

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: December 15, 2003 (3:00 P.M. CST)

For the week of December 8 - 14, 2003

TX-CW5003

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

**Crop Progress Table - December 14, 2003**

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1998-2002
	<i>Percent</i>		
<b>Cotton</b>			
Bolls Opening . . .	100	100	100
Harvested . . . . .	85	87	91
<b>Peanuts</b>			
Harvested . . . . .	99	98	96
<b>Sorghum</b>			
Mature . . . . .	100	100	100
Harvested . . . . .	94	97	99
<b>Wheat</b>			
Planted . . . . .	99	99	98
Emerged . . . . .	93	95	90
<b>Other Field Planted</b>			
Oats . . . . .	98	98	95
<b>Harvested</b>			
Pecans . . . . .	76	76	69
Sunflowers . . . . .	99	100	100

**Crop Condition Table - December 14, 2003**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat . . . . .	5	15	34	21	25
Range & Pasture	3	22	36	22	17

**Agricultural Summary:** Weather conditions were mixed and fluctuated across the state. Conditions during the week varied from windy and dry to periods of light rain, and freezing nighttime temperatures. Moisture in the form of rain and light snow fell in a few locations of the state in early and late week. Areas in parts of the Upper Coast, Central and East Texas received measurable amounts of 1/2 inch or more. Lighter amounts fell in some western and northern counties. Strong winds affected some harvest activity and continued to deplete what little topsoil moisture was left. Small grains and winter pastures continued to show signs of drought stress. Harvest of remaining cotton, sorghum, peanuts, pecan and guar made good progress and was nearing completion in most locations. Greenbugs and other pests were still causing problems for some small grain producers. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued to expand across more areas with the onset of cold and dry conditions. Cattle continued to graze on small grains, but many pastures have had limited growth.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Small grains continued to decline from the lack of adequate moisture in most parts of the state, but especially in the High Plains region. Rainfall or snow is needed to improve the situation in most locations. Greenbugs, aphids, and armyworms remained active in some areas. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 46 percent of normal, compared with 84 percent last year.

**Corn:** Some producers in southern and central regions were applying fertilizers and preparing fields for next year's crop. Fieldwork was ahead of schedule in most areas.

**Cotton:** Harvest made good progress as open weather was favorable for stripping cotton. Producers in many counties of the Plains were getting closer to being done for the year. Producers in some localities have been pleasantly surprised with better than expected yields. Gins in some locations continued to keep busy with incoming modules. Stalk destruction and shredding remained active where conditions allowed.

**Sorghum:** Harvest of remaining acreage in the Plains was nearing completion. Producers in southern regions were busy fertilizing and working fields.

**Peanuts:** Peanut harvest was virtually complete in most areas. Only a few isolated fields remained unharvested.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, winter vegetables, including onions, were progressing well. Harvest of citrus, sugarcane, cabbage and greens was active with favorable weather conditions. Field operations including preparations for winter vegetable planting continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, irrigation was active throughout the region. Winter vegetable planting continued. Harvest of spinach and cabbage was very active. Onions were making good progress under irrigation. Insect pressure was light due to colder temperatures.

**Pecans:** Harvest was active in western counties and mostly complete in many locations.

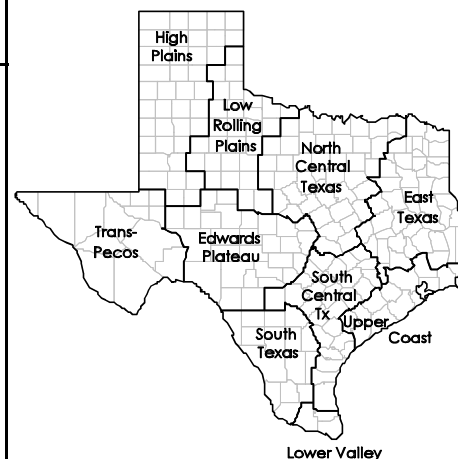
## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures continued to decline due to drought like conditions. High winds depleted any remaining moisture from pastures. In southern areas, most forages were on the decline due to freezing temperatures. Ranchers were busy putting out hay and other supplements for cattle and other livestock. Cattle continued to graze small grains where stands were adequate. Health problems were evident in some herds due to changing weather. Stocks pond water levels were getting lower in many locations with the lack of precipitation.

**NOTICE:** Texas Crop Weather will not be published on December 22, December 29, 2003 and January 5, 2004. The next issue will be published on January 12, 2004.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Dec 8 - 14) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Dec 1 - 14) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Dec 14) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Sep - Nov) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.02	0.02	11.14	18.87	46
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.00	12.94	23.78	59
North Central Texas	0.33	0.33	21.80	34.00	61
East Texas	1.04	1.04	31.34	45.69	82
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.00	9.88	12.96	78
Edwards Plateau	0.14	0.14	19.71	24.01	84
South Central Texas	0.37	0.41	26.56	34.48	117
Upper Coast	1.91	1.91	42.56	47.63	105
South Texas	0.03	0.06	25.77	23.49	152
Lower Valley	0.04	0.04	23.66	25.34	144



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

**Top Soil Moisture by District - December 14, 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	57	69	36	38	31	14	3	44	23	13	0	0	15	0
Short	47	33	26	43	51	36	43	20	54	61	47	6	2	30	17
Adequate	7	10	5	21	11	32	43	64	2	16	37	88	82	55	83
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	13	0	0	3	6	16	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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