



# Texas Crop Progress and Condition

Texas Field Office · Post Office Box 70 · Austin, Texas 78767 · 800-626-3142 · [www.nass.usda.gov/tx](http://www.nass.usda.gov/tx)

WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR APRIL 2 – APRIL 8

ISSUE TX-CW1512

RELEASED APRIL 9, 2012

Crop	Crop Condition						Index	
	Percent of Acreage					2012	2011	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor			
Wheat	9	29	31	16	15	59	32	
Oats	21	50	18	6	5	81	31	
Range and Pasture	10	29	31	18	12	--	--	

\* 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

Areas of North and East Texas received up to 2.5 inches of rainfall for the week while other areas observed scattered showers. Weather conditions remained dry in much of the High Plains and the Trans-Pecos.

**Small Grains:** In areas of the High Plains, dryland wheat remained stressed due to inadequate rainfall and soil moisture. Irrigated fields were being watered. In most other areas, rainfall

helped to improve wheat and oat fields. Many producers were grazing livestock on wheat, and small grains continued to be cut for hay. Some producers were spraying or scouting for armyworms.

**Row Crops:** Pre-plant activities continued for corn and cotton in the Plains. Insufficient soil moisture meant that many producers were irrigating ahead of planting. In the southern part of the state, corn, sorghum and cotton planting were underway. Recent rainfall helped boost fields already planted. In areas of North Texas and the Upper Coast, wet weather slowed planting.

**Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crops:** Early-planted vegetables were making good progress in the Low Plains while vegetable planting continued from the Low Plains to East Texas. Pecan trees were leafing out in the Edwards Plateau. Peach trees were beginning to produce peaches and looked to be in good shape. In the Low Plains and South Texas, producers were beginning to plant watermelons. Some watermelon acreage in the Lower Valley was damaged by hail. Cabbage harvest continued in South Texas while sugarcane, citrus and vegetable harvest continued in the Lower Valley.

Crop	Stage	Crop Progress			
		Percent of Acreage			
		Current	Prev Week	2011	5 Yr Avg
Corn	Planted	52	48	55	54
	Emerged	40	30	38	41
Cotton	Planted	15	12	11	10
Oats	Headed	60	39	47	43
Rice	Planted	35	4	76	61
	Emerged	15	0	51	32
Sorghum	Planted	46	40	52	50
Soybeans	Planted	21	7	49	32
Winter Wheat	Headed	35	19	19	15

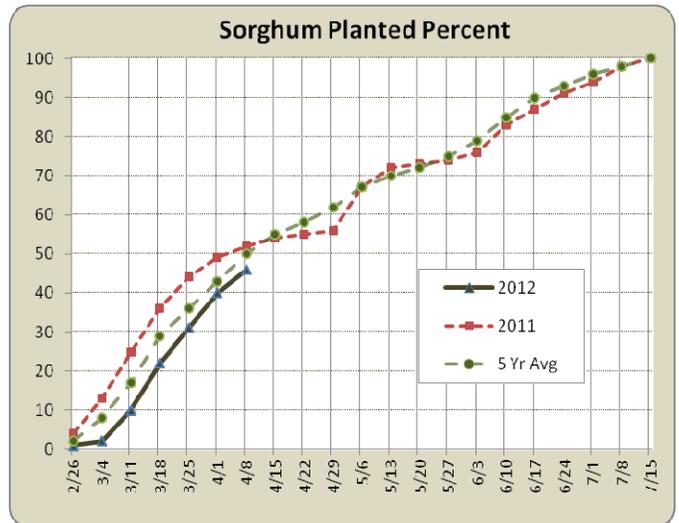
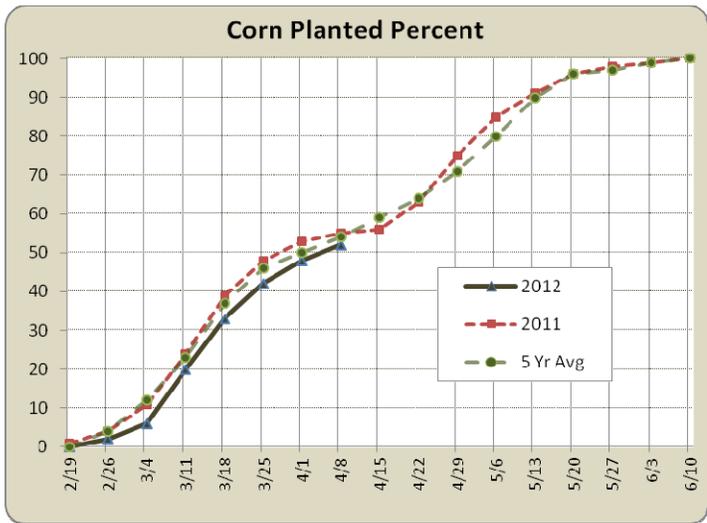
Visit our web site to view the crop progress regional maps, available at [www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Texas/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/maps/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Texas/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/maps/).

