

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: July 26, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)  
 For the week of July 19 - 25, 2004  
 TX-CW3004

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

**Crop Progress Table - July 25, 2004**

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
<b>Corn</b>			
Silked .....	91	92	90
Dough .....	69	70	68
Dented .....	60	57	56
Mature .....	40	43	43
Harvested .....	5	6	13
<b>Cotton</b>			
Squaring .....	85	78	87
Setting Bolls .....	50	34	52
Bolls Opening .....	9	9	10
<b>Peanuts</b>			
Pegging .....	84	79	80
<b>Rice</b>			
Headed .....	69	87	88
<b>Sorghum</b>			
Planted .....	100	99	100
Headed .....	60	52	62
Turning Color .....	48	46	48
Mature .....	40	39	39
Harvested .....	32	26	31

**Crop Condition Table - July 25, 2004**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn .....	52	35	10	3	0
Cotton .....	21	41	24	9	5
Peanuts .....	28	57	14	1	0
Rice .....	15	53	32	0	0
Sorghum .....	21	53	15	9	2
Range & Pasture ..	14	41	28	10	7

**Agricultural Summary:** Some good general rains and a few strong thunderstorms made their way through the State during the week. A rare summer cold front worked it's way down from the northwest colliding with Gulf moisture to create widespread precipitation and some torrential downpours. Nearly all portions of the Panhandle and South Plains received at least 1/4 inch of rain while more than a few areas recorded over an inch and one isolated location reported over 4 inches accumulation. North Central Texas saw rainfall amounts ranging from 1/4 to 2 inches. The Trans Pecos and South Texas regions recorded very heavy rain totaling up to 4 inches in some locations while large areas received 2 inches accumulation. Late week thunderstorms blew through parts of the Upper Coast, Edwards Plateau, and East and Central Texas. High winds, hail, and up to 3 inches of rainfall in some locations were a result of the storms. The increased soil moisture was definitely welcomed across western regions as conditions have been hot and dry over the past several weeks. Field work was generally open most of the week but slowed down considerably by week's end as showers moved through. Haying activity was heavy statewide as conditions allowed. Insect pressure was light in most regions. Cattle remained in good condition.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Wheat field plowing was active on the Plains. Producers were in the planning stages for next season's crop.

**Corn:** Corn continued to be in excellent condition statewide. Irrigation was ongoing on the Panhandle while insect pressure remained light. Some irrigation pumps were expected to be turned off in the next few weeks to allow the corn to finish off. Some rust was reported in a few fields on the Blacklands. Harvest had begun in South Texas and should begin within the next week or so in parts of Central Texas and the Upper Coast. Combining on the Coastal Bend was underway. Rio Grande Valley corn harvest was ongoing. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 95 percent of normal compared with 60 percent last year.

**Cotton:** Cotton progress continued as most fields on the Panhandle and South Plains were blooming and squaring. Earlier planted fields were beginning to set bolls. Irrigated fields were in great shape. Dryland fields were suffering from the hot and dry conditions earlier this month but should have gotten some relief with the rain late in the week. Pink bollworm pressure was reported on the South Plains. Defoliation in preparation for harvest was starting on the Coastal Bend. Harvest of early fields were expected to begin within the next 10 days. Cotton harvest in the Rio Grande Valley continued. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 77 percent of normal compared with 61 percent last year.

**Sorghum:** Irrigation was active on the Panhandle. The crop was heading out and blooming on the South Plains. Limited harvest had begun in southern locations of the Blacklands. Combining was gaining momentum across Central Texas and the Upper Coast. Harvest was fast and furious across the Coastal Bend and nearly complete in the Rio Grande Valley. Most yields across the regions were reported as favorable. However, there were a few reports on the Upper Coast and Coastal Bend of yields being affected by the excessive rain in the late Spring. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 82 percent of normal compared with 67 percent last year.

**Peanuts:** Peanuts were pegging and in excellent shape. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 91 percent of normal compared with 87 percent last year.

**Rice:** Rice was heading out and many fields were turning color. Early rice fields were being drained. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 83 percent of normal, compared with 86 percent last year.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **High Plains**, pumpkins were growing rapidly and were ahead of schedule.

In the **Trans-Pecos**, potato and late onion harvest was complete. Grape harvest was in full swing. Watermelon harvest was ongoing.

In **East Texas**, peach harvest continued. Blueberry harvest was nearly complete. Some vegetable crops were wilting in the day time heat.

**Pecans:** Irrigation continued in western areas. Pecan scab and powdery mildew were reported in a few locations.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and native pasture remained in decent shape. Improvement was expected in areas that received precipitation. Stocking rates were low due to quality grazing and the high price of replacement cattle. Haying was very active where conditions allowed. In eastern regions, hay quality was low in some fields as producers were delayed in cutting because of weather. Cattle continued to be in good shape statewide. Some internal parasite problems were reported on sheep.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (July 19 - 25) Accumulation	Month-to-date (July 1 - 25) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Jul 25) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Apr - Jun) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.87	1.42	12.49	18.87	105
Low Rolling Plains	0.43	0.71	14.16	23.78	88
North Central Texas	0.48	0.84	21.80	34.00	119
East Texas	0.31	0.97	28.80	45.69	124
Trans Pecos	1.75	1.84	8.49	12.96	115
Edwards Plateau	0.47	0.52	15.01	24.01	122
South Central Texas	0.39	0.77	20.11	34.48	126
Upper Coast	0.68	1.87	34.52	47.63	161
South Texas	0.50	0.65	12.24	23.49	100
Lower Valley	0.00	0.32	14.61	25.34	142



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

**Top Soil Moisture by District - July 25, 2004 \***

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	7	24	17	14	15	19	1	3	41	18	1	0	0	3	0
Short	37	30	36	51	55	38	39	22	46	45	35	53	12	30	70
Adequate	55	43	47	35	30										

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