

Texas Crop Weather

Released: December 5, 2005 (3:00 P.M. CST)
For the week of November 28 - December 4, 2005
TX-CW4905

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

Crop Progress Table - December 4, 2005

Crop	2005	2004	Average 2000-2004
- Percent -			
Cotton			
Harvested	82	51	74
Peanuts			
Harvested	99	84	91
Sorghum			
Harvested	94	85	92
Sunflowers			
Harvested	98	98	99
Wheat			
Planted	96	93	96
Emerged	83	88	86
Oats			
Planted	97	100	95
Emerged	83	--	--
Pecans			
Harvested	67	63	60

Crop Condition Table - December 4, 2005

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
- Percent -					
Cotton	20	48	21	7	4
Wheat	1	8	33	30	28
Oats	0	5	18	23	54
Range & Pasture ..	0	5	21	35	39

Agricultural Summary: Weather conditions across the state were generally dry and windy during the week. A few showers occurred ahead of a cool front that crossed the state in mid week, but accumulations were minimal and widespread. In areas where winds were extremely high, varying amounts of damage to crops and buildings was reported. In some areas harvest was delayed for short times until winds subsided. Range fires were also numerous at times due to the dry conditions. Harvest continued in remaining areas with only a few previously stated delays. Some small grains that had not emerged were blown out by the high winds during the week, however replanting was not likely at this time. Irrigation remained active in areas where possible and development of small grains continued in these locations. Range and pastures continued to decline across the state. Supplemental feeding remained necessary across the state and many producers continued to have difficulty in finding adequate hay supplies. Water available for livestock remained low and completely depleted in some locations. Many producers were hauling water to their herds. Herd reduction continued as the pasture conditions continued to decline and little relief was in the immediate forecast.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Land preparation continued, however planting was slower due to the continued dry conditions. Emergence of earlier planted

fields remained poor and some grains were blown out by high winds during the week. Irrigation was active in areas where possible and was the only way to keep grain actively growing in most areas. Plant diseases were showing up in some locations across the Plains, however treatment was not widespread. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 37 percent of normal compared with 90 percent last year. Statewide, oat condition was rated at 24 percent of normal.

Cotton: Harvest continued, but was interrupted at times by high winds in several locations across the Plains. Some modules were also damaged by high wind gusts during the week. Reports of extremely good yields continued to be received from many areas. Ginning operations were extremely active and many gins continued to fall behind due to the high volume of harvested cotton. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 80 percent of normal, compared with 73 percent last year.

Corn: Land preparation for next year's crops was underway in most areas as producers continued to take advantage of the dry weather conditions. Applying fertilizer for the next crop season remained active in some locations, however interruptions were common due to high wind speeds.

Sorghum: Land preparation and fertilization was moving ahead for next year's crop. Some delays occurred in varied locations due to high winds that were active from time to time during the week.

Peanuts: Land preparation for next year's crop was ongoing in several areas, however some producers were reluctant to disturb already soils.

Soybeans: Land preparation for next year's crop moved ahead, but was slow across the state.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, spinach, onions, tomatoes and cabbage were making good progress. Irrigation was heavy in all locations, especially on vegetable crops. Harvest of early cabbage was ongoing. Sugarcane harvest was active during the week.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, early planted cabbage and green beans made good progress. Spinach development remained slower than normal. Harvest of cabbage, cucumbers and green beans remained active in a few locations. Irrigation remained necessary in all locations.

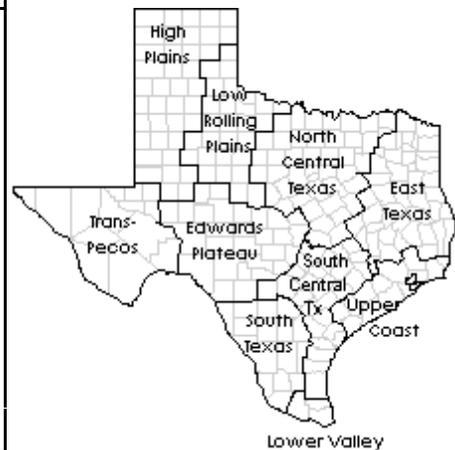
Pecans: Harvest activity was ongoing in remaining orchards across the state. High winds made harvest difficult in a few orchards during the week.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pasture conditions were reported as poor across the state. Rainfall this past week was widely scattered and light with no meaningful accumulations. Emergence of cool season forages remained slow as soils remained dry across the state. Supplemental feeding remained strong and continued to increase in many areas as producers were attempting to maintain body condition in their livestock herds. Herd reduction remained active in most areas as hay supplies were low and locating additional hay was also difficult. Field grazing remained limited to those producers who had irrigation available. Water available for livestock continued to decline in most areas of the state and many ponds were already dry. Hauling water to livestock continued to be necessary for an increasing number of producers. The number of range fires continued to increase across the state as the dry conditions along with high winds were common during the week.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Nov 28 - Dec 4) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Nov 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Dec 4) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous 3 months (Sep - Nov) % of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.11	16.05	18.87	45
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.05	17.68	23.78	45
North Central Texas	0.00	0.12	19.05	34.00	26
East Texas	0.04	0.86	24.55	45.69	42
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.00	12.15	12.96	71
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.11	18.77	24.01	46
South Central Texas	0.00	0.89	18.68	34.48	42
Upper Coast	0.13	2.18	37.54	47.63	64
South Texas	0.00	0.27	11.73	23.49	31
Lower Valley	0.00	0.93	11.19	25.34	53



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - December 4, 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	59	32	51	59	71	84	48	54	29	30	50	20	15	30	13
Short	30	41	41	41	27	14	46	38	53	52	42	39	30	45	63
Adequate	11	27	8	0	2	2	6	8	18	18	8	41	50	23	24
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	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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