



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-CW0920

Weekly Summary for March 16-March 22

Released: March 23, 2020

Most of the state received from trace amounts to upwards of 3.0 inches of precipitation. Some areas in the Low Plains, the Cross Timbers, the Blacklands, the Edwards Plateau, South Central Texas, South and East Texas received in excess of 2.0 to 8.0 inches. There were 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork.

Small Grains: Small grains continued to develop in most areas of the state due to increased moisture. Meanwhile, wheat in some areas of South Texas reached the heading stage prematurely due to dry conditions.

Row Crops: Southern High and Low Plains cotton producers planned for the upcoming cotton planting season after observing adequate ground moisture and warmer temperatures. Meanwhile, in the Southern Low Plains sorghum planting neared. Corn and sorghum plantings were underway in areas of the Blacklands however cold rain showers delayed progress in some areas. South East Texas corn and sorghum planting wound down as plans were made for soybean and cotton planting. Corn and sorghum planting continued in South Central Texas. Meanwhile, cotton planting was slowed in some areas of the Coastal Bend due to inadequate moisture. Cotton planting progressed in areas of the Upper Coast. Corn and sorghum fields in areas of the Lower Valley had been irrigated while cotton had begun to emerge.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crops: Pecan trees were pruned in areas of the Trans-Pecos while buds had formed in the Edwards Plateau. The potato crop in South Texas continued to develop while cabbage and spinach harvest continued. Meanwhile, onion harvest was underway in the Lower Valley.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Livestock were rated in fair to good condition. Supplemental feeding continued across most of the state but slowed in areas of the Southern Low Plains, the Cross Timbers, and the Edwards Plateau. Pasture and range condition was rated mostly fair to good. Livestock experienced mild stress in some areas of the Blacklands due to muddy conditions, while the warmer weather has increased the fly nuisance for some livestock. Feral swine damage continued in areas of East Texas and the Blacklands.

Crop Progress

Stage	Percent of Acreage			
	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5 Year Average
Corn				
Planted	36	33	35	31
Sorghum				
Planted	31	29	30	25
Winter Wheat				
Headed	27	26	3	3
Oats				
Headed	22	18	5	7

Crop Condition

Crop	Percent of Acreage					Index ¹	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2020	2019
Wheat	9	40	33	14	4	69	64
Oats	7	46	33	8	6	71	65
Range and Pasture	7	35	34	15	9	64	63

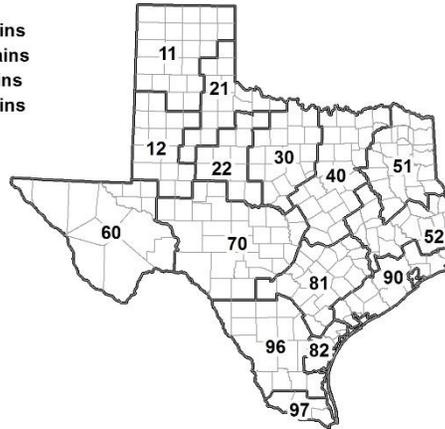
¹ The formula for the condition index is $I = (5V + 25P + 60F + 90G + 110E)/100$ where I = crop condition index and V, P, F, G, E = percentage of crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good, excellent.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable by District

