



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–CW1309

Released: March 30, 2009

For the week of: March 23 – 29, 2009

Agricultural Summary: The western part of the state received little to no moisture while the rest of the state received up to 6 inches of rainfall. Producers continued to irrigate wheat fields in the Plains. Wheat was growing well in the Cross Timbers and the Blacklands; however, more moisture was needed to help fill heads with grain. Cotton field preparation took place in the Northern Plains. Corn has emerged in the Blacklands, the Edwards Plateau, and South Texas. Sorghum producers in South Central Texas were in need of more rain for land preparation. Pecan trees in the Trans-Pecos and the Edwards Plateau were beginning to bud. In South Texas, land was being prepared for melons, cabbage harvest continued, green beans were being planted, 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. Winter wheat was under stress in the Northern High Plains due to adverse weather conditions and aphid activity. Wheat was growing well in the Cross Timbers and the Blacklands; however, more moisture was needed to help fill heads with grain. Wheat in the Edwards Plateau and South Central Texas were in bad condition and in need of more moisture. 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 Plains. Producers were dry planting in the Coastal Bend.

Corn: Pre-planted irrigation was active in the Northern High Plains. Corn has emerged in the Blacklands, the Edwards Plateau, and South Texas. Producers in South Central Texas were in need of more moisture to begin planting. Corn condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Sorghum: Producers in South Central Texas were in need of more rain for land preparation, while producers were planting in South Texas. Sorghum condition was mostly poor to fair statewide.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Fall planted onions were growing well in the Trans-Pecos. Cabbage was ready to be harvested and onions were ready to be clipped in the Edwards Plateau. In South Texas, land was being prepared for melons, cabbage harvest continued, green beans were being planted, onions were making good progress, and potatoes were in the flowering stage.

Pecans: Trees in the Trans-Pecos and the Edwards Plateau were beginning to bud.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Producers continued to supplement livestock in most areas of the state. In the Trans-Pecos, cattle were in calving season and goats were in kidding season. Due to lack of forage in South Texas and low stock tank levels in the Coastal Bend, herd reductions took place. 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 29, 2009

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2009	2008	Average 2004 – 2008
Corn	Planted	51	46	51
	Emerged	24	21	30
Cotton	Planted	3	7	8
Rice	Planted	38	35	28
Sorghum	Planted	35	42	37
Soybeans	Planted	7	18	14
Winter Wheat	Headed	14	4	5
Oats	Headed	22	10	14

Crop Condition Table – March 29, 2009

Crop	Percent					Index ^{1/}	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2009	2008
Corn	1	24	63	5	7	62	70
Sorghum	0	10	52	20	18	46	66
Wheat	1	11	25	26	37	34	46
Oats	0	9	21	24	46	29	59
Range & Pasture	1	9	28	29	33	--	--

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 29, 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	59	65	71	46	40	8	1	0	61	43	27	81	12	60	45
Short	22	33	15	51	33	16	3	28	30	38	38	16	17	25	25
Adequate	19	2	12	3	26	69	63	61	9	19	35	3	61	15	30
Surplus	0	0	2	0	1	7	33	11	0	0	0	0	10	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 23 – 29)	Month-to-Date Accumulation (March 1 – 29)	Year-to-Date Accumulation (Jan 1 – Mar 29)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months Percent of Normal (Dec, Jan, Feb)
High Plains	0.14	0.43	0.86	19.64	26
Low Rolling Plains	0.02	0.90	1.41	24.51	16
North Central Texas	0.42	3.06	4.35	35.23	24
East Texas	1.71	4.74	7.29	48.08	37
Trans-Pecos	0.00	0.61	0.70	13.19	12
Edwards Plateau	0.17	2.06	2.51	24.73	14
South Central Texas	0.41	1.58	2.13	36.21	14
Upper Coast	0.98	2.51	3.68	50.31	21
South Texas	0.08	0.40	0.57	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

