                                     | 0.80                                    | 23.54                                      | 25.34                 | 140                                                 |



<sup>1</sup> Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

**Top Soil Moisture by District - November 23, 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 | 18                 | 30  | 41  | 6   | 18 | 15 | 8   | 3   | 44 | 10 | 10  | 0   | 0  | 3    | 0    |
| Short      | 71                 | 55  | 42  | 48  | 34 | 27 | 21  | 7   | 29 | 35 | 24  | 0   | 0  | 18   | 0    |
| Adequate   | 11                 | 14  | 17  | 46  | 48 | 53 | 63  | 75  | 27 | 54 | 59  | 75  | 10 | 68   | 100  |
| Surplus    | 0                  | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0  | 5  | 8   | 15  | 0  | 1  | 7   | 25  | 90 | 11   | 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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