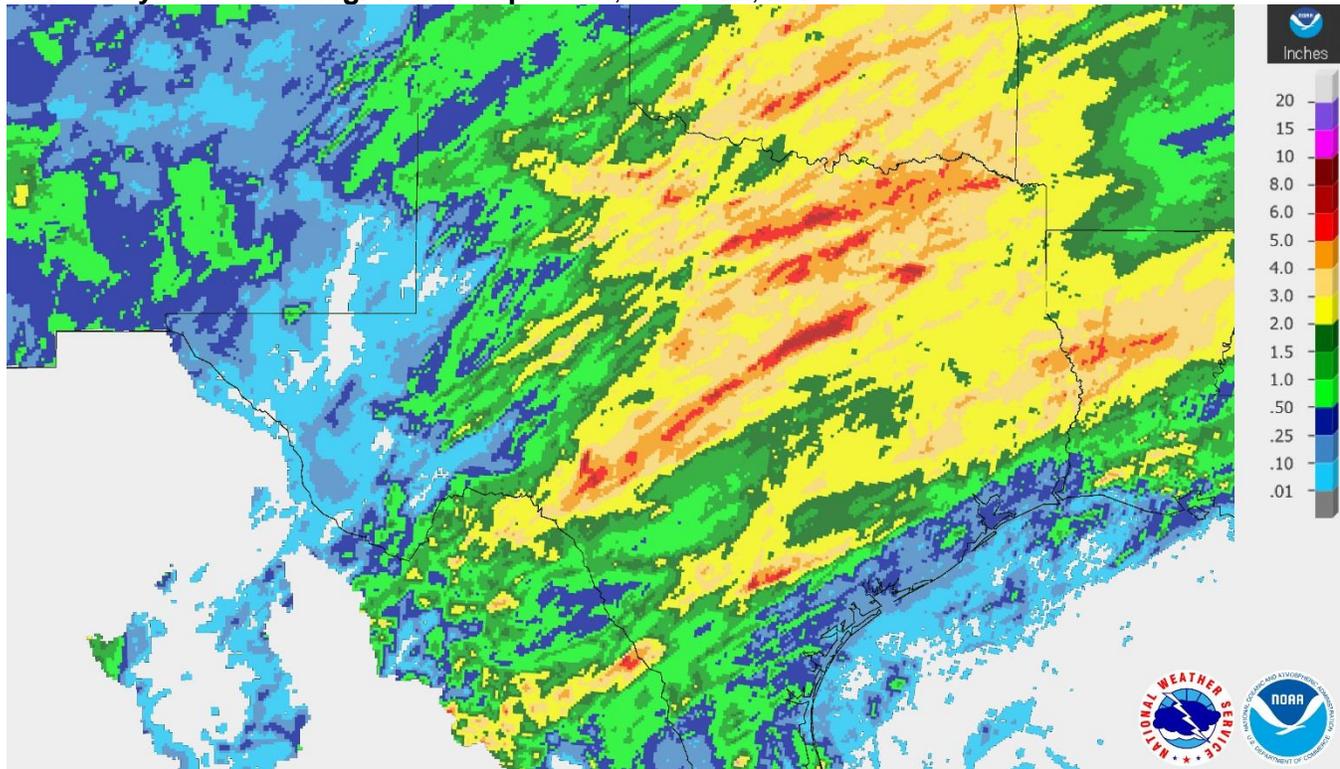
District	Topsoil Moisture Condition by District				Subsoil Moisture Condition by District				Days Suitable for Fieldwork
	Percentage of Acreage				Percentage of Acreage				
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus	
11	3	9	71	17	8	15	70	7	5.3
12	5	16	60	19	9	19	64	8	4.2
21	0	11	87	2	0	26	73	1	4.6
22	0	3	72	25	0	8	77	15	2.1
30	0	0	45	55	0	0	53	47	1.7
40	0	2	25	73	1	2	31	66	1.9
51	0	1	53	46	0	0	63	37	5.6
52	0	3	78	19	0	6	79	15	5.5
60	6	50	24	20	5	20	53	22	5.2
70	4	24	58	14	4	24	59	13	4.8
81	9	28	61	2	9	35	56	0	6.5
82	37	39	24	0	30	47	23	0	7.0
90	10	38	47	5	6	57	36	1	5.0
96	38	27	33	2	47	35	16	2	6.2
97	65	27	8	0	41	42	17	0	5.4
State	6	13	56	25	7	18	57	18	4.3

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

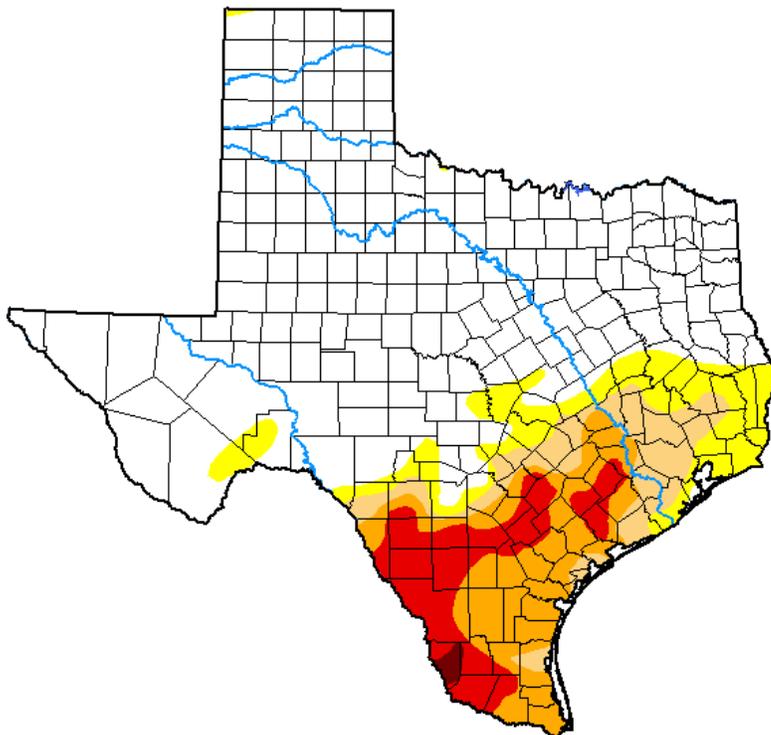


Seven Day Observed Regional Precipitation, March 22, 2020.



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

Drought Monitor, Valid March 17, 2020.



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	69.38	30.62	22.05	15.97	6.96	0.29
Last Week <i>03-10-2020</i>	66.09	33.91	20.84	14.94	5.87	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>12-17-2019</i>	45.21	54.79	37.29	8.27	0.67	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>12-31-2019</i>	44.69	55.31	36.12	9.19	0.74	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>10-01-2019</i>	31.74	68.26	46.05	22.33	6.32	0.00
One Year Ago <i>03-19-2019</i>	69.05	30.95	9.67	0.90	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- 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. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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>.