United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Texas Crop Progress and Condition

Southern Plains Regional Field Office
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Issue: TX-CW1016 **Weekly Summary for March 14- 20** **Released: March 21, 2016**

Most precipitation during the week was concentrated in the southern portion of the state. Areas of the Edwards Plateau, the Coastal Bend, South Central Texas, and South Texas experienced rainfall ranging from 0.10 to upwards of 2.0 inches. The north-east part of the state experienced scattered showers ranging from trace amounts to upwards of 1.0 inch. The rest of the state received little to no rainfall.

Crop Progress

Stage	Percent of Acreage			
	Current	Prev. Week	Prev. Year	5 Year Avg
Corn				
Planted	29	20	13	31
Sorghum				
Planted	22	15	6	22
Winter Wheat				
Headed	2	NA	0	0
Oats				
Headed	5	NA	1	5

Small Grains: Increased moisture from recent rainfall benefited winter wheat development in areas of the Cross Timbers, the Edwards Plateau, and South Texas. However, winter wheat in areas of the Southern High Plains and the Coastal Bend showed signs of rust. In areas of South Texas, oats also benefited from recent moisture, while the lack of rainfall in areas of the Southern High Plains have caused some producers to begin irrigation of oats and other small grains.

Row Crops: Cotton planting was active in areas of the Upper Coast and the Coastal Bend, as some cotton producers in the northern part of the state continued field preparations. Corn producers in areas of the Southern Low Plains commenced planting, while corn and sorghum were emerging in areas of the Blacklands and South East Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crops: In areas of the Blacklands fruit trees entered the blooming stage. In the Lower Valley the onion crop continued to progress. The South Texas potato crop began flowering. In areas of the Upper Coast pecan trees entered the budding stage.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Livestock conditions continued to progress as supplemental feeding continued across the state. Warmer temperatures and recent rainfall have helped pasture conditions improve and tank levels to stabilize in areas of the Blacklands and North East Texas. Feral hog damage continued to be a problem in North East Texas.

Crop Condition

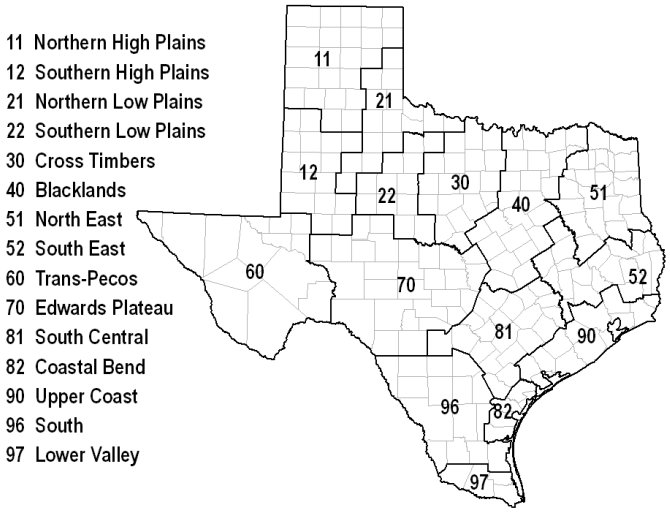
Crop	Percent of Acreage					Index [1]	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2016	2015
Wheat	12	35	44	8	1	73	74
Oats	6	34	39	17	4	65	73
Range and Pasture	7	36	40	14	3	---	---

[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.

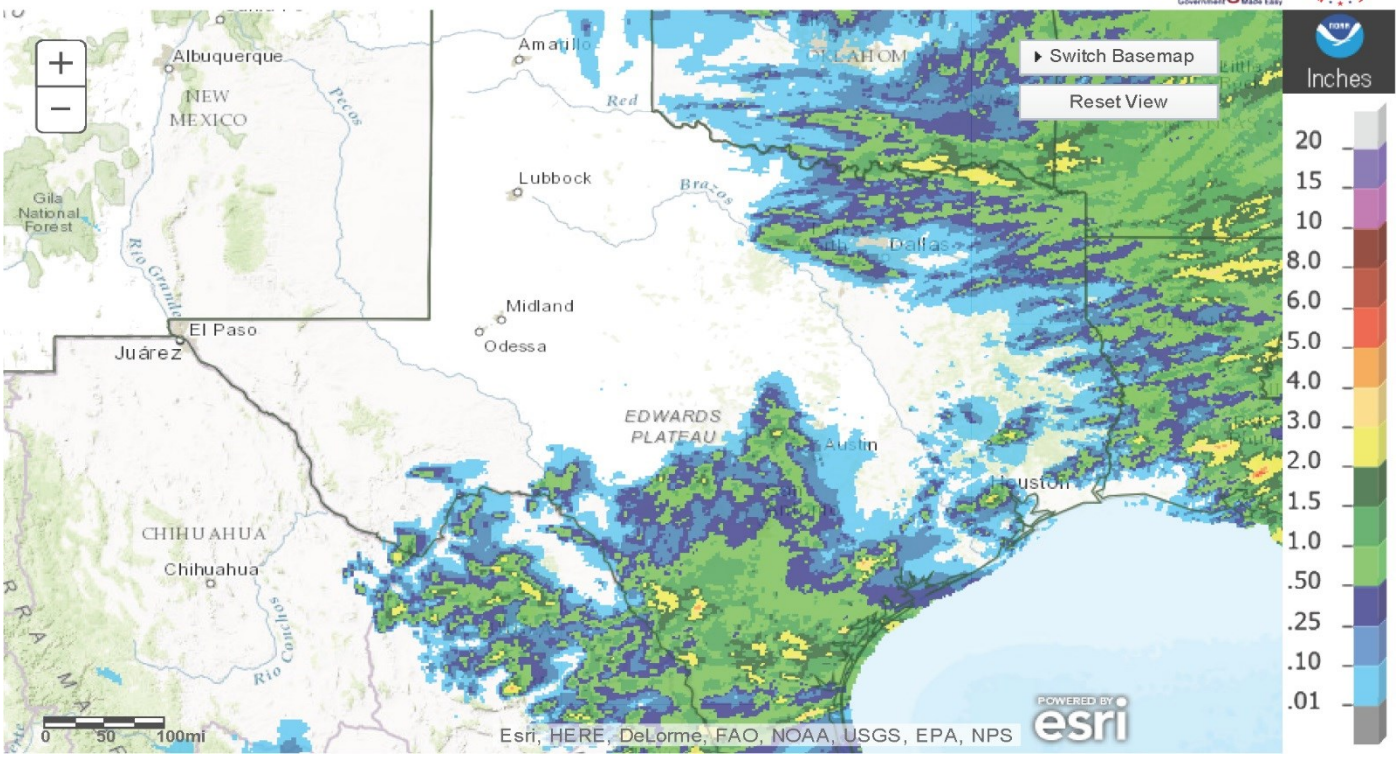
Soil Moisture and Days Suitable by District

