



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

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### TX-CW2106

#### Texas Crop Weather

Released May 22, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)  
For the week of May 15 - 21, 2006.

**Agricultural Summary:** Southern regions finally got the rain they have been asking for. But unfortunately, much of it was far too late to benefit row crops. The Rio Grande Valley and western portions of South Texas reported rainfall amounts ranging from ½ to 3 inches. The Coastal Bend received a trace to 1½ inches. Other areas receiving significant moisture include the Edwards Plateau, Upper Coast, Central and East Texas. Some locations in these regions recorded ½ to 2 inches accumulation. Trace amounts of rain occurred over the Panhandle, South Plains, and Trans Pecos. Hot temperatures took over after the rain ended early in the week. Summer crops progressed well across the Blacklands and central areas. Planting moved forward on the Panhandle and South Plains. Pasture conditions improved for the most part but weeds were a big problem in many locations. Insurance agents were busy disastering crops in the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend. Horn flies were a growing nuisance in cattle herds. Hay cutting increased as producers looked to restock the dwindling supply.

#### Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Irrigation of wheat continued in locations across the Panhandle. Much of the remaining crop in the region was in the soft dough maturity stage. There was much concern among producers about the availability of wheat seed this coming fall given the expected low production this season. Wheat continued to be cut for hay statewide. Grain harvest progressed northward. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly rated very poor to poor. Oats condition statewide was mostly rated very poor to poor.

**Cotton:** Planting was in full swing on the Panhandle and South Plains. Early planted fields in those regions have emerged while some producers were still waiting on rain to begin seeding. Adequate soil moisture was very hit-or-miss; one field could have enough for germination while a neighboring field could be too dry. Blackland cotton producers reported insect problems. Many dryland fields in the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend were disastered out due to lingering drought.

**Corn:** Fields on the Panhandle were heavily irrigated. Good stands were reported. Corn was tasseling across the Blacklands. Fields in the region were beginning to wilt in the afternoon sun as more moisture would be required quickly. South Texas dryland corn was stunted badly due to ongoing drought. Insurance agents continued to disaster fields in southern areas. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to good.

**Sorghum:** Planting continued on the Panhandle and the South Plains. The crop progressed well across the Blacklands, but additional precipitation would be needed shortly. Many dryland fields in the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend were disaster-stricken due to lingering drought. In southern regions, irrigation was heavy where possible. Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly rated poor to fair.

**Peanuts:** Planting continued across the South Plains. Newly seeded fields were heavily watered.

**Rice:** Growers on the eastern Upper Coast were concerned with a high number of Mexican Rice Borers caught in traps along field edges. The condition of rice was mostly rated fair to good statewide.

**Soybeans:** Planting continued on the Panhandle. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated fair to good.

### **Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, watermelon harvest was ongoing.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, producers harvested cabbage, potatoes, and onions.

In **East Texas**, growers were harvesting green beans and onions. Blackberry and blueberry picking was set to begin. Watermelons were showing some fungus problems.

On the **Panhandle**, pumpkins will be planted in a few weeks

**Pecans:** Spraying continued for pecan nut casebearer. Nuts were setting.

### **Livestock, Pasture and Range Report**

Pastures continued to green-up for the most part. Summer grasses were growing well but so were noxious weeds. Many producers were cutting their first hay crop of the year. A much bigger percentage of small grains were being cut for hay this year because of the poor condition of wheat and oats and the shortage of hay. In those locations of South Texas that received significant rainfall, pastures and rangeland improved. For a majority of the region, any improvement was limited as exceptional drought conditions continued. For those cattlemen that still had excess cattle to sell, herd liquidation continued. Hay was still very scarce and showed no signs of becoming less expensive.

**Crop Progress Table – May 21, 2006**

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	98	95	96
	Emerged	88	79	86
	Silked (Tasseled)	19	7	14
Cotton	Planted	59	43	50
	Squaring	7	8	9
Peanuts	Planted	73	67	64
Rice	Planted	99	100	100
	Emerged	98	97	97
Sorghum	Planted	73	53	57
	Headed	19	15	16
Soybeans	Planted	92	65	76
	Emerged	86	--	--
Sunflowers	Planted	46	23	49
Winter Wheat	Headed	95	94	94
	Harvested (Grain)	5	2	6
Oats	Headed	93	92	91
	Harvested (Grain)	15	4	--

**Crop Condition Table – May 21, 2006**

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	6	38	41	8	7	68	77
Rice	7	38	55	0	0	75	82
Sorghum	3	38	17	11	31	52	68
Soybeans	8	42	37	9	4	71	74
Wheat	0	4	19	27	50	24	66
Oats	1	10	26	27	36	34	62
Range & Pasture	2	20	30	24	24	--	--

<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.

**Top Soil Moisture by District – May 21, 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	61	40	26	8	4	4	7	12	42	30	39	78	13	67	83
Short	28	40	39	34	48	46	25	34	53	36	34	12	40	22	17
Adequate	11	20	35	58	48	48	68	51	5	34	27	10	42	11	0
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	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 <sup>1/</sup>

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (May 15 - 21) Accumulation	Month-to-date (May 1 - 21) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - May 21) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Feb - Apr) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.22	0.80	2.78	18.87	73
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	1.99	5.00	23.78	68
North Central Texas	0.00	2.14	11.39	34.00	95
East Texas	0.00	1.58	15.06	45.69	89
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.05	1.11	12.96	83
Edwards Plateau	0.00	1.39	5.66	24.01	81
South Central Texas	0.00	0.99	5.23	34.48	53
Upper Coast	0.00	1.65	8.05	47.63	57
South Texas	0.00	1.25	2.23	23.49	24
Lower Valley	0.04	0.98	1.75	25.34	18

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ftcshare/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

