



Texas Crop Progress and Condition

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WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR FEB 25 – MAR 3

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Summary

The Northern and Southern High Plains regions experienced significant snowfall last week, accompanied by high winds, resulting in snow drifts across the area. While other

districts in the northern and eastern parts of the state experienced some level of precipitation, helping topsoil moisture, subsoil moisture continues to be lacking. High winds impacted other districts across the state as well, drying out topsoil moisture in areas that received little to no precipitation.

Small Grains: Winter wheat in the Panhandle and Blacklands benefitted from precipitation, and irrigated fields continued to make good progress. Winter wheat in North East Texas was reported in good condition; however, in other areas of the state, small grains were struggling due to poor moisture and windy conditions.

Row Crops: Favorable soil moisture conditions in the Blacklands and North East Texas allowed producers to start planting corn and sorghum; however, sorghum planting in the Lower Valley slowed while producers awaited additional moisture. South Central Texas producers finished up final preparations for planting corn. In the Plains, producers began pre-watering fields and preparing for spring planting.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crops: Fruit trees from East Texas to the Edwards Plateau started to bud and produce shoots, while farmers in East Texas continued planting onions and potatoes. In South Texas, some potato crops suffered damage from high winds. Other spring vegetable crops were also in mostly good condition.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Heavy snowfall in the Northern Plains stressed cattle herds, with some producers reporting losses. East Texas producers saw winter forage conditions improve with some able to start grazing ryegrass pastures, and areas in South Central Texas also had winter forages beginning to emerge. Farmers in the Edwards Plateau began applying fertilizer and weed control to coastal fields. Pasture conditions in South Texas were poor due to lack of moisture and high winds.

		Crop Progress			
Crop	Stage	Percent of Acreage			
		Current	Prev Week	2012	5 Yr Avg
Corn	Planted	15	9	5	9
Sorghum	Planted	9	4	2	6
Winter Wheat	Emerged	100	99	100	100

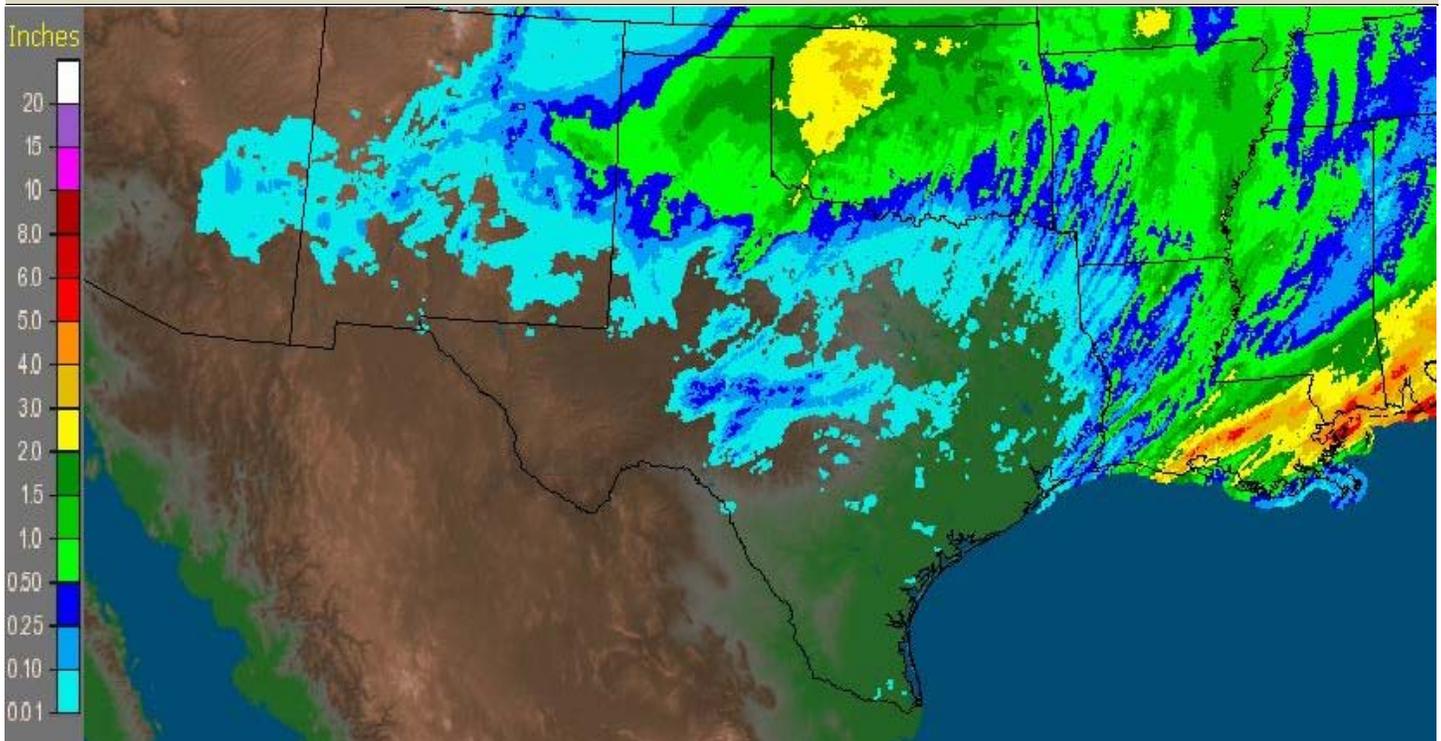
Visit our web site to view the crop progress regional maps, available at www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Texas/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/maps/.

