

Texas Crop Weather



Released: December 1, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)
 For the week of November 24 - 30, 2003
 TX-CW4803

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

Crop Progress Table - November 30, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Cotton			
Bolls Opening . . .	99	100	100
Harvested	70	76	80
Peanuts			
Harvested	94	87	87
Sorghum			
Turning Color . . .	100	100	100
Mature	97	100	100
Harvested	85	91	96
Wheat			
Planted	96	96	95
Emerged	88	89	83
Other Field			
Planted			
Oats	96	95	90
Harvested			
Pecans	60	54	48
Soybeans	100	100	99
Sunflowers	95	99	98

Crop Condition Table - November 30, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	5	31	40	17	7
Range & Pasture	8	28	35	18	11

Agricultural Summary: As the week began, the first major hard freeze of the season had taken hold on most northern, western and central areas. Temperatures dropped into the teens and twenties in most of these locations. Rainfall in early and mid week was mostly localized to parts of East Texas and the upper Coast. Accumulations varied widely and ranged from trace amounts up to 2 inches in a few locations. Weather conditions in most other parts of the state were mostly cold, windy, and dry. By the weekend, a warming trend had made its way to most areas. Despite the cold weather, conditions were favorable for fieldwork, and for harvest of remaining cotton, sorghum, peanuts, and pecans. In the driest areas, producers were becoming concerned as topsoil moisture was getting extremely short. Condition of the small grain acreage was worsening with the lack of precipitation. Insect pressure on small grains and vegetables was subsiding due to lower temperatures. Supplemental feeding of livestock was gaining momentum with the colder and drier conditions. Cattle continued to graze and to be placed on small grain pastures.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Growth and development of the wheat crop was slowed by lack of moisture and lower temperatures. Gusty winds continued to deplete moisture from many fields. Irrigated wheat fields were in better shape, but could still use rain. Planting of remaining acres of wheat and oats was winding down. Some dry planted acreage still had not emerged. Producers continued to turn out cattle on wheat pastures where stands were adequate. Insect pressure on wheat was decreasing with lower temperatures. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 62 percent of normal, compared with 85 percent last year.

Corn: Some fieldwork for next season's crop was taking place where conditions allowed.

Cotton: Harvest was in full swing and continued to make good progress in remaining areas of the Plains as conditions remained mostly open. Gins in some locations were operating around the clock to keep up with the harvest. The hard freeze had benefitted many producers that had elected not to defoliate. Stalk destruction and shredding was ongoing where conditions allowed.

Sorghum: Harvest of the remaining acreage was very active as conditions remained dry. Producers in southern regions were fertilizing and working fields as conditions allowed.

Peanuts: Peanut harvest was still active in some central and western areas, but was mostly winding down.

Soybeans: Harvest of remaining acreage was completed.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, land preparation was ongoing for spring planting. Fall and winter vegetables were progressing well. Harvest of citrus, some vegetables and sugarcane was active during the week.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, irrigation of winter vegetables was active during the week. Some producers reported some tip-burn on young spinach. Cabbage was making good progress and harvest was ongoing.

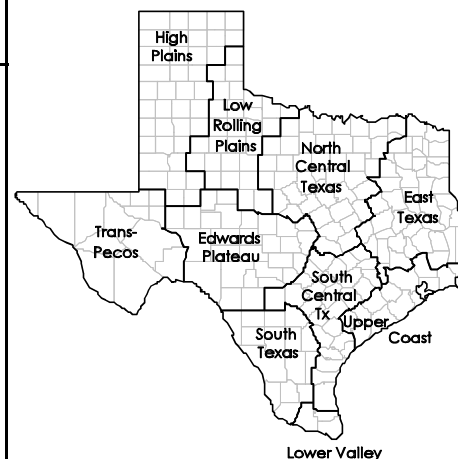
Pecans: Harvest was active in many locations and was nearing completion in some localities. In some western counties, the hard freeze was expected to assist producers with harvesting their crop.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures were on the decline with the changing weather, but most were still in fair to good condition. In drier areas, signs of moisture stress was evident. Supplemental feeding increased due to the worsening weather conditions. Cattle were being placed on small grain pastures. The last hay cutting of the year was completed in most locations. Cattle were mostly in good condition, despite the changing weather.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Nov 24 - 30) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Nov 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Nov 30) 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	0.00	0.93	12.94	23.78	54
North Central Texas	0.00	1.40	21.47	34.00	83
East Texas	0.35	3.75	30.30	45.69	93
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.14	9.88	12.96	78
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.52	19.57	24.01	115
South Central Texas	0.04	1.27	26.15	34.48	116
Upper Coast	0.02	3.56	40.65	47.63	112
South Texas	0.00	1.05	25.71	23.49	139
Lower Valley	0.08	0.88	23.62	25.34	140



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - November 30, 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	29	37	49	10	9	15	0	0	23	12	4	0	0	0	0
Short	58	46	37	31	53	28	40	3	38	39	28	0	0	39	20
Adequate	13	15	14	59	38	49	60	76	39	49	60	73	63	61	80
Surplus	0	2	0	0	0	8	0	21	0	0	8	27	37	0	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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