**Livestock, Range, and Pasture:** Dry conditions hindered the growth of pastures and rangeland in the High Plains and the Trans-Pecos. In most other areas, favorable weather conditions and adequate soil moisture allowed cool and warm season grasses to grow well. Many ranchers were fertilizing hay fields. Supplemental feeding decreased and livestock body condition was generally improving. Calving season continued and producers were working calves and shearing sheep.

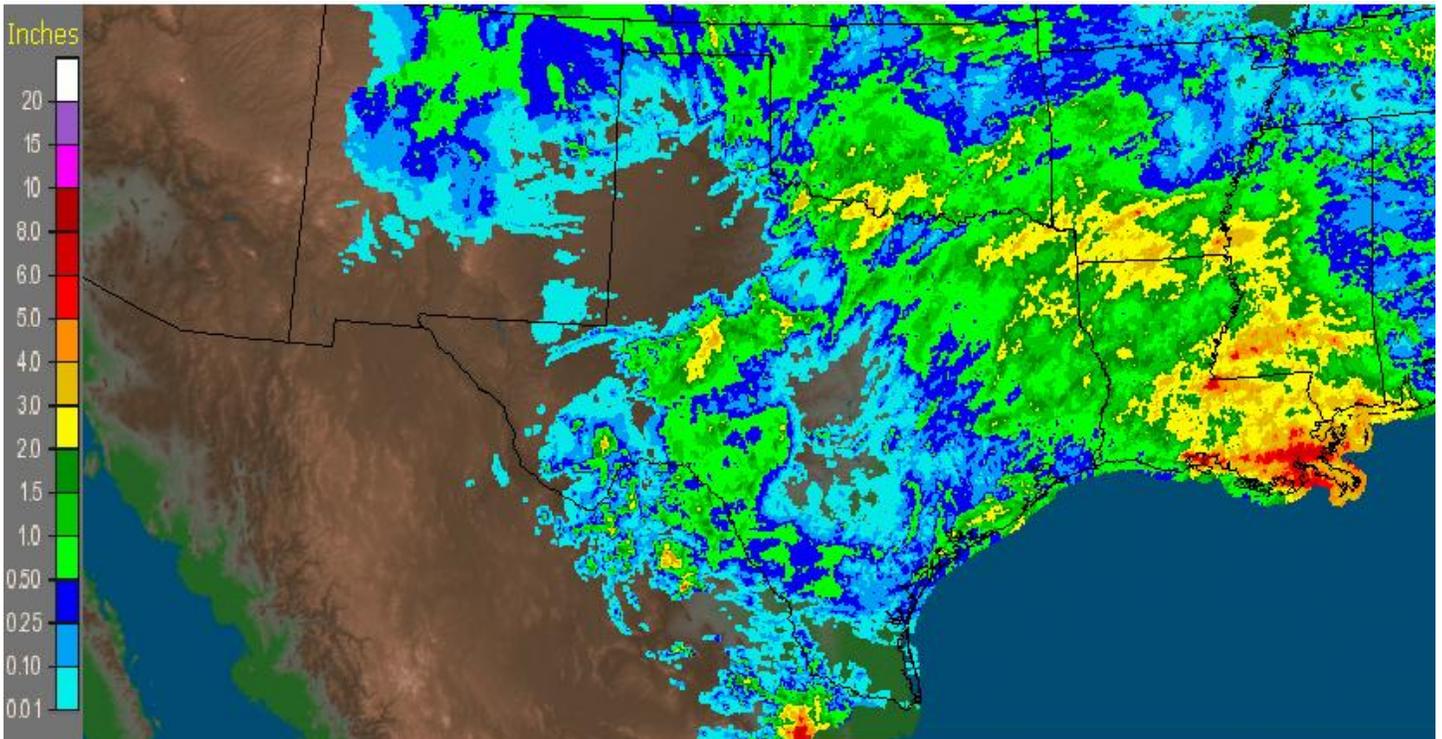
Top Soil Moisture by District															
Condition	Percent of Acreage														
	1-N	1-S	2-N	2-S	3	4	5-N	5-S	6	7	8-N	8-S	9	10-N	10-S
Very Short	46	69	32	14	5	1	3	3	81	9	0	26	1	15	21
Short	41	25	35	57	23	2	6	5	19	27	11	37	4	29	30
Adequate	13	6	31	29	66	70	63	62	0	58	85	37	55	55	46
Surplus	0	0	2	0	6	27	28	30	0	6	4	0	40	1	3

