



Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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For the week of: March 9 – 15, 2009

Agricultural Summary: The eastern and central part of the state received up to 6 inches of rainfall while the rest of the state observed moderate amounts of moisture. Producers continued to irrigate wheat fields in the Plains due to dry conditions. Producers were spraying small grain fields for insects in the High Plains. Cotton field preparation took place in the Northern Low Plains; however, dry conditions were making it difficult to cultivate the land. Cotton producers were irrigating their fields in the Trans-Pecos. Pre-planted irrigation of corn fields was active in the Northern High Plains. A few producers were waiting for their sorghum fields to dry-out from the recent rainfall so they could begin planting once again. Peaches were in full bloom in the Cross Timbers. Supplemental feeding of livestock was on going across most of the state. Range and Pasture conditions improved in East and Central Texas due to the recent rainfall. Top soil moisture was mostly very short to adequate across the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Producers continued to irrigate wheat fields in the Plains due to dry conditions. Producers were spraying small grain fields for insects in the High Plains. Small grain fields in the Blacklands improved from recent rainfall; however, soil conditions remained dry. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly very poor to fair and oat condition was mostly very poor to poor.

Cotton: Field preparation took place in the Northern Low Plains; however, the dry conditions were making it difficult to cultivate the land. Producers were preparing to plant cotton in the Edwards Plateau. Producers were irrigating their fields in the Trans-Pecos.

Corn: Pre-planted irrigation was active in the Northern High Plains. Planting was active in the Blacklands up to the recent rainfall.

Sorghum: A few producers were waiting for their fields to dry-out from the recent rainfall so they could begin planting once again. Planting was active in the Upper Coast.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Peaches were in full bloom in the Cross Timbers. Fall planted onions emerging from dormancy in Trans-Pecos were in the eighth leaf stage. In the Edwards Plateau, cabbage harvest continued while onion field preparation was active. Potatoes continued to progress in South Texas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding of livestock was on going across most of the state. Cattle culling continued in the Northern Low Plains, Edwards Plateau and South Texas. Range and pasture conditions across the state continued to remain dry and in need of further rainfall. Lambing, kidding and shearing were active in the Edwards Plateau. Range and Pasture conditions improved in East and Central Texas due to the recent rainfall. Range and Pasture condition was mostly very poor to poor statewide.

Crop Progress Table – March 15, 2009

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2009	2008	Average 2004 – 2008
Corn	Planted	30	40	28
	Emerged	4	3	7
Sorghum	Planted	18	27	20
Winter Wheat	Headed	2	3	2
Oats	Emerged	95	100	100
	Headed	2	6	2

Crop Condition Table – March 15, 2009

Crop	Percent					Index ^{1/}	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2009	2008
Wheat	1	11	31	24	33	37	43
Oats	0	2	18	24	56	21	59
Range & Pasture	0	7	22	28	43	--	--

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 15, 2009

Condition	Percent of Acreage, by District *														
	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
Very Short	66	56	69	33	37	4	0	16	59	37	46	89	51	74	30
Short	28	40	31	38	47	19	4	37	31	25	40	11	14	16	37
Adequate	6	4	0	28	16	55	59	41	10	37	14	0	27	10	33
Surplus	0	0	0	1	0	22	37	6	0	1	0	0	8	0	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: 96; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

Weather Information Table ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions ^{2/}	Previous Week Accumulation (March 9 – 15)	Month-to-Date Accumulation (March 1 – 15)	Year-to-Date Accumulation (Jan 1 – Mar 15)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months Percent of Normal (Dec, Jan, Feb)
High Plains	0.28	0.28	0.71	19.64	26
Low Rolling Plains	0.88	0.88	1.39	24.51	16
North Central Texas	2.64	2.64	3.93	35.23	24
East Texas	3.03	3.03	5.58	48.08	37
Trans-Pecos	0.61	0.61	0.70	13.19	12
Edwards Plateau	1.89	1.89	2.34	24.73	14
South Central Texas	1.17	1.17	1.72	36.21	14
Upper Coast	1.53	1.53	2.70	50.31	21
South Texas	0.32	0.32	0.49	24.08	11
Lower Valley	0.25	0.25	0.82	25.43	23

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