Crop Condition							
Crop	Percent of Acreage					Index	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2013	2012
Wheat	1	17	37	29	16	47	55
Oats	3	22	44	24	7	56	80
Range and Pasture	1	13	30	32	24	--	--

* 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.

Tops Soil Moisture Condition by District									
District	Percent of Acreage				District	Percent of Acreage			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus		Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
1-N	34	42	24	0	6	51	47	2	0
1-S	33	40	25	2	7	54	38	8	0
2-N	19	33	35	13	8-N	20	62	18	0
2-S	50	37	12	1	8-S	64	17	16	3
3	27	60	13	0	9	2	28	52	18
4	12	33	54	1	10-N	43	48	9	0
5-N	8	22	67	3	10-S	92	8	0	0
5-S	5	32	57	6	State	29	38	30	3

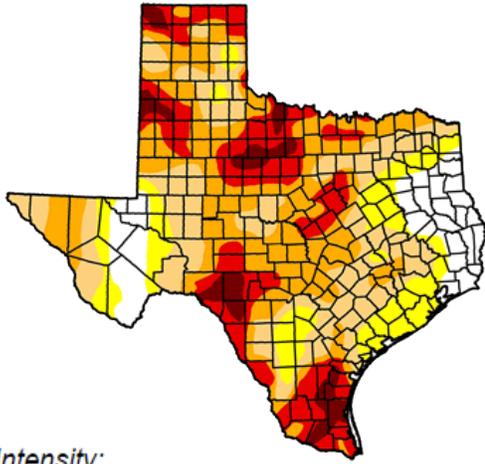
Seven Day Observed Regional Precipitation, March 3, 2013



Source: National Weather Service, www.nws.noaa.gov

Drought Monitor

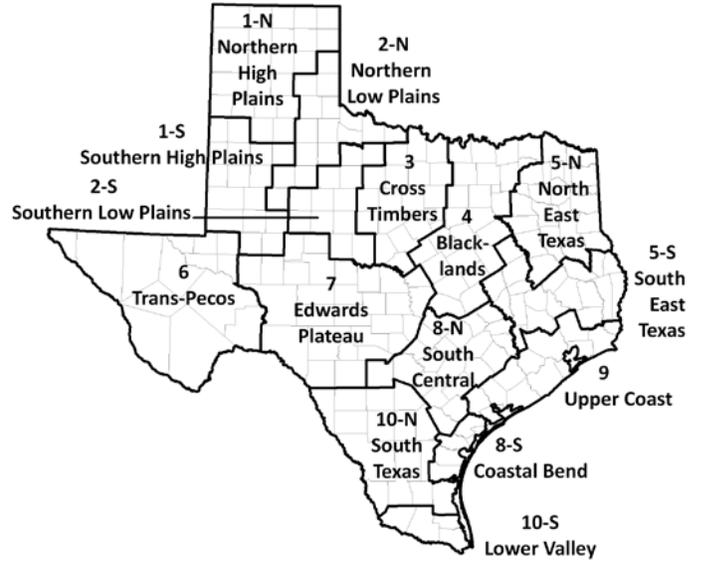
Valid 02/26/2013, 7:00 am EST



Intensity:



Texas Agricultural Districts



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