



# Texas Crop Progress and Condition

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**WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR MARCH 12 – 18**

**ISSUE TX-CW1212**

**RELEASED MARCH 19, 2012**

Crop Condition							
Crop	Percent of Acreage					Index	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2012	2011
Wheat	10	24	28	22	16	56	40
Oats	16	54	23	4	3	81	41
Range and Pasture	7	22	30	21	20	---	---

\* 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.

## Summary

Most areas of the state received rainfall last week. Areas of Central and East Texas received up to two inches during the week while the rest of the state observed scattered showers.

**Small Grains:** Rainfall and warm temperatures helped wheat and oats progress

well across most of the state. In Central and South Texas, wheat and oats were beginning to head. Wet conditions had some small grain producers scouting fields for fungus and insects. In parts of the High Plains, wheat was in need of additional moisture and irrigated fields were being watered.

**Row Crops:** Corn and sorghum planting continued around Texas. However, wet weather interrupted some planting in parts of the Blacklands. Cotton producers across the state were applying herbicides and pre-watering in preparation for planting. In the Lower Valley, cotton planting was active.

**Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crops:** From the Low Plains to East Texas, pecan trees were budding and fruit trees were in bloom. Vegetable garden planting increased in pace. In parts of the Trans-Pecos, pecan trees were still dormant and orchards were being irrigated. Chile planting was underway. In the Lower Valley, harvest of spring onions began and citrus, vegetable, and sugarcane harvest was in full swing.

**Livestock, Range, and Pasture:** Range and pastureland improved around the state with recent precipitation, providing some grazing for livestock. Warm-season grasses were breaking dormancy and beginning to green up, although many pastures were still recovering from overgrazing and additional moisture was needed. Livestock body condition was

Crop Progress					
Crop	Stage	Percent of Acreage			
		Current	Prev Week	2011	5 Yr Avg
Corn	Planted	33	20	39	37
Cotton	Planted	1	0	3	3
Oats	Headed	7	0	1	4
Rice	Planted	1	0	3	3
Sorghum	Planted	22	10	36	29
Soybeans	Planted	1	0	1	1

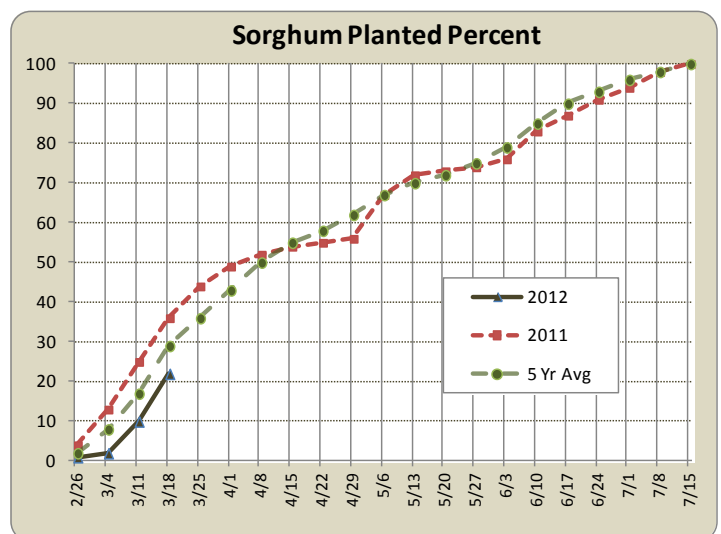
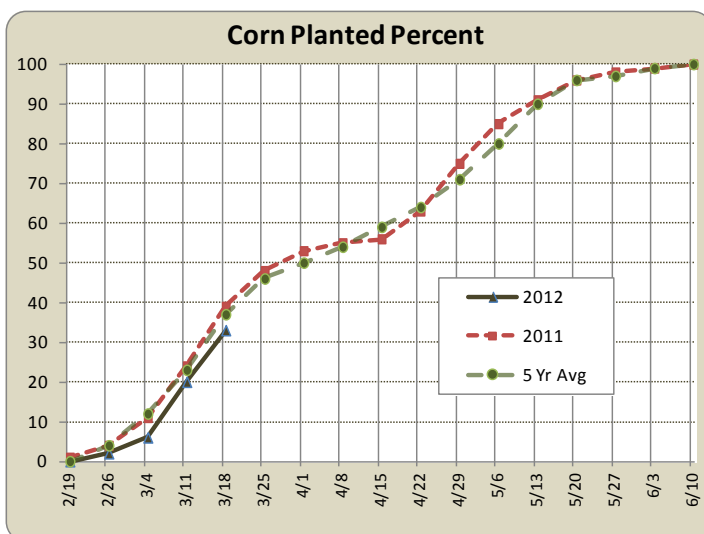
Visit our web site to view the crop progress regional maps, available at [www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Texas/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/maps/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Texas/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/maps/).

generally improving while some producers continued to supplement with protein and minerals. Hay supplies remained short. Calving, lambing, and kidding season was in full swing. Rains helped to improve pond and stream levels in most areas, however in South Texas, stock tank levels remained low.

