



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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For the week of: February 26 – March 4, 2007

Agricultural Summary: Conditions remained mostly mild and dry across the state throughout the week, as limited areas only received traces of rainfall. Sunny conditions were good for crop development, yet some producers were waiting for rain before continuing field activities. Over the last two weeks, there have been numerous reports of high winds across the state. Topsoil moisture continued to decline due to high winds, and some producers continued to re-prepare fields due to the effects of these high winds. Some producers reported small improvements in range and pastures due to warmer temperatures, but supplemental feeding still continued.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat conditions improved in the Northern High Plains, and some producers are even considering pulling cattle off fields early in order to increase yield potential. Also in the Northern High Plains, producers applied top dressing fertilizers and insecticides to winter wheat. Wheat progressed in the Southern High Plains due to warmer temperatures. Producers in the Low Plains were less fortunate as high winds were detrimental to wheat crops. Rainfall is still needed for wheat pastures in the Blacklands. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly fair to good while oat condition was mostly fair to poor.

Cotton: Producers in the Northern Low Plains continued land preparations for planting.

Corn: Some producers in the Blacklands have begun planting with others anticipating to begin next week. Some producers in South Central Texas continued to plant corn, but many are still waiting due to minimal rainfall.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Harvest of cabbage and spinach continued in the Edwards Plateau. In South Texas, warmer temperatures have provided good growing conditions for cabbage and spinach fields that continued to be harvested. Preparations for onion harvest began in the Lower Valley.

Pecans: Pecan trees remained dormant in the Trans-Pecos area.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding continued across most areas of the state with hay in short supply. Some producers in the Northern High Plains moved cattle off wheat fields with the anticipation of saving some wheat for grain, silage, or haying purposes. Stock tanks for livestock water were low in the Northern Low Plains. Lice infestation was a problem in the Cross Timbers. Some pastures in the Blacklands began to “green-up,” but increased moisture is still needed. Hard rains are still needed in both the Cross Timbers and Blacklands in order to fill stock tanks. Producers in North East Texas continued to experience pasture growth due to warmer temperatures. Pasture growth was slowed in South Central Texas due to the combination of dry weather and a short freeze. Statewide, range and pasture condition was mostly fair to poor.

Crop Progress Table – March 4, 2007

Crop	Stage	2007	2006	Average 2002 - 2006
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	12	7	8
Cotton	Planted	0	2	1
Sorghum	Planted	6	5	6
Winter Wheat	Headed	1	0	0
Oats	Headed	1	0	0

Crop Condition Table – March 4, 2007

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2007	2006
Wheat	11	31	38	14	6	67	--
Oats	4	20	39	21	16	52	--
Range & Pasture	2	14	31	30	23	--	--

^{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 – March 4, 2007 *

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	0	7	11	14	7	21	1	1	21	29	10	0	0	12	10
Short	15	44	30	57	53	37	18	24	35	52	48	33	8	50	40
Adequate	69	39	53	29	40	41	69	60	40	17	42	47	87	37	50
Surplus	16	10	6	0	0	1	12	15	4	2	0	20	5	1	0

* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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/ 2/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Feb 26 – Mar 4) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Feb 1 - 28) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – Mar 04) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Nov - Jan) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.16	0.80	18.87	134
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.15	1.02	23.78	66
North Central Texas	0.00	0.43	3.25	34.00	108
East Texas	0.08	1.21	7.64	45.69	120
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.07	0.93	12.96	97
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.19	2.09	24.01	86
South Central Texas	0.00	0.20	4.70	34.48	100
Upper Coast	0.05	0.96	6.98	47.63	99
South Texas	0.00	0.03	3.21	23.49	154
Lower Valley	0.00	0.51	2.25	25.34	117

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

^{2/} High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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.

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

Cooperating Agencies:

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