District	Topsoil Moisture Condition by District				Subsoil Moisture Condition by District				Days Suitable for Fieldwork
	Percentage of Acreage				Percentage of Acreage				
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus	
11	15	52	31	2	6	25	69	0	6.9
12	11	53	35	1	3	38	57	2	7.0
21	10	47	42	1	2	37	61	0	6.5
22	5	29	61	5	4	27	49	20	5.7
30	1	17	77	5	1	21	74	4	4.6
40	0	2	62	36	0	1	63	36	2.7
51	0	1	51	48	0	1	52	47	5.0
52	1	5	55	39	0	10	56	34	3.9
60	47	20	33	0	44	21	35	0	7.0
70	8	19	61	12	6	21	68	5	6.0
81	1	19	69	11	1	16	70	13	4.8
82	0	0	48	52	1	2	56	41	0.4
90	0	5	68	27	0	5	79	16	4.6
96	4	8	87	1	4	7	88	1	4.6
97	0	45	55	0	0	38	62	0	6.0
State	3	21	64	12	7	30	51	12	5.5

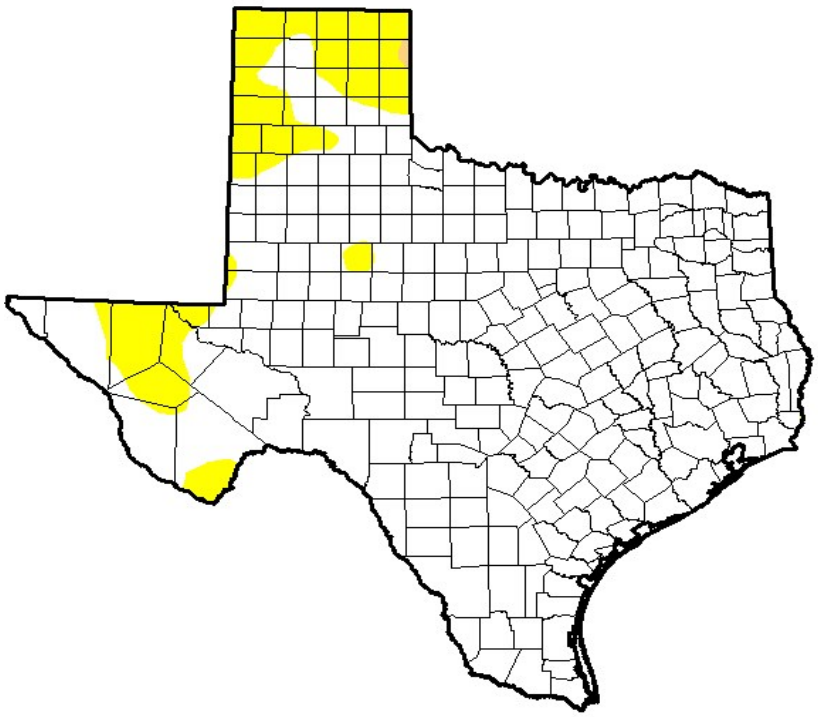
Texas Agricultural Districts



Seven Day Observed Regional Precipitation, March 20, 2016
Source: National Weather Service, www.nws.noaa.gov



Drought Monitor, Valid March 15, 2016



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	88.58	11.42	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 3/8/2016	69.32	30.68	1.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 12/15/2015	96.82	3.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/29/2015	95.48	4.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/29/2015	34.51	65.49	38.32	17.55	6.27	0.00
One Year Ago 3/17/2015	43.46	56.54	39.93	27.12	14.48	2.97

Intensity:

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

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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

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USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Southern Plains Regional Field Office