



Texas Crop Progress and Condition

Southern Plains Regional Field Office
Post Office Box 70 Austin, Texas 78767
(800) 626-3142 · FAX (855) 270-2725 · www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Issue: TX-CW0218

Weekly Summary for February 26-March 4

Released: March 5, 2018

Conditions remained severely dry in the Plains last week. Meanwhile, areas of the Cross Timbers, the Blacklands and East Texas received between 1 and 3 inches of rain, with isolated areas in the Blacklands and East Texas getting upwards of 5 inches. Precipitation in the rest of the state ranged from trace amounts to 0.5 of an inch. There were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork.

Small Grains: The lack of moisture in the Plains has kept the small grains in poor condition. Wheat and oats conditions improved in the Blacklands, the Cross Timbers, East Texas, the Edwards Plateau, South Central and South Texas.

Row Crops: Preparations for cotton were underway in the Southern Low Plains, the Coastal Bend and South Texas. Corn planting started in areas of South Central Texas. Corn and sorghum planting started in South Texas, the Coastal Bend and the Upper Coast, but was delayed in the Blacklands and East Texas due to the precipitation. Producers in the Plains were in need of moisture ahead of planting corn and sorghum.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crops: Spinach harvest was in full swing in South Texas, while onions and carrots made good progress. Harvest of sugarcane, citrus, and vegetables continued in the Lower Valley.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pastures and livestock benefited from the precipitation received during the past week. Pastures were greening up across most of the state, except the Plains. Still, pasture and range condition was rated 68 percent fair to poor. Wild hogs were very active in the Blacklands and East Texas. Wildfire potential was reported in the Plains and the Trans-Pecos.

Crop Progress

Stage	Percent of Acreage			
	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5 Year Average
Corn				
Planted	11	(N/A)	14	10
Sorghum				
Planted	17	(N/A)	9	5

(N/A) Not available.

Crop Condition

Crop	Percent of Acreage					Index ¹	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2018	2017
Wheat	1	9	26	30	34	34	63
Oats	1	27	32	26	14	52	65
Range and Pasture	3	19	38	30	10	--	--

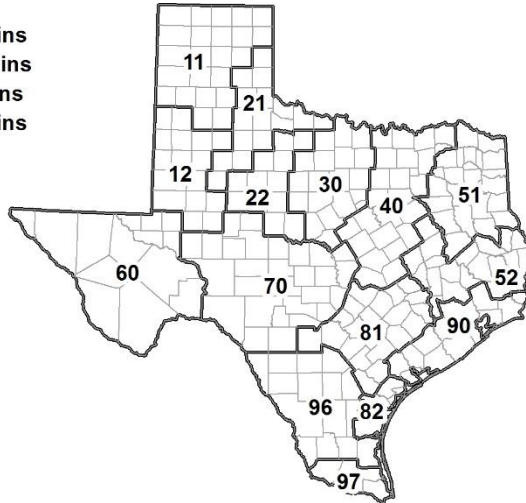
¹ The formula for the condition index is $I = (5V + 25P + 60F + 90G + 110E)/100$ where I = crop condition index and V, P, F, G, E = percentage of crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good, excellent.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable by District

