

Texas Crop Weather



Released: August 16, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of August 9 - 15, 2004
 TX-CW3304

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

Crop Progress Table - August 15, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Silked	99	100	100
Dough	87	94	93
Dented	73	78	75
Mature	62	66	59
Harvested	36	40	44
Cotton			
Squaring	98	94	99
Setting Bolls	83	72	87
Bolls Opening	17	18	18
Harvested	6	7	8
Peanuts			
Pegging	98	96	94
Rice			
Headed	99	100	99
Harvested	35	39	51
Sorghum			
Headed	79	67	80
Turning Color	53	53	60
Mature	48	49	52
Harvested	47	47	46

Crop Condition Table - August 15, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	46	43	10	1	0
Cotton	27	49	17	5	2
Peanuts	38	52	9	1	0
Rice	18	51	30	1	0
Sorghum	22	55	16	6	1
Range & Pasture	12	43	30	12	3

Agricultural Summary: A cold front kept unseasonably cool weather, spotty showers and storms lingering around the state for the latter part of the week. In the Plains, producers saw favorable conditions as moisture fell from trace amounts to 3 inches. A hail storm damaged some cotton fields. Portions of the Southern Low Plains received no rainfall and needed moisture as tanks dried and soil was cracking. Scattered storms brought damaging winds to isolated areas of the Blacklands as well as on the Trans Pecos region. East Texas received little or no moisture for the week, although an isolated area received up to 3 inches. The Edwards Plateau saw variable amounts of rain in isolated areas, some up to 4 inches, but irrigation still continued.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Preparations continued as the planting season approaches. Plowing occurred in the Cross Timbers. In South Texas, land

leveling occurred as planting season approached. On the Edwards Plateau, planting preparations neared completion.

Corn: In the Panhandle, corn irrigation was halted in some areas that received moisture. Harvest continued in the Cross Timbers, Blacklands, and on the Edwards Plateau, and neared completion in South Central, the Upper Coast, and in portions of South Texas. Harvest was complete in other portions of South Texas. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 96 percent of normal compared with 58 percent last year.

Cotton: Although moisture benefitted fields, cooler weather threatened progress across the Plains. Irrigation was not necessary as moisture levels were adequate in this area. Growth regulators were being applied in the Plains and Blacklands. Insect pressure remained light in most areas, although isolated areas of the Lower Plains, Cross Timbers, and Blacklands were being treated for boll worms and other insects. On the High Plains, weeds continued to be a problem in areas with high moisture levels. Some fields were completely lost and others were damaged by isolated hail storms. Harvest was halted by rains in South Central, South Texas, and Coastal regions, and continued between showers in the Lower Valley. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 85 percent of normal compared with 57 percent last year.

Sorghum: Sorghum in the Northern High Plains seemed to be doing very well. Harvest began in the Southern Low plains. In the Blacklands, harvest was reported to be going well with some areas reporting midge damage and negative effects from wet weather in the spring and summer. Harvest in South Central and South Texas neared completion with excellent yields. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 85 percent of normal compared with 62 percent last year.

Peanuts: Moisture helped, but warmer temperatures were needed to further crop progress. Some disease problems were noted in isolated fields. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 94 percent of normal compared with 88 percent last year.

Rice: Rice harvest continued. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 84 percent of normal, compared with 83 percent last year.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

On the **High Plains**, pumpkins were developing rapidly and were nearing harvest. Watermelon harvest was slowed due to rains.

In the **Trans-Pecos**, pecans were finishing gel stage and some were in the water stage in an alternate bearing year with bigger but fewer nuts. Grape harvest was halted due to wet conditions. Melon harvest was still progressing well.

On the **Edwards Plateau**, pecan dropping continued and fall webworms continued to multiply in some pecan trees. Planting of fall cabbage continued.

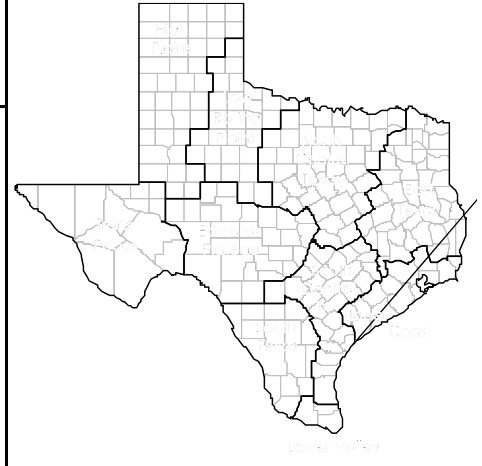
In **East Texas**, watermelon harvest neared completion.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Hay cutting and baling continued across the state, but slowed in areas where rain was received. Some producers in the Cross Timbers were on their third cutting. Pasture and rangeland in the Southern High Plains remained adequate, and supplemental feeding was unnecessary. Warmer temperatures may be needed to produce more grass, or supplemental feeding may be necessary in the near future. Fly populations continued to bother cattle in the Cross Timbers. Grasshopper and army worm pressure was noted in Eastern regions. Preparations for winter pasture planting were underway in the Blacklands.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Aug 9 - 15) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Aug 1 - 15) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Aug 15) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (May - Jul) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.79	1.85	15.13	18.87	84
Low Rolling Plains	0.33	0.72	16.14	23.78	81
North Central Texas	0.18	0.39	24.11	34.00	119
East Texas	0.29	0.42	29.82	45.69	110
Trans Pecos	1.05	1.31	10.48	12.96	90
Edwards Plateau	0.27	0.77	16.67	24.01	91
South Central Texas	0.42	0.49	21.26	34.48	108
Upper Coast	0.56	1.24	36.51	47.63	137
South Texas	0.29	0.37	12.73	23.49	73
Lower Valley	0.61	0.78	15.59	25.34	92



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - August 15, 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	0	8	0	2	7	9	3	14	12	12	1	0	5	15	0
Short	9	13	6	18	41	26	44	51	29	40	31	38	41	41	47
Adequate	75	67	91	78	50	61	50	34	57	47	58	57	54	43	20
Surplus	16	12	3	2	2	4	3	1	2	1	10	5	0	1	33

* 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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