



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-CW5006

Texas Crop Weather

Released December 11, 2006

For the week of December 4 - 10, 2006

Agricultural Summary: Areas of the Trans-Pecos, Edwards Plateau, South Central Texas only received traces of rainfall. The Upper Coast received mostly traces to 0.10 inches of rainfall. The Coastal Bend was a just a little more fortunate as it received mostly 0.10 to 0.25 inches of rainfall. The Lower Valley, South Texas, and Eastern Texas received the majority of the rainfall with mostly 0.10 to 1.0 inches. Isolated showers brought as much as 1.5 inches to areas of South Texas. The remaining areas of the state were mostly dry.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat fields in the High Plains were still in the need of moisture. Despite cold temperatures limiting the growth, wheat remained in good condition in the Northern Low Plains. In the Southern Low Plains, the quality of wheat declined due to dry weather and grazing pressure. Oat condition was mostly fair to very poor while wheat condition was mostly good to fair statewide.

Cotton: Harvest was slowed in the Northern High Plains as producers were not able to get back into fields due to the effects of the previous week's winter storm. Producers in the Southern High Plains continued the stripping of cotton fields. As weather conditions improved in the Northern Low Plains, harvest resumed midway through the week. In the Southern Low Plains, yields were poor as failed acres increased.

Peanuts: Harvest was completed in South Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Spinach and cabbage continued to be harvested in both the Edwards Plateau and South Texas. Carrots also continued to develop in South Texas.

Pecans: Pecans continued to be harvested in the Trans-Pecos area.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Forage availability for livestock was in good condition, but supplemental feeding continued in the Northern Low Plains. In the Southern Low Plains, rangeland decreased due to the lack of moisture. Cold weather increased the need for supplemental feeding of livestock in the Blacklands. Topsoil moisture remained low for winter pasture growth in South East Texas.

Range and pasture conditions were fair in the Trans-Pecos area, but moisture is still needed to help the progression of winter forage. The combination of dry and cold weather forced many producers to consider culling and reducing livestock as herds continued to decline in body condition. In South Texas, range and pasture conditions continued to decline as forage quality suffered from heavy frost and dry soil conditions. Statewide, range and pasture land was mostly poor to very poor.

Crop Progress Table – December 10, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Cotton	Harvested	88	89	80
Sorghum	Harvested	98	97	94
Winter Wheat	Emerged	95	85	90
Oats	Planted	99	98	--
	Emerged	97	84	--
Pecans	Harvested	69	72	70

Crop Condition Table – December 10, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Wheat	8	30	43	15	4	66	35
Oats	1	17	37	21	24	45	22
Range & Pasture	1	9	24	37	29	--	--

^{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 – December 10, 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	24	34	0	37	9	29	14	3	22	50	36	15	1	42	10
Short	41	38	29	42	62	37	51	50	57	40	54	73	17	42	40
Adequate	34	23	66	21	29	25	34	44	21	10	10	10	64	16	50
Surplus	1	5	5	0	0	9	1	3	0	0	0	2	18	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 (Dec 4 - 10) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Dec 1 - 10) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Dec 10) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Sep - Nov) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.00	14.40	18.87	95
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.00	17.19	23.78	103
North Central Texas	0.04	0.04	23.22	34.00	97
East Texas	0.24	0.24	35.90	45.69	101
Trans Pecos	0.15	0.15	8.43	12.96	61
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.00	14.44	24.01	62
South Central Texas	0.15	0.15	17.66	34.48	52
Upper Coast	0.18	0.18	48.68	47.63	115
South Texas	0.46	0.54	11.64	23.49	94
Lower Valley	1.07	1.21	17.55	25.34	109

^{1/} 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 and www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

Notice:

The next issue of Texas Crop Weather will be published on January 8, 2007.

Cooperating Agencies:

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

