



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

Issue: TX–CW1209

Released: March 23, 2009

For the week of: March 16 – 22, 2009

Agricultural Summary: The eastern and southern part of the state received up to 1 inch of rainfall while the rest of the state observed trace amounts of moisture. Producers continued to irrigate wheat fields in the Plains. Wheat was growing well in the Cross Timbers due to the warm weather coupled with earlier rainfall. Cotton field preparation took place in the Northern Low Plains; however, the dry conditions were making it difficult to cultivate the land. Pre-planted irrigation and fertilization of corn were active in the Northern High Plains. In South Texas, cabbage harvest continued, onions were making good progress, and potatoes were in the flowering stage. Producers continued to supplement livestock in most areas of the state. Range and Pasture conditions improved in areas of 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. Many producers had sprayed small grain fields a second time for insects in the Northern High Plains and were considering a third spray. Wheat was growing well in the Cross Timbers due to the warm weather coupled with earlier rainfall. Oats in the Blacklands were beginning to head in several fields. In the Edwards Plateau, most wheat and oats were in the flowering stage. 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.

Corn: Pre-planted irrigation and fertilization were active in the Northern High Plains. Planting was active in South Central Texas and South Texas. Corn condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Sorghum: Producers were planting in South Texas to take advantage of the earlier rainfall.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Fall planted onions were growing well in the Trans-Pecos. In South Texas, cabbage harvest continued, onions were making good progress and potatoes were in the flowering stage.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Producers continued to supplement livestock in most areas of the state. Cattle in North East Texas were reducing intake of hay due to improved forage conditions. Lambing and kidding were active in the Edwards Plateau. Range and Pasture conditions improved in areas of recent rainfall. Range and Pasture condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide.

Crop Progress Table – March 22, 2009

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2009	2008	Average 2004 – 2008
Corn	Planted	44	40	42
	Emerged	14	11	16
Cotton	Planted	1	5	5
Rice	Planted	9	16	14
Sorghum	Planted	25	36	30
Soybeans	Planted	2	5	5
Winter Wheat	Headed	7	3	3
Oats	Emerged	96	100	100
	Headed	11	7	6

Crop Condition Table – March 22, 2009

Crop	Percent					Index ^{1/}	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2009	2008
Corn	1	27	59	6	7	63	74
Wheat	1	12	30	24	33	38	42
Oats	0	6	17	29	48	25	57
Range & Pasture	0	7	27	28	38	--	--

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 22, 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	67	64	89	41	37	11	2	8	54	47	39	90	10	76	45
Short	28	34	11	46	41	18	5	29	35	34	31	10	24	23	25
Adequate	5	2	0	12	22	65	77	58	11	19	30	0	58	1	30
Surplus	0	0	0	1	0	6	16	5	0	0	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: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

Weather Information Table ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions ^{2/}	Previous Week Accumulation (March 16 – 22)	Month-to-Date Accumulation (March 1 – 22)	Year-to-Date Accumulation (Jan 1 – Mar 22)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months Percent of Normal (Dec, Jan, Feb)
High Plains	0.01	0.29	0.72	19.64	26
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.88	1.39	24.51	16
North Central Texas	0.00	2.64	3.93	35.23	24
East Texas	0.00	3.03	5.58	48.08	37
Trans-Pecos	0.00	0.61	0.70	13.19	12
Edwards Plateau	0.00	1.89	2.34	24.73	14
South Central Texas	0.00	1.17	1.72	36.21	14
Upper Coast	0.00	1.53	2.70	50.31	21
South Texas	0.00	0.32	0.49	24.08	11
Lower Valley	0.00	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

