

Texas Crop Weather



Released: May 16, 2005 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
 For the week of May 9 - 15, 2005
 TX-CW2005

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

Crop Progress Table - May 15, 2005

Crop	2005	2004	Average 2000-2004
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	92	96	95
Emerged	75	79	82
Silked	4	5	13
Cotton			
Planted	34	41	39
Squaring	5	6	6
Peanuts			
Planted	41	49	49
Rice			
Planted	98	99	99
Emerged	95	95	95
Sorghum			
Planted	50	58	54
Headed	10	15	13
Wheat			
Headed	89	90	88
Harvested	1	2	3
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	62	72	74
Sunflowers	18	48	45
Harvested			
Oats	1	0	0

Crop Condition Table - May 15, 2005

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	14	51	29	5	1
Rice	10	69	19	2	0
Wheat	9	35	36	16	4
Range & Pasture ...	9	33	39	15	4
Soybeans	16	55	26	2	1
Oats	4	32	42	17	5

Agricultural Summary: Weather conditions remained unsettled across the state during the week. Thunderstorms, accompanied by high winds, hail and localized flooding occurred over many areas of the state. Rainfall amounts varied from just a trace to several inches depending on the location of the storms. The high winds were responsible for varying degrees of property damage, however soft ball sized hail was also reported in several locations and was responsible for considerably more damage. A further result of the unstable conditions across the state was the high wind warnings that occurred in varied locations. These areas were considered abnormally dry and the threat of range fires was high. Farming operations moved ahead in many areas, however delays were common across areas of the Plains, mainly due to cool and sometimes wet soils. Pasture green-up continued in many areas, but many other areas were dry and the outlook from area producers was not good. Pasture decline along with poor crop stands and diminishing stock water were becoming common in these areas. Supplemental feeding was nearly non-existent in many of the wetter areas, however was increasing in the drier locations due to the decline in native pastures.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat on the Panhandle progressed with many fields receiving

moisture. However, with those rains came severe wind and hail in some areas causing localized damage. Rust remained a serious issue throughout the region. Producers were spraying accordingly when it was economically feasible. Baling was active in poorer fields. Irrigation was ongoing in drier locations. Wheat was turning color in North Central Texas and the Blacklands. In Central and South Texas, harvest was drawing closer as many growers plan to combine within the next few weeks. Early harvest has begun in the Winter Garden area. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 67 percent of normal, compared with 65 percent last year. Statewide, oat condition was rated at 63 percent of normal.

Corn: Planting on the Panhandle was delayed due to weather and low soil temperatures. Early planted fields in the region were at the 2 - 3 leaf stage. Some emerging fields received hail damage. In drier locations, pre-watering was occurring. Hit and miss showers throughout the Blacklands, Central, and South Texas were beneficial to the crop while other fields still needed rain. Irrigated corn in the Winter Garden area made progress with the high temperatures during the week. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 80 percent of normal, compared with 84 percent last year.

Cotton: Planting on the Panhandle and South Plains was in full swing where conditions allowed. Drier locations were still waiting on a rain. Fields that received moisture on the Blacklands benefitted well but most of the region still needed a good general rain. There were some reports of hail damage to cotton scattered throughout the state, but it was mostly limited. Fields on the Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Valley would need rain within the next couple of weeks in order to sustain yield potential.

Sorghum: North Central Texas producers were busy planting sorghum when conditions allowed. Sowing across the Blacklands is nearly complete. Drought stress was evident in emerging stands but was relieved somewhat in areas that got rain. Fields on the Coastal Bend were in dire need of moisture and conditions were deteriorating rapidly. In the Rio Grande Valley, any moisture received would probably be too late as most stands neared maturity. Dryland fields were in poor condition throughout the region.

Peanuts: Planting activities increased dramatically across most of the peanut producing areas. Early planted fields seemed to have fared well after the cold weather a couple weeks ago on the Panhandle and South Plains.

Soybeans: Planting neared completion on the Upper Coast and Central Texas. Early fields on the Blacklands began to show moisture stress in drier locations. In other regions, land preparation continued. Statewide, soybean condition was rated at 83 percent of normal.

Rice: Planting was virtually complete. Early planted stands were mostly favorable. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 85 percent of normal, identical to last year.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, vegetable harvest was winding down. Melon harvest was ongoing.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden** region, carrot harvest was wrapping up. Onion digging was in full swing and good quality onions were reported. Rainfall was needed across the area and irrigation was active. Cabbage and some potato harvest continued.

In **East Texas**, vegetables made good progress. Onion and squash harvest was active. Preparations for sweet potato planting continued. Some squash harvest was in progress.

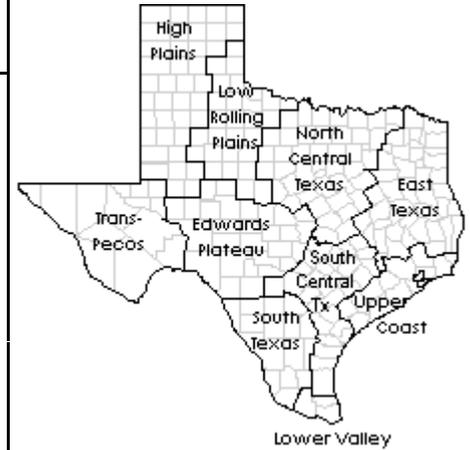
Pecans: Spraying for pecan nut casebearer increased statewide. Insect pressure has been generally light but there were some reports of tree damage. Blooming increased with the temperatures. Irrigation was active in western regions.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range remained generally fair across the state but there were areas of increased moisture depletion. Locations that did receive moisture benefitted slightly, but a general rain would be more than helpful. Cattle were moving off small grains as they are grazed off. Most reports show good weight gain as they make their way to the auction barns. South Texas pastures remained in poor shape as drought conditions remained. Producers in northern regions were cutting poorer wheat and oat fields for hay. Native and improved grasses were getting their first hay cutting in eastern and central regions. Many producers were cutting alfalfa for the second time. Sheep shearing was ongoing but winding down in some locations.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (May 9 - 15) Accumulation	Month-to-date (May 1 - 15) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - May 15) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Feb - Apr) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.62	1.07	5.27	18.87	91
Low Rolling Plains	0.95	1.73	6.28	23.78	74
North Central Texas	0.34	1.24	8.23	34.00	55
East Texas	0.00	0.87	12.20	45.69	74
Trans Pecos	0.25	0.41	2.71	12.96	154
Edwards Plateau	0.65	1.48	6.15	24.01	81
South Central Texas	0.06	1.47	8.93	34.48	80
Upper Coast	0.00	1.33	12.78	47.63	110
South Texas	0.54	0.61	5.04	23.49	86
Lower Valley	0.00	0.15	1.75	25.34	30



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - May 15, 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	1	12	2	3	18	13	10	10	22	18	2	66	6	22	97
Short	21	52	41	38	44	39	37	35	48	39	48	26	20	57	3
Adequate	66	29	50	53	37	46	50	53	30	43	47	8	67	20	0
Surplus	12	7	7	6	1	2	3	2	0	0	3	0	7	1	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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