

# Texas Crop Weather



Released: October 4, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)  
 For the week of September 27 - October 3, 2004  
 TX-CW4004

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

**Crop Progress Table - October 3, 2004**

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
<i>Percent</i>			
<b>Corn</b>			
Mature .....	99	97	99
Harvested .....	74	83	84
<b>Cotton</b>			
Bolls Opening .....	56	61	79
Harvested .....	20	22	27
<b>Peanuts</b>			
Harvested .....	19	5	16
<b>Rice</b>			
Harvested .....	100	99	99
<b>Sorghum</b>			
Headed .....	99	97	99
Turning Color .....	89	79	93
Mature .....	75	64	83
Harvested .....	59	59	74
<b>Wheat</b>			
Planted .....	62	64	55
Emerged .....	30	31	27
<b>Other Field Crops</b>			
<b>Planted</b>			
Oats .....	56	60	41
<b>Harvested</b>			
Pecans .....	4	4	2
Soybeans .....	66	73	79
Sunflowers .....	43	62	74

**Crop Condition Table - October 3, 2004**

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<i>Percent</i>					
Cotton .....	26	50	17	4	3
Peanuts .....	29	47	19	2	3
Range & Pasture ..	9	40	33	14	4

**Agricultural Summary:** The unusual weather continued during the week as torrential rains poured down on portions of west Texas. Cooler air, rushing down from the north, collided with warm humid air to create massive amounts of precipitation. The southern Panhandle and South Plains received the brunt of the storms as rainfall amounts of 2 to 4 inches were typical. Some locations recorded up to 10 inches of accumulation for the week. There were a few reports of hail and strong winds along with the storms. Portions of the Trans Pecos, Edwards Plateau, and Central Texas saw periods of heavy precipitation ranging from 2 to 4 inches. Despite the widespread rain, there still remained a few dry spots in the eastern counties of the Edwards Plateau and portions of East Texas. Temperatures began to feel more like fall as lows in the 40's and 50's were recorded on the Panhandle and South Plains. Soil moisture was adequate in most areas and in excess in many locations. In the wettest areas, cattle were tromping through mud and a few fields were

underwater. Field work was at a complete standstill in many locations. Disease and insect problems were evident in some wheat and peanut fields. Cattle remained in decent shape with calves showing good weaning weights.

**Field Crops Report**

**Small Grains:** Wheat benefitted greatly from the increased moisture. Most fields were off to a great start going into Fall and Winter. Producers that had still not planted were delayed by the rain. In a few very wet locations, fields in low lying areas were drowned out. Armyworm infestations continued to be a problem and growers were spraying accordingly.

**Corn:** Harvest on the Panhandle was delayed by wet fields. Some lodging occurred due to high winds. Only isolated fields remained to be harvested in other regions of the State.

**Cotton:** The story continued to be the lack of warm weather as heat unit accumulations fell further behind. Fields on the South Plains were in various stages ranging from blooming to defoliated. Hail and wind damage were being accessed in some locations. In wetter areas, cotton began to string out a little. Harvest was in full swing in Central Texas when conditions allowed. Yields were reported as favorable. Only a few fields remained on the Upper Coast and Coastal Bend as stalk destruction was the main activity. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 85 percent of normal compared with 50 percent last year.

**Sorghum:** Harvest was underway on the Panhandle and South Plains as conditions allowed. Maturity was still a little behind in some areas due to the cooler than normal weather. Some lodging occurred with the strong storms. Combining was virtually complete in other regions of the State.

**Peanuts:** Peanut digging was delayed in areas of the South Plains. Some harvesting had begun in locations on the Low Rolling Plains and South Texas. Pod rot and leaf spot continued to be a major problem in many fields as some producers were digging early to avoid further damage. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 86 percent of normal compared with 84 percent last year.

**Rice:** The ratoon crop was looking good and harvest was expected to begin next month.

**Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**

In **East Texas**, sweet potato harvest was ongoing with favorable conditions.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden** region, seed bed preparation continued. Some pre-irrigation of spinach fields was reported.

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, Fall planting was beginning. Early planted vegetable crops were progressing.

In the **Plains** region, pumpkin harvest continued.

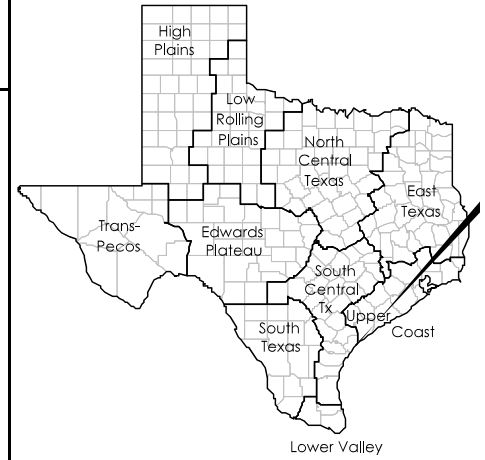
**Pecans:** Pecan harvest had begun in some areas and was drawing closer in others. Despite a few disease and insect problems in various locations, most producers were optimistic about this year's crop.

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report**

Range and pastures were in great shape over most of the State. However, dry conditions were taking a toll in parts of East Texas and the Upper Coast. Western areas were benefitting well from the unusually wet conditions the past few weeks and rangeland was reported to be in the best shape in years. Cattle activity included marketing Spring calves and purchasing stockers for Winter pastures. Some producers were holding out on buying cattle due to high prices. Wetter areas reported mud tromping. Very limited supplemental feeding was necessary across the State. Stock ponds were full in many regions.

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

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Sep 27 - Oct 3) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Sep 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Oct 3) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.98	4.28	20.30	18.87	123
Low Rolling Plains	1.16	1.01	19.30	23.78	66
North Central Texas	1.31	1.28	29.10	34.00	89
East Texas	0.58	1.71	34.42	45.69	63
Trans Pecos	0.70	3.29	15.16	12.96	134
Edwards Plateau	0.85	1.81	21.88	24.01	91
South Central Texas	1.29	2.40	26.55	34.48	62
Upper Coast	0.22	2.22	40.65	47.63	54
South Texas	0.60	3.55	18.77	23.49	85
Lower Valley	0.93	7.04	24.24	25.34	95



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

**Top Soil Moisture by District - October 3, 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	2	0	13	6	18	6	10	36	5	11	0	0	50	0	0
Short	14	13	32	31	39	40	62	10	24	42	27	58	25	28	10
Adequate	57	40	55	54	42	50	28	47	50	47	73	39	25	64	90
Surplus	27	47	0	9	1	4	0	7	21	0	0	3	0	8	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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Texas Crop Weather (USPS 396-770) is published weekly by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, 300 E. 8th St., Austin, TX 78701, (512) 916-5581. **PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID** at Austin, TX. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Texas Crop Weather, P.O. Box 70, Austin, TX 78767.

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