

Texas Crop Weather



Released: February 22, 2005 (3:00 P.M. CST)

For the week of February 14 - 20, 2005

TX-CW0805

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - February 20, 2005

Crop	2005	2004	Average 2000-2004
	<i>Percent</i>		
Cotton			
Harvested	99	100	100
Wheat			
Emerged	99	100	100
Other Field Crops			
Harvested			
Pecans	100	100	100

Crop Condition Table - February 20, 2005

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	23	44	26	6	1
Range & Pasture . .	8	40	34	15	3

Agricultural Summary: Weather conditions moderated across the state for the majority of the week. Clear skies and warm temperatures replaced clouds, light rain, snow and drizzle from late in the previous week. Farming activities moved ahead across many areas of the state where soils were adequately dry. In many areas conditions were dry enough that producers could make applications of fertilizer and pre-plant herbicides. Winter weed controls were also initiated in a few locations. Even with all the moisture that has fallen across the state in the past few months; there are some areas that remained dry and a few deep southern locations were extremely dry. Pasture decline from too much rain and pasture decline from lack of rain continued in varied locations, however sunny and warm conditions aided in the drying out of wet pastures during early and mid week. Supplemental feeding remained necessary across the state as livestock body condition continued to slip downward in many herds. Weather conditions changed again in late week as cool, cloudy and intermittent rain showers became common across the state. Sickness in livestock herds varied from region to region. Bloat, nitrate poisoning and hoof rot were problems in some locations.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Small grains continued to suffer from too much water in many locations. In other locations, growth was active as recent temperatures have been somewhat warmer. Weed control measures were possible in a few drier locations. Greenbug and aphid populations, along with some disease pressure were active in a few locations. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 82 percent of normal, compared with 39 percent last year.

Corn: Land preparation was possible in some areas during the week, however many other areas remained too wet for farming activities. Some early corn was planted in southern locations during the week.

Cotton: Cotton harvest moved ahead, but was still not complete in the wetter locations. Ginning remained active in some areas. Modules remained in the fields in several locations.

Sorghum: Land preparation was active in a few drier locations during early week, however generally stalled again by week's end as rain showers returned to many areas.

Peanuts: Land preparation was possible in some areas during the week, however other areas remained too wet and preparations were stalled.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, harvest of spinach and cabbage was delayed at times due to light rainfall. Later planted spinach, cabbage, onions, carrots and potatoes continued to make good progress.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, land preparation was active in a few locations, but stalled in a few other areas due to light rainfall. Harvest of spinach and cabbage moved ahead where possible. Later planted onions and carrots made good progress.

In **East Texas**, land preparation remained generally on hold during the week as rain showers and muddy soils prevented field work.

In the **High Plains**, land preparation moved ahead in some areas during the week, however other areas remained wet and drying out was still needed.

In the **Trans-Pecos**, land preparation was mostly on hold due to cool and wet conditions. Fall onions were beginning to break dormancy.

Pecans: Trimming remained active in locations where the orchard floor was dry enough to support equipment.

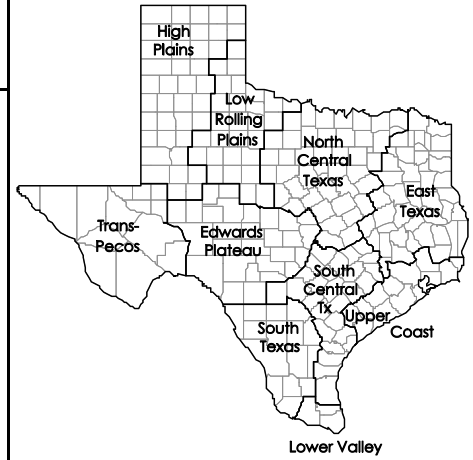
Peaches: Blooming was active in some southern locations during the week. Applications of dormant oils continued in a few locations.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pasture conditions across the state generally were excellent; only a few dry locations were present in deep southern areas. Moisture levels were considered high for range and pasture, however some drying occurred during early to mid week. Pasture damage from livestock was less severe as sunshine during parts of the week allowed for some drying out. Growth of spring grasses was more evident as temperatures moderated. Supplemental feeding remained necessary in most areas across the state. Varied degrees of livestock sickness continued, however hoof and foot rot, bloat and nitrate poisoning were mentioned in some areas.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Feb 14 - 20) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Feb 1 - 20) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Feb 20) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Nov-Jan) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.15	0.77	2.50	18.87	384
Low Rolling Plains	0.15	0.83	2.21	23.78	248
North Central Texas	0.10	0.77	3.29	34.00	145
East Texas	0.06	2.49	5.50	45.69	110
Trans Pecos	0.01	0.67	1.00	12.96	210
Edwards Plateau	0.03	0.54	1.53	24.01	173
South Central Texas	0.03	0.98	3.17	34.48	134
Upper Coast	0.00	2.07	4.40	47.63	156
South Texas	0.10	0.21	1.32	23.49	97
Lower Valley	0.12	0.14	0.73	25.34	72



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - February 20, 2005 *

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	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	10	5	0	0	0	0	0
Short	4	6	7	3	5	3	0	2	30	17	0	10	0	7	40
Adequate	55	53	56	78	62	50	46	42	53	71	59	87	18	87	60
Surplus	41	39	36	19	32	47	54	56	7	7	41	3	82	6	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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