Texas Precipitation					
National Weather Service Climatic Divisions *	Inches of Accumulation **				Percent
	Previous Week (Apr 2 – Apr 8, 2012)	Month-to-Date (April 1 – 8, 2012)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Apr 8, 2012)	Annual Normal 1971-2000	Normal Previous Three Months (Jan, Feb, Mar)
High Plains	0.01	0.01	0.25	19.64	11
Low Rolling Plains	0.04	0.04	0.50	24.51	13
North Central Texas	0.14	0.14	2.04	35.23	27
East Texas	0.25	0.25	2.86	48.08	23
Trans-Pecos	0.02	0.02	0.11	13.19	7
Edwards Plateau	0.09	0.09	0.97	24.73	23
South Central Texas	0.01	0.01	1.40	36.21	21
Upper Coast	0.04	0.08	2.51	50.31	24
South Texas	0.00	0.05	0.70	24.08	18
Lower Valley	0.01	0.01	0.68	25.43	17

\* 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>.



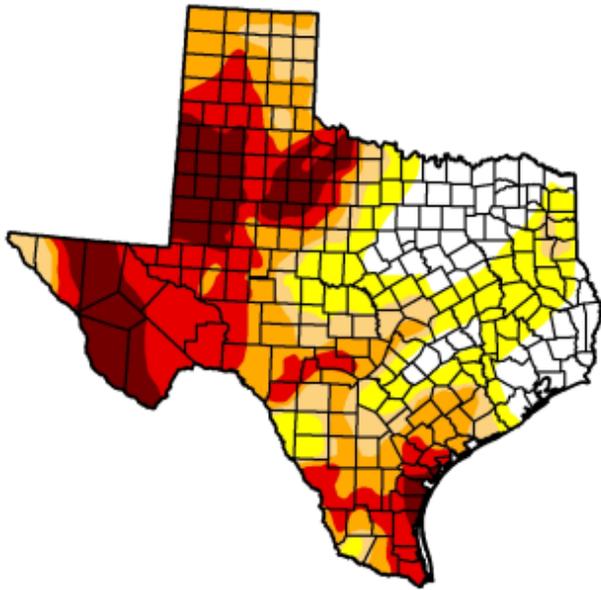
### Seven Day Observed Regional Precipitation, April 8, 2012



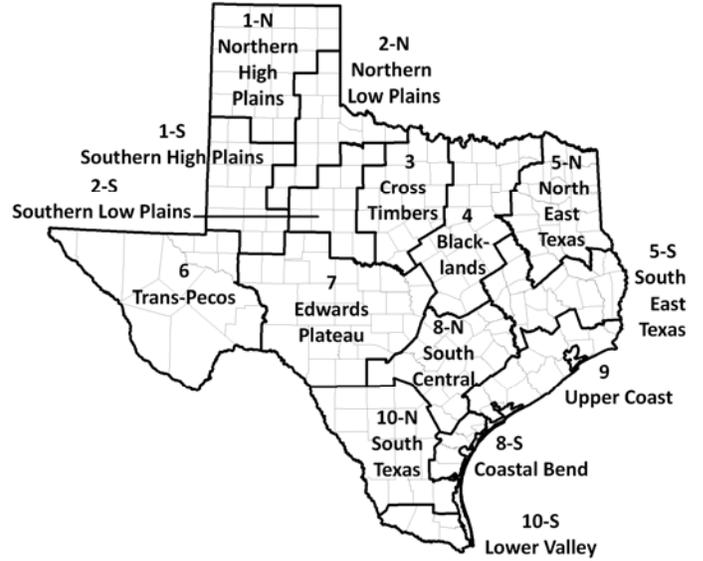
Source: National Weather Service, [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

# Drought Monitor

Valid 4/3/2012, 7:00 am EST



# Texas Agricultural Districts



## Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

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