



USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas Field Office

Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767
Voice: (800) 626-3142 * Fax: (800) 842-1331
nass-tx@nass.usda.gov * www.nass.usda.gov/tx

TX-CW2006

Texas Crop Weather

Released May 15, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)
For the week of May 8 - 14, 2006

Agricultural Summary: Temperatures varied widely across the state. Due to a late spring cold front, thermometer readings dropped into the 30's in the northern Panhandle. Ahead of the front, temperatures approached 110 in parts of South Texas. Rain showers returned to the Panhandle last week. Much of the region recorded 1 to 2 inches of much needed precipitation. Eastern Panhandle counties received the most moisture while the counties bordering New Mexico generally reported trace amounts. Scattered heavy rain occurred over the Edwards Plateau, Central and East Texas. Rainfall amounts ranged from ¼ to over 2 inches. Portions of South Texas, Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley finally received desperately needed rain. Rain gauge readings ranged between a trace to 3 inches accumulation. Severe storm cells were embedded within the rain showers statewide. There were numerous reports of high winds, large hail and tornadoes. Small grain fields and summer crops were damaged in many areas. The increased moisture was beneficial to crops and pastures. Some producers were delayed in planting their crops in the northern regions. In areas that received the heaviest rain, stock tanks were filled. Hay was cut for the first time in many locations. The severity of the drought was lessened for the most part in the northern half of the state. However, southern regions were still suffering from extreme heat and historic rain deficits.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat was cut for hay across many regions. Irrigated wheat on the Panhandle was bloomed out and heads were filling. Silage harvest was winding down. Rain across some central areas slowed down grain harvest. High wind and hail damaged or destroyed fields in isolated locations. Insurance agents continued to disaster drought stricken fields across the state. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly rated very poor to poor. Oats condition statewide was mostly rated very poor to poor.

Cotton: Planting was delayed across the Panhandle and South Plains due to rain. The increased pre-planting moisture was very welcomed by producers that were holding out for a rain. Some early fields were emerging in those northern regions. Some fields were damaged or destroyed by high winds and hail, but reports were not widespread. The increased moisture was very beneficial to the cotton crop on the Blacklands and Central Texas. Insurance agents were disastering dryland fields in the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend.

Corn: Fields on the Panhandle were in decent shape. Most fields were emerging with good stands. Some producers were still planting but they expected to be finished shortly. Rain

helped out in all areas where it was received. There was some damage due to severe weather. Irrigation was heavy in southern regions. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to good.

Sorghum: Planting was delayed on the Panhandle. Many of the early planted fields in the region were for seed. Increased rain benefitted many fields across the state. Severe weather affected the crop in some locations. Dryland fields in southern regions were in very poor shape. Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly rated poor to fair statewide.

Peanuts: Growers continued to plant. There were some reports of hail damage. Wild hogs were a problem in some fields.

Rice: The condition of rice was mostly rated fair to good statewide.

Soybeans: Planting began on the Panhandle. Lingering drought continued to delay some planting on the Upper Coast. However, for those locations that received rain over the week, producers might begin seeding. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated fair to good.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, vegetable and onion harvest was winding down. Producers completed sugarcane and citrus harvest for the season.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, producers harvested cabbage, potatoes, and green beans. Carrot harvest was complete. Watermelons and onions made good progress.

In **East Texas**, vegetables were reported to be in decent shape. Watermelon fields experienced some fungus problems.

Pecans: growers continued to spray for pecan nut casebearer. Nut set was generally reported as lighter than last year.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pastures were improving in most regions of the state. The rain really helped green-up the countryside and improve forage conditions. Some producers were fertilizing. South Texas ranges and pasture declined for the most part due to extreme heat and exceptional drought. Supplemental feeding continued to be necessary and hay stocks were scarce. Cattle producers in the region were retaining only small herds as most were sold off at auction.

Crop Progress Table – May 14, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	96	91	94
	Emerged	77	74	79
	Silked (Tasseled)	10	4	9
Cotton	Planted	37	33	36
	Squaring	6	5	6
Peanuts	Planted	47	37	44
Rice	Planted	98	98	98
	Emerged	92	94	95
Sorghum	Planted	70	50	53
	Headed	15	10	11
Soybeans	Planted	89	62	71
	Emerged	84	--	--
Sunflowers	Planted	43	17	40
Winter Wheat	Headed	91	87	86
	Harvested (Grain)	2	1	2
Oats	Headed	86	--	--
	Harvested (Grain)	6	1	--

Crop Condition Table – May 14, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	7	39	33	12	9	66	80
Rice	3	40	52	5	0	72	85
Sorghum	1	36	21	11	31	50	--
Soybeans	10	45	32	9	4	73	83
Wheat	0	8	19	26	47	27	67
Oats	1	10	24	27	38	33	63
Range & Pasture	3	22	31	22	22	--	--

^{1/} 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.

Top Soil Moisture by District – May 14, 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	57	36	15	6	3	2	5	10	59	22	34	70	9	58	90
Short	29	40	33	30	14	28	17	40	35	46	30	21	25	35	10
Adequate	14	24	52	56	76	61	73	49	6	32	35	9	61	7	0
Surplus	0	0	0	8	7	9	5	1	0	0	1	0	5	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.

Weather Information Table ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (May 8 - 14) Accumulation	Month-to-date (May 1 - 14) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - May 14) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Feb - Apr) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.10	0.58	2.56	18.87	73
Low Rolling Plains	0.16	1.99	5.00	23.78	68
North Central Texas	0.09	2.14	11.39	34.00	95
East Texas	0.59	1.58	15.06	45.69	89
Trans Pecos	0.04	0.05	1.11	12.96	83
Edwards Plateau	0.17	1.39	5.66	24.01	81
South Central Texas	0.14	0.99	5.23	34.48	53
Upper Coast	0.48	1.65	8.05	47.63	57
South Texas	0.93	1.25	2.23	23.49	24
Lower Valley	0.89	0.94	1.71	25.34	18

^{1/} Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:
www.srh.noaa.gov/ftcshare/precip_analysis_new.php and www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

Cooperating Agencies:

- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- National Weather Service

