



## USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas Field Office

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TX-CW1506

### Texas Crop Weather

Released April 10, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)

For the week of April 3 - 9, 2006

**Agricultural Summary:** In the Plains, warmer temperatures and very high winds, some 35-50 mph, sapped soil moisture that had improved from recent rains. Recent precipitation encouraged growers to make preparations for planting in the Plains. Some areas of North East Texas received up to ½ inches of rain, and isolated areas of Central Texas received up to an inch, but the rest of the state was mostly without precipitation. Growing conditions were improved in areas that received moisture the previous week. Pastures were improved across much of the state, but in the South, continued lack of moisture and high temperatures caused range and pasture conditions to decline, and supplemental feeding and culling of herds continued.

### Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** In the Blacklands, some growers cut wheat for hay due to freeze damage. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly rated very poor to poor. Oats were reported being used for grazing and haylage in some areas of the North East. Oats condition statewide was mostly rated very poor to poor.

**Cotton:** Producers were preparing to plant in the Plains, plowing some fields, and applying herbicides. Planting continued in the Coastal Bend and neared completion in the Blacklands. Fields needed rain to ensure good stands.

**Corn:** Farmers began planting in the High Plains; planting should be in full swing within two weeks. Most corn fields in the Blacklands survived the previous week's freeze, with limited replanting reported. Planting was winding down in South Central Texas, where good stands were noted. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to good.

**Sorghum:** Growers prepared fields for planting in the High Plains. Planting was beginning in the Blacklands and farmers were busy planting in the Coastal Bend despite the dry conditions.

**Rice:** Producers continued to plant and flood emerged fields. The condition of rice was mostly rated fair to good statewide.

**Soybeans:** Planting gradually increased in the Blacklands, North East, and Upper Coast.

### Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, conditions were dry and irrigation was active. Growers continued to harvest spring onions, sugarcane, vegetables, and citrus.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, potatoes were at the flowering stage. Cabbages and carrots were being harvested. Spinach harvest has ended in some areas.

**Watermelon** planting was expected to begin soon in the Southern High Plains.

In the **Cross Timbers**, there were reports of a good crop load of peaches and work in pecan orchards was underway. There were reports of some damage to peaches from the previous week's freeze in the North East. Pecans were budding in the East and showing leaves in the Edwards Plateau.

### Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Despite the recent rains and improved range and pasture conditions, the Plains reported continued supplemental feeding in many areas. North East Texas had good pasture conditions and resulting good to excellent body condition for cattle, but heavy infestations of flies. The Edwards Plateau noted improved range conditions, and ranchers were busy shearing sheep and shipping lambs. Some South Central ranchers reported extremely low stock ponds. In the Coastal Bend, ranchers were heavily culling herds or, in some cases, selling entire herds because of the continued extreme dryness. Hay was scarce in the Upper Coast, where previous freezing weather further limited the availability of grazing land. Body condition of cattle continued to decline in South Texas, due to shortages of forage and hay. Weak cattle became more common at auctions as ranchers culled herds.

Crop Progress Table - April 9, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	64	61	55
	Emerged	54	43	43
Cotton	Planted	17	14	13
Rice	Planted	73	41	56
	Emerged	56	24	30
Sorghum	Planted	54	40	39
Soybeans	Planted	42	30	27
Sunflowers	Planted	15	9	6
Winter Wheat	Headed	16	10	12
Oats	Headed	52	--	--

**Top Soil Moisture by District – April 9, 2006 \***

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	67	44	45	44	17	5	4	7	49	37	46	85	8	70	52
Short	28	51	41	45	48	39	22	35	38	52	30	15	22	24	48
Adequate	5	5	14	11	35	52	68	55	12	11	24	0	62	6	0
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	3	1	0	0	0	8	0	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.

**Crop Condition Table – April 9, 2006**

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	3	34	51	7	5	67	--
Rice	2	44	51	3	0	73	--
Wheat	1	6	19	30	44	28	83
Oats	1	8	19	27	45	29	--
Range & Pasture	1	10	27	28	34	--	--

<sup>1/</sup> The formula for the condition index is  $I = (5V + 25P + 60F + 90G + 110E)/100$  where I=crop condition Index and V, P, F, G, E = percentage of crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good, excellent.

**Weather Information Table <sup>1/</sup>**

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (April 3 - 9) Accumulation	Month-to-date (April 1 - 9) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 9) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.00	1.50	18.87	70
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.11	2.05	23.78	60
North Central Texas	0.00	0.00	6.97	34.00	104
East Texas	0.00	0.00	11.18	45.69	105
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.00	0.84	12.96	72
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.03	2.64	24.01	73
South Central Texas	0.56	0.56	3.49	34.48	48
Upper Coast	0.00	0.00	4.51	47.63	50
South Texas	0.00	0.00	0.49	23.49	16
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	0.69	25.34	19

<sup>1/</sup> Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:  
[www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip\\_analysis\\_new.php](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis_new.php) and [www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html)

**Cooperating Agencies:**

Texas Agricultural Extension Service

Texas Department of Agriculture

National Weather Service

