

Texas Crop Weather



Released: October 25, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)

For the week of October 18 - 24, 2004

TX-CW4304

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - October 24, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Harvested	92	95	97
Cotton			
Bolls Opening	75	86	94
Harvested	26	32	41
Peanuts			
Harvested	33	26	38
Sorghum			
Turning Color	97	90	98
Mature	89	77	91
Harvested	66	64	82
Wheat			
Planted	82	83	77
Emerged	62	65	53
Other Field Crops Planted			
Oats	85	83	68
Harvested			
Pecans	21	19	12
Soybeans	88	86	91
Sunflowers	79	80	89

Crop Condition Table - October 24, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Cotton	16	47	23	9	5
Peanuts	29	45	17	7	2
Wheat	37	42	19	2	0
Range & Pasture ..	10	46	33	9	2

Agricultural Summary: Most of the week remained dry, allowing producers to get into the fields. The latter part of the week brought moisture across all of central Texas. Most areas saw only light showers, although East Texas, South Central, and the Edwards Plateau received between trace amounts and 4 inches of rainfall. Some areas of the Blacklands reported up to 6 inches of moisture. Isolated hail was reported in the Southern Low Plains. Top soil moisture levels were adequate over most of the state. Temperatures remained above average, helping to dry out fields for harvest. Cotton harvest was active or soon to begin, and producers prepared for planting of fall crops. Range and pastures seemed to be doing well, although pastures were beginning to brown. Stock tank levels remained full for the most part after the rains over the weekend.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Rust was reported in some wheat on the High Plains due to wet conditions in earlier weeks. Late planted wheat was going in behind corn. Some fields in the Southern High Plains were being replanted due to the previous heavy rainfall. Grub worms were a nuisance in isolated areas.

Portions of the Blacklands were behind on planting wheat and oats due wet conditions, but planting was in full swing. Planting continued on the Edwards Plateau and some fields were being grazed. In South Texas, planting was near completion. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 90 percent of normal compared with 63 percent last year.

Corn: Corn harvest continued on the Plains. Late planted corn was still drying down.

Cotton: In the Plains regions, defoliation continued, and cotton benefitted from the warmer days. Picking and stripping began and made good progress. Harvest of remaining fields in the Blacklands and East Texas resumed after the previous week's rains, but some fields remained too wet to get equipment into. On the Edwards Plateau, South Central, and South Texas, stalk shredding was underway in some areas as harvest neared completion. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 76 percent of normal compared with 52 percent last year.

Sorghum: Harvest continued to be active in the Plains with decent yields reported. Some slow maturing fields were waiting for a freeze to get harvest underway. Isolated hail damage was reported in some Southern Plains sorghum.

Peanuts: Harvest continued on the Plains throughout the week but was halted due to moisture late in the week. Diggers and combines were very active earlier in the week with fair to good yields reported. Pod rot was evident in some fields affecting the yield and grades of these peanuts. Peanuts in the Cross Timbers were harvested for the most part with the exception of some dryland Spanish Peanuts. Harvest was winding down in parts of South Central Texas, but producers were having a hard time finishing up due to wet conditions. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 84 percent of normal compared with 83 percent last year.

Rice: Second crop rice harvest had begun on the Upper Coast.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Plains**, an outstanding pumpkin crop was reported.

The **San Antonio-Winter Garden** region, harvesting of cabbage and winter vegetable preparations continued. In other areas, spinach, carrots, and onions were planted.

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, early planted vegetable crops were progressing well. Onion planting continued while harvest of early oranges was gaining momentum. Field operations were active.

Pecans: Pecans were starting to open up and some dropping of nuts began in the Southern High Plains. In the Cross Timbers, harvesting of pecans continued and was not hampered by rains. In the Trans Pecos region, pecans were starting to split and harvest was nearing. In South Central Texas, some scab damage and losses of dropped nuts to crows were reported. Case bearer had also affected the crop in this area. Harvest was beginning in South Texas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

As hay baling resumed across the state, cattle were being bought for wheat pasture. Pasture and rangeland remained in fair condition on the Plains. Breeding season had begun on the Cross Timbers for goats and some fall cattle work was in progress. Pastures in the area were turning brown quickly. Minimal supplemental feeding was reported across the state. Marketing of calves continued in the Blacklands. Livestock were carrying good body condition. Horn flies were a complaint of some producers. Some portions of the Blacklands were spraying for armyworms in pastures. Winter pastures were being planted in East Texas, and hay supplies were good but not of the best quality. Stock ponds remain full from past and recent moisture.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Oct 18 - 24) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Oct 1 - 24) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Oct 24) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.03	2.31	22.51	18.87	123
Low Rolling Plains	0.27	2.05	20.73	23.78	66
North Central Texas	0.90	3.68	31.83	34.00	89
East Texas	0.65	3.53	37.37	45.69	63
Trans Pecos	0.09	1.28	16.39	12.96	134
Edwards Plateau	0.57	2.91	24.21	24.01	91
South Central Texas	1.45	4.49	29.77	34.48	62
Upper Coast	0.31	3.82	44.25	47.63	54
South Texas	0.10	1.77	20.01	23.49	85
Lower Valley	0.00	1.64	24.99	25.34	95



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - October 24, 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	1	1	0	3	0	2	1	0	4	4	0	0	0	3	0
Short	9	8	23	17	27	23	17	30	18	41	24	52	24	31	17
Adequate	70	62	77	79	71	64	78	54	78	49	66	48	49	58	58
Surplus	20	29	0	1	2	11	4	16	0	6	10	0	27	8	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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