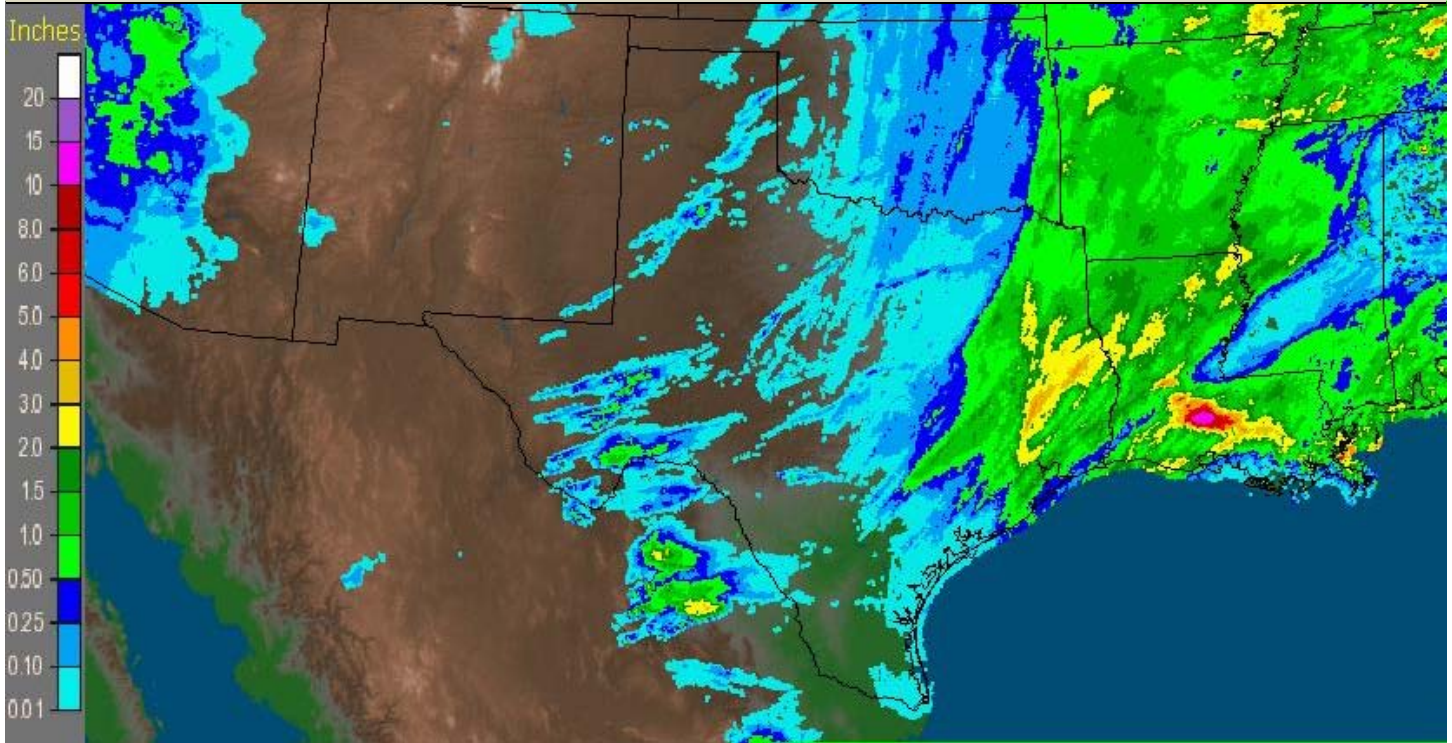
Top Soil Moisture by District															
Condition	Percent of Acreage														
	1-N	1-S	2-N	2-S	3	4	5-N	5-S	6	7	8-N	8-S	9	10-N	10-S
Very Short	50	60	33	13	3	2	3	0	69	20	1	20	1	18	28
Short	46	21	35	45	22	9	8	3	30	26	13	47	7	44	35
Adequate	4	17	21	42	68	69	81	62	1	47	82	20	56	38	37
Surplus	0	2	11	0	7	20	8	35	0	7	4	13	36	0	0

Texas Precipitation					
National Weather Service Climatic Divisions *	Inches of Accumulation **				Percent
	Previous Week (March 12 – 18, 2012)	Month-to-Date (March 1 – 18, 2012)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Mar 18, 2012)	Annual Normal 1971-2000	Normal Previous Three Months (Dec, Jan, Feb)
High Plains	0.06	0.07	0.19	19.64	4
Low Rolling Plains	0.08	0.13	0.45	24.51	20
North Central Texas	0.00	0.29	1.38	35.23	16
East Texas	0.00	0.52	2.12	48.08	15
Trans-Pecos	0.01	0.01	0.06	13.19	25
Edwards Plateau	0.01	0.14	0.69	24.73	17
South Central Texas	0.00	0.13	0.94	36.21	15
Upper Coast	0.00	0.48	2.03	50.31	14
South Texas	0.00	0.01	0.40	24.08	28
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	0.48	25.43	39

\* 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. \*\* Average of all stations reporting precipitation data. For more information, please visit the following web sites: <http://water.weather.gov> and <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>.



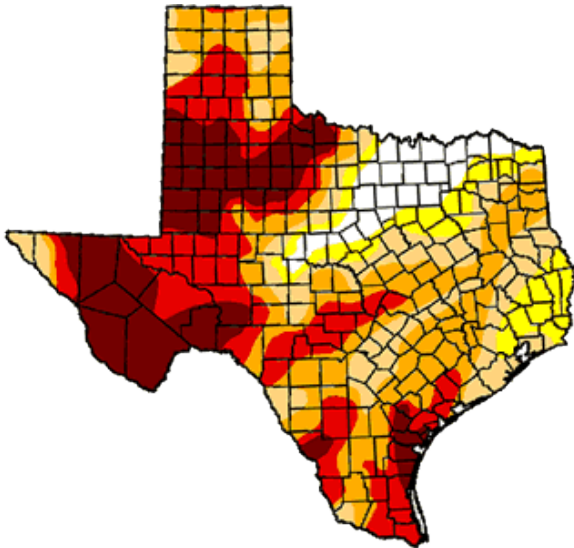
## Seven Day Observed Regional Precipitation, March 18, 2012



Source: National Weather Service, [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

## Drought Monitor

Valid 3/13/2012, 7:00 am EST



### Intensity:



Source: National Drought Mitigation Center, a partnership with USDA, U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA, <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>.

## Texas Agricultural Districts

