



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

Texas Field Office · Post Office Box 70 · Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 916-5581 · (800) 842-1331 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

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For the week of: March 12 - 18, 2007

Agricultural Summary: Many producers across the state experienced light to moderate rainfall last week. The Western half of the state received mostly traces to 0.25 inches of rainfall, as isolated showers brought 0.50 to 1.5 inches to areas of the Plains and small sections of Central Texas. Higher rain accumulations occurred in areas stretching from the Blacklands to areas east and south. The Upper Coast along with South Central Texas received the majority of rainfall with mostly 2.0 to 3.0 inches, as isolated showers brought as much as 6.0 inches to small sections. Localized flooding was reported in some of these locations, and some replanting may be necessary. Isolated showers of mostly 2.0 inches also crossed small areas of East Texas and the Lower Valley. The Blacklands and East Texas received mostly 0.50 to 1.5 inches of rainfall. The Edwards Plateau and South Texas both received mostly traces to 1.5 inches of rainfall. Portions of the Northern High Plains and the Trans-Pecos remained relatively dry. Moisture levels increased across most areas the state, and a few locations received enough rainfall to increase and even replenish water for livestock use. Some producers experienced some improvement in pasture condition, but supplemental feeding for livestock continued.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Winter wheat conditions continued to improve in the Northern High Plains due to the combination of warmer temperatures and recent moisture. Producers continued to pull cattle off wheat fields intended for grain or hay. Also in the Northern High Plains, some producers are also beginning to irrigate fields. Although soil moisture was added to many fields in the Southern High Plains from recent rainfall, some producers experienced problems of green bugs and aphids. Rains were also beneficial to wheat producers in the Southern Low Plains, Cross Timbers, and Edwards Plateau. Producers along the Coastal Bend will be closely monitoring wheat fields for leaf disease due to high temperatures and humidity. Statewide, wheat and oat condition was mostly fair to good.

Cotton: Land preparations were ongoing in the Northern Low Plains. Some producers along the Coastal Bend experienced minimal field flooding, which may cause them to replant fields.

Corn: Planting continued to progress in most areas of the state except the High Plains.

Sorghum: Rains delayed planting in the Blacklands. In South Central Texas and the Coastal Bend, flooding and small hail damage may cause some producers to replant some fields. The increase in rainfall provided much needed moisture to sorghum in South Texas as planting continued.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Some producers in North East Texas prepared to plant vegetable seeds. Those in the Trans-Pecos area began planting of summer crops such as watermelons, cantaloupes, pumpkins, and onions. Harvest of cabbage and spinach continued in both the Edwards Plateau and South Texas.

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

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Some producers in the Northern High Plains continued to move cattle off wheat fields. Warm weather and recent moisture contributed to the progression of pastures and Coastal fields in the Cross Timbers as some fields began to “green up.” Although soil moisture was too low for good growth of warm season perennials in the Blacklands, many producers continued to apply fertilizers. Hay feeding decreased in South East Texas as pastures began to “green up.” Some producers in South Central Texas reported losses of livestock from recent flooding. Livestock in South Texas benefitted from increased forage due to recent moisture and higher temperatures. Statewide, range and pasture condition was mostly fair to poor.

Crop Progress Table – March 18, 2007

Crop	Stage	2007	2006	Average 2002 - 2006
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	46	39	29
	Emerged	10	14	10
Cotton	Planted	5	5	4
Rice	Planted	8	12	6
Sorghum	Planted	39	18	19
Soybeans	Planted	1	5	2
Winter Wheat	Headed	3	3	2
Oats	Headed	4	5	--

Crop Condition Table – March 18, 2007

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2007	2006
Wheat	12	35	37	12	4	70	23
Oats	6	27	41	17	9	60	20
Range & Pasture	2	16	38	29	15	--	--

^{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 18, 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	1	5	0	3	8	3	2	2	15	24	0	0	0	1	10
Short	30	27	11	30	35	34	27	13	47	39	16	3	4	4	20
Adequate	65	55	80	63	56	56	64	61	38	31	59	40	43	77	67
Surplus	4	13	9	4	1	7	7	24	0	6	25	57	53	18	3

* 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 (Mar 12 - 18) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 18) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Mar 18) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Dec - Feb) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.22	0.90	1.70	18.87	150
Low Rolling Plains	0.03	1.13	2.15	23.78	64
North Central Texas	0.40	1.40	4.65	34.00	95
East Texas	1.47	2.01	9.59	45.69	120
Trans Pecos	0.05	0.11	1.04	12.96	110
Edwards Plateau	0.18	1.18	3.27	24.01	87
South Central Texas	1.89	3.00	7.70	34.48	103
Upper Coast	3.53	4.44	11.42	47.63	109
South Texas	0.78	1.29	4.50	23.49	152
Lower Valley	1.73	1.74	3.99	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