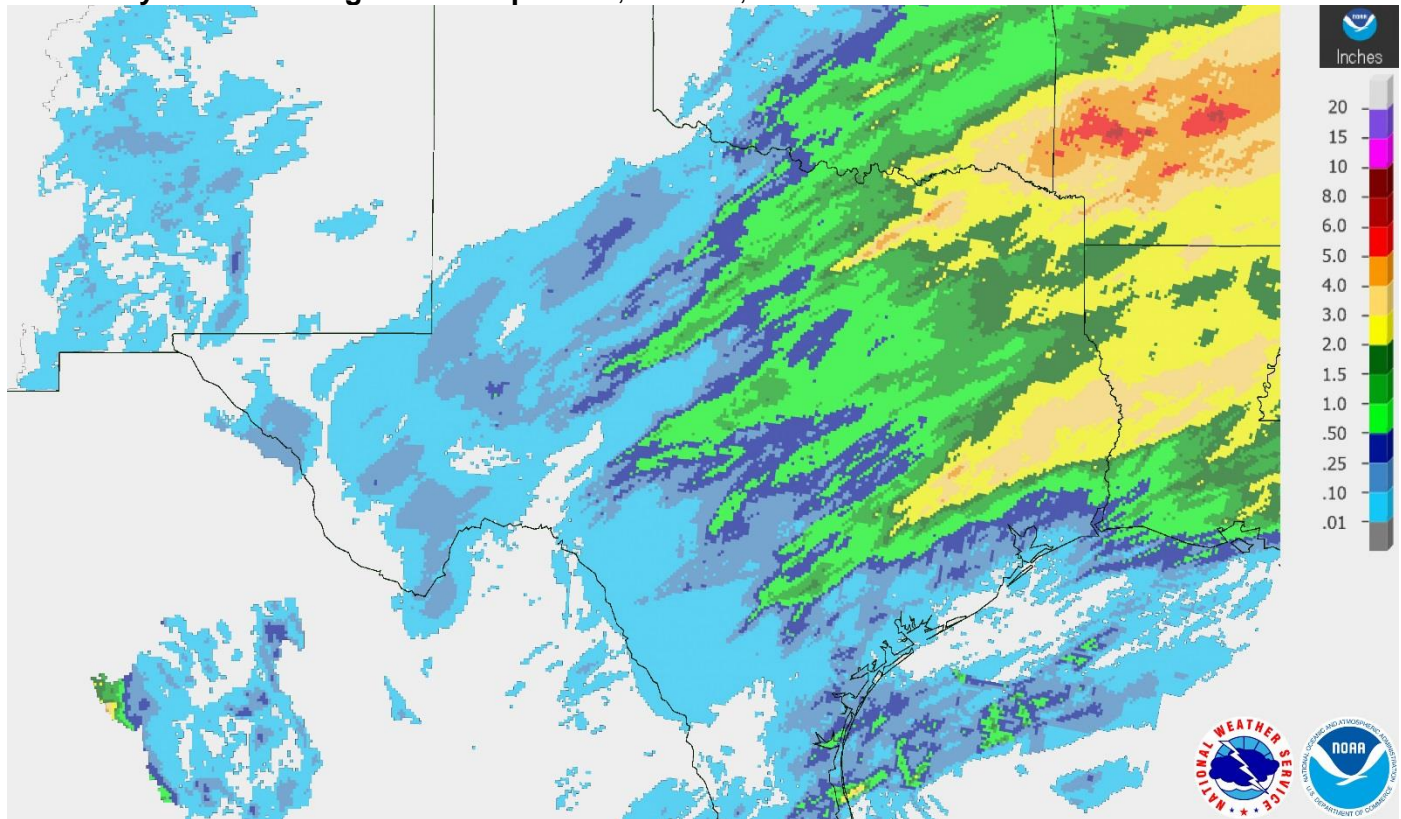
District	Topsoil Moisture Condition by District				Subsoil Moisture Condition by District				Days Suitable for Fieldwork
	Percentage of Acreage				Percentage of Acreage				
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus	
11	76	23	1	0	37	34	29	0	6.9
12	31	64	5	0	44	51	5	0	7.0
21	55	31	14	0	41	49	10	0	5.1
22	36	34	30	0	14	60	26	0	4.3
30	3	17	63	17	4	32	61	3	4.0
40	1	3	28	68	3	5	46	46	0.6
51	0	0	40	60	0	0	62	38	3.7
52	2	4	40	54	2	5	61	32	4.2
60	2	1	97	0	1	2	97	0	7.0
70	7	13	78	2	7	16	67	10	5.7
81	0	28	61	11	0	32	61	7	2.9
82	5	26	62	7	8	38	47	7	5.9
90	0	15	57	28	2	12	55	31	3.5
96	2	32	66	0	5	31	64	0	6.2
97	42	15	43	0	0	68	32	0	7.0
State	30	26	29	15	20	33	36	11	5.0

Texas Agricultural Districts

- 11 Northern High Plains
- 12 Southern High Plains
- 21 Northern Low Plains
- 22 Southern Low Plains
- 30 Cross Timbers
- 40 Blacklands
- 51 North East
- 52 South East
- 60 Trans-Pecos
- 70 Edwards Plateau
- 81 South Central
- 82 Coastal Bend
- 90 Upper Coast
- 96 South
- 97 Lower Valley

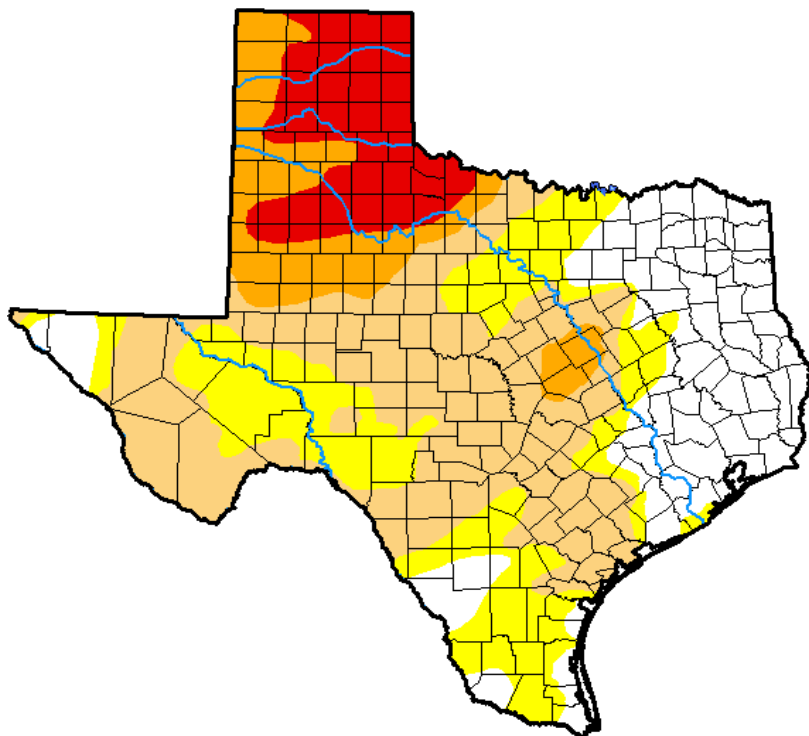


Seven Day Observed Regional Precipitation, March 4, 2018.



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

Drought Monitor, Valid February 27, 2018.



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	22.75	77.25	55.19	22.04	11.47	0.00
Last Week <i>02-20-2018</i>	11.90	88.10	70.76	37.56	11.13	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>11-28-2017</i>	28.73	71.27	35.11	5.50	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2018</i>	33.37	66.63	33.56	5.94	0.11	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-26-2017</i>	70.54	29.46	4.17	0.04	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>02-28-2017</i>	75.50	24.50	3.93	1.01	0.00	0.00

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.

Author:

Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center



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