

Texas Crop Weather



Released: December 8, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)
 For the week of December 1 - 7, 2003
 TX-CW4903

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

Crop Progress Table - December 7, 2003

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
Cotton			
Bolls Opening . . .	100	100	100
Harvested	76	82	87
Peanuts			
Harvested	97	94	93
Sorghum			
Mature	99	100	100
Harvested	91	95	97
Wheat			
Planted	98	98	97
Emerged	94	92	87
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Oats	97	96	93
Harvested			
Pecans	69	66	59
Sunflowers	98	100	99

Crop Condition Table - December 7, 2003

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	3	21	34	20	22
Range & Pasture . .	4	27	35	20	14

Agricultural Summary: High winds, wide temperature variations, and lack of rainfall characterized the weather during the week. A few traces of rain were recorded in Central and East Texas, but nothing over one-tenth of an inch. The biggest weather story of the week was high winds and rapidly changing temperatures. The Panhandle and South Plains regions had the distinction of recording both the coldest and warmest temperatures. A mid week cold front rolled into those regions and dropped temperatures into the 10's and 20's. But by late week, thermometer readings were approaching the 80 degree mark. High temperatures were generally in the 60's and low 70's in other parts of the State. The cold front pushed freezing temperatures down to just north of the Coastal Bend. Soil moisture was further depleted across many areas as high winds took their toll. Small grains and winter pastures were showing increased signs of drought stress. Harvest of remaining cotton, sorghum, and peanuts rolled along at a rapid pace. Greenbug and aphid populations were present in some areas due to the limited time span of freezing temperatures. Supplemental feeding of livestock steadily increased with the colder and drier conditions. Cattle continued to graze and to be placed on small grain pastures.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat and oats continued to be in desperate need of rain. High winds increased moisture depletion in most

fields. Some dryland fields on the South Plains have died due to a combination of drought and freezing temperatures at an early growth stage. Irrigated wheat fields were in better shape, but could still use rain. Planting of small grains continued in isolated locations, but was winding down for the most part. Some dry planted acreage still had not emerged. In poorer stands, producers were considering pulling off stockers for lack of adequate winter forage. Greenbugs, aphids, and armyworms remained active in many fields. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 49 percent of normal, compared with 81 percent last year.

Corn: Some producers in southern regions were applying anhydrous ammonia and other fertilizers to prepare for next season's crop.

Cotton: Harvest made good progress as the dry conditions were ideal for cotton stripping. Many areas reported that harvest should be complete within the next few weeks. Yield reports continue to vary widely. Much of what remained in some locations were poor yielding fields while the best cotton was already in modules. Producers were in good spirits due to high prices. Gins in some locations were operating around the clock to keep up with the harvest. Stalk destruction and shredding was ongoing where conditions allowed.

Sorghum: Harvest of the remaining acreage moved along at a fast clip. Producers in southern regions were busy fertilizing and working fields.

Peanuts: Peanut harvest was virtually complete in most areas. All remaining peanuts should be harvested within the next week.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, winter vegetables were progressing well. Harvest of citrus, sugarcane, and greens was active due to fields drying out during the week.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, irrigation was active throughout the region. Winter vegetable planting continued. Harvest of spinach and cabbage was ongoing. Onions were making good progress under irrigation.

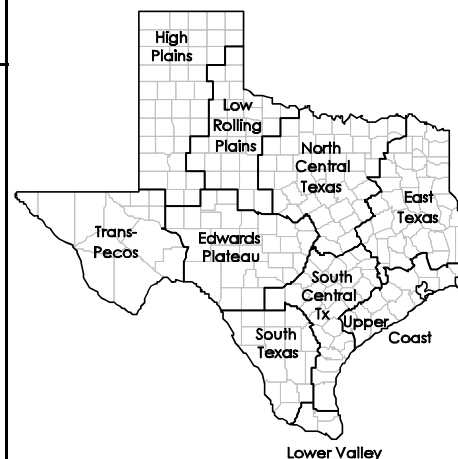
Pecans: Harvest was active in most locations and winding up in southern regions. In drier locations, nut quality was affected by lack of quality water. The freeze assisted many producers with harvesting their crop.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures continued to decline due to drought like conditions. High winds depleted any remaining moisture on the range. Most summer forages died or were on the decline due to freezing temperatures. Cattle continued to be turned out on small grains but where stands were inadequate, many producers were looking to sell. Health problems were becoming evident in some herds due to changing weather. Supplemental feeding was increasing as the winter season drew closer. Prices were still excellent, surprising many cattlemen by the longevity of the favorable market.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Dec 1 - 7) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Dec 1 - 7) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Dec 7) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Sep - Nov) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.00	11.12	18.87	46
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.00	12.94	23.78	59
North Central Texas	0.00	0.00	21.47	34.00	61
East Texas	0.00	0.00	30.30	45.69	82
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.00	9.88	12.96	78
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.00	19.57	24.01	84
South Central Texas	0.04	0.04	26.19	34.48	117
Upper Coast	0.00	0.00	40.65	47.63	105
South Texas	0.03	0.03	25.74	23.49	152
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	23.62	25.34	144



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - December 7, 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	46	52	61	23	33	25	11	2	50	18	12	0	0	9	0
Short	46	39	31	50	47	39	42	18	36	46	36	6	0	25	10
Adequate	8	9	8	27	20	33	47	74	14	36	49	88	80	66	65
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	0	0	3	6	20	0	25

* 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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