



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: March 22 - 28, 2010

Agricultural Summary: The majority of the state received 0.01 to 1.5 inches of rainfall with little precipitation in the Trans-Pecos and Low Plains. Winter wheat fields in the Northern High Plains were being top dressed as conditions allowed. Warm temperatures and rainfall the past week had some oat fields starting to head in South Texas. In the Blacklands, excessive rainfall hampered corn planting. Sorghum planting continued as weather improved; however, soil temperatures remain cooler than normal in the Coastal Bend. Producers were waiting for more favorable soil conditions and warmer temperatures to begin cotton planting in the High and Low Plains. The recent freeze caused minor damage to some vegetable crops, peach and other fruit trees in the Cross Timbers but the severity is still undetermined. Harvest of spinach was completed and the harvest of cabbage was active in South Texas. A late winter storm in the Northern High Plains had some effect on cattle condition but minimal death losses were reported. However, livestock in the Northern Low Plains were in fair to excellent condition and some supplemental feeding was being done. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate to surplus across the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Winter wheat fields in the Northern High Plains were being top dressed as conditions allowed. Wheat was looking very good and seemed not to have been affected by the recent freeze in the Edwards Plateau. Wheat condition was mostly fair to good statewide. Oat fields were progressing well and land was being prepared with pre-emerge weed killer and fertilizers in the Northern Low Plains. Warm temperatures and rainfall the past week had some oat fields starting to head in South Texas. Oat condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Corn: In the Blacklands, excessive rainfall hampered corn planting. A few fields of corn in the Upper Coast experienced hail during the week but should recover with the expected favorable weather conditions.

Sorghum: Sorghum planting continued as weather improved; however, soil temperatures remain cooler than normal in the Coastal Bend. Earlier planted sorghum began to emerge. In South Texas, spring planting was very active as recent cold weather delayed sorghum planting.

Cotton: Producers were waiting for more favorable soil conditions and warmer temperatures to begin cotton planting in the High and Low Plains. Cotton land was being pre-irrigated in the Trans-Pecos while planting had to be postponed in South Central Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

The recent freeze caused minor damage to some vegetable crops, peach and other fruit trees in the Cross Timbers but the severity is still undetermined. Harvest of spinach was completed and the harvest of cabbage was active in South Texas. Onion harvest continued in the Lower Valley.

Livestock, Range and Pasture Report

A late winter storm in the Northern High Plains had some effect on cattle condition but minimal death losses were reported. However, livestock in the Northern Low Plains were in fair to excellent condition and some supplemental feeding was being done. Goat producers were watching for parasite conditions and coccidiosis. Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good.

Crop Progress Table – March 28, 2010 *

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2010	2009	Average 2005 – 2009
Corn	Planted	39	50	50
	Emerged	11	23	26
Cotton	Planted	4	3	6
Rice	Planted	19	34	30
Sorghum	Planted	26	34	37
Soybeans	Planted	4	6	11
Winter Wheat	Headed	4	13	7
Oats	Headed	5	20	16

* Visit our web site to view the crop progress regional maps, available the following working day of this release at www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Texas/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/maps/index.htm.

Crop Condition Table – March 28, 2010

Crop	Percent					Index ^{1/}	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2010	2009
Wheat	14	46	32	6	2	78	34
Oats	15	46	22	7	10	73	29
Range & Pasture	8	31	38	17	6	-	-

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 28, 2010

Condition	Percent of Acreage, by District ^{1/}														
	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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	26	3	0	0	1	3	0
Short	9	11	7	0	2	0	0	2	48	19	0	0	4	14	15
Adequate	83	75	86	86	75	33	59	70	26	62	59	87	75	79	85
Surplus	7	14	7	14	23	67	41	27	0	16	41	13	20	4	0

1/ 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.

Precipitation Table – March 28, 2010 ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions ^{2/}	Inches of Accumulation				Percent
	Previous Week (March 22 – 28)	Month-to-Date (March 1 – 28)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Mar 28)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months of Normal (Dec – Feb)
High Plains	0.11	1.12	4.26	19.64	200
Low Rolling Plains	0.04	1.13	4.42	24.51	146
North Central Texas	0.45	2.54	7.96	35.23	102
East Texas	0.51	2.59	8.61	48.08	83
Trans-Pecos	0.00	0.14	2.00	13.19	137
Edwards Plateau	0.09	1.17	5.52	24.73	150
South Central Texas	0.19	1.18	7.75	36.21	141
Upper Coast	0.18	1.61	8.76	50.31	114
South Texas	0.00	0.60	4.75	24.08	166
Lower Valley	0.00	0.35	4.60	25.43	201

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

