

Texas Crop Weather

Released: October 24, 2005 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
For the week of October 17 - 23, 2005
TX-CW4305

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

Crop Progress Table - October 23, 2005

Crop	2005	2004	Average 2000-2004
- Percent -			
Corn			
Harvested	93	92	96
Cotton			
Bolls Opening	90	74	89
Harvested	27	25	38
Peanuts			
Harvested	34	33	36
Sorghum			
Coloring	98	97	97
Mature	85	88	90
Harvested	68	65	76
Soybeans			
Harvested	82	87	90
Sunflowers			
Harvested	64	76	86
Wheat			
Planted	76	80	78
Emerged	48	60	54
Oats			
Planted	63	84	74
Emerged	26	--	--
Pecans			
Harvested	19	20	14

Crop Condition Table - October 23, 2005

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
- Percent -					
Cotton	12	46	24	12	6
Peanuts	21	53	24	2	0
Wheat	8	25	39	16	12
Range & Pasture ..	2	12	31	33	22

Agricultural Summary: Most areas remained warm and dry for most of the week. Temperatures began to cool by week's end, and scattered showers at brought trace to half inch rains to much of the northern portions of the State. Although the moisture received was welcome, many producers reported that pastures and small grains continued to suffer as winter approaches. Harvest of corn, sorghum, peanuts, soybeans, sunflowers and cotton moved ahead with a few delays due to cool, wet mornings. Producers were busy applying pre-harvest aids for cotton in most areas. Seeding of small grains and winter pastures continued under mostly dry conditions. Stockers were being moved onto small grain pastures and corn and sorghum stalks, and hay production was winding down in most areas. Pasture conditions improved in areas where moisture was received, but overall continued to decline. Weaning of calves and supplemental feeding continued to be necessary in most areas. Hay supplies were short in many areas.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Producers continued to seed wheat and oats under mostly dry conditions in hopes of receiving moisture to assist in germination. Germination of wheat and oats have suffered due to lack of moisture, and armyworms are becoming more of a problem. In drier areas, small grain

fields were drying out, and producers were reluctant to begin irrigation due to high fuel costs. Some producers are opting to forgo planting for winter grazing due to insufficient soil moisture. Moisture supplies have been sufficient in the Plains to improve wheat and oat pastures, and producers were busy moving stockers onto fields for fall and winter grazing. Late week, cooler temperatures and light rains were beneficial to wheat and oat pastures, but more moisture was still needed. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 59 percent of normal, compared with 90 percent last year.

Cotton: Application of pre-harvest aids continued across the Plains and Edwards Plateau. Harvest was in full swing in most areas, and beginning in the Northern High Plains by week's end. Cool, damp mornings slowed harvest, but activity picked up as warmer temperatures returned during the day. Some problems with boll worms were reported in the Low Plains and treatments were made as needed. Stalk destruction activities continued following harvest in other locations. Statewide, cotton condition was rated 72 percent of normal compared with 76 percent last year.

Corn: Corn harvest made rapid progress across the High Plains as weather remained favorable during the week.

Sorghum: Harvest was wrapping up in South Central areas. In the High Plains, harvest was underway for grain and seed as producers could reach the mature crop.

Peanuts: Digging progressed across the Plains, Edwards Plateau, and South Texas. Threshing moved ahead as the dug peanuts dried. Harvest was nearly complete in the Cross Timbers. Statewide, peanut condition was rated at 86 percent of normal compared with 84 percent last year.

Soybeans: Harvest continued in the Northern Plains and was nearly complete along the Upper Coast.

Rice: Harvest of the ratoon crop proceeded along the Upper Coast with good yields reported.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, mostly dry conditions prevailed during the week. Planting of spinach, cabbage and onions resumed after the previous week's rain. Harvest of peppers, melons and watermelons continued. Sugarcane harvest continued in the Lower Valley, and citrus harvest began.

In the **San Antonio - Winter Garden**, planting of spinach and other fall vegetables was underway. Cooler temperatures were good for the vegetables planted earlier.

In the **High Plains**, pumpkin, gourd, and melon harvest was nearing completion, with some problems reported due to rats and mice in pumpkin and melon fields.

In the **Trans Pecos**, harvest of grapes and shrimp was underway.

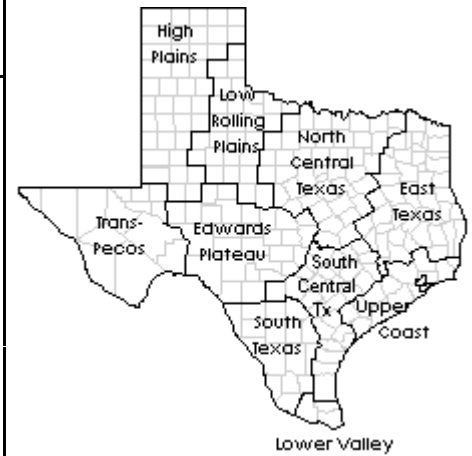
Pecan harvest began or continued across areas of Central Texas, East Texas, along the Upper Coast, and in South Texas. Nut drop due to dry conditions continued. The dry conditions over the summer have resulted in some areas seeing a lighter than normal crop. Heavy rains in some areas of South Texas have halted pecan harvest until orchards dry down.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pasture conditions continued to deteriorate in most areas as rainfall remained short to nonexistent during most of the week. Cooler temperatures did reduce stress on pastures, but supplemental feeding remained necessary and hay supplies were reported short in several areas. Stock water supplies continue to drop in areas where rainfall has been scarce. Stocker cattle continued to move onto small grain fields in the Plains where temperatures have been somewhat cooler and moisture supplies have provided for adequate forage growth. Small grain pastures in some other areas began to die off due to lack of moisture. Cattle producers were busy with weaning and marketing calves, and fall calving continued. Cattle body conditions remained mostly good, but were becoming harder to maintain as forage and hay supplies dwindled. Army worms continued to be a problem in North East Texas.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Oct 17 - 23) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Oct 1 - 23) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Oct 23) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.05	1.49	15.90	18.87	78
Low Rolling Plains	0.02	1.60	17.51	23.78	90
North Central Texas	0.04	1.01	18.38	34.00	82
East Texas	0.00	0.26	22.58	45.69	87
Trans Pecos	0.09	2.32	12.15	12.96	76
Edwards Plateau	0.01	2.54	18.33	24.01	83
South Central Texas	0.01	1.29	17.30	34.48	52
Upper Coast	0.01	1.87	34.55	47.63	100
South Texas	0.00	1.15	11.13	23.49	45
Lower Valley	0.00	0.74	8.99	25.34	56



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - October 23, 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	14	3	8	2	38	68	56	43	8	10	20	8	18	8	0
Short	44	28	26	22	40	28	43	49	10	45	51	44	31	30	55
Adequate	41	66	65	72	21	4	1	8	72	44	29	44	50	60	45
Surplus	1	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	10	1	0	4	1	2	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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**AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE
NASS - USDA
P.O. BOX 70
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767**

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