



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-CW0821

Weekly Summary for March 8-March 14

Released: March 15, 2021

Most of the state received from trace amounts to upwards of 0.01 of an inch of precipitation. Some areas in the High and Low Plains received up to 2.0 inches. There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork.

Small Grains: Small grains were reported in various stages and conditions across the state. Winter wheat producers ran pivots and continued to apply top dress fertilizer and herbicide in the High Plains and Northern Low Plains. Leaf and leaf tip burn was reported in some areas of the Cross Timbers due to the winter storm in February. Winter wheat progressed well, with warmer weather and low insect population in the Blacklands. Irrigation was underway on small grain crops in South Texas.

Row Crops: Corn and cotton producers continued pre-plant activities in the Northern High Plains. Corn planting was well underway in the Cross Timbers and Blacklands. Corn and grain sorghum planting continued in South Central Texas and the Upper Coast. Cotton planting continued in the Coastal Bend; however, farmers in the Upper Coast waited for warmer weather to begin planting. Meanwhile, farmers in South Texas and the Lower Valley continued planting corn, cotton, and sorghum.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crops: Fruit trees were blooming in the Cross Timbers. Pecan orchards were being cleaned and hedged in the Edwards Plateau. Vegetable planting was underway in South Texas. In the Lower Valley, vegetable, sugarcane, and onion harvest was underway, while citrus orchards were being fertilized and irrigated.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Supplemental feeding continued across the state. Spring calving season continued in parts of the Cross Timbers and Edwards Plateau. Spring born calves were reportedly doing well in the Blacklands. Runoff rainwater was still needed in parts of the Blacklands and Edwards Plateau to fill stock tanks for livestock. Feral hog signs and sightings were reported in the Blacklands and North East Texas. Meanwhile, producers saw an increase in the fly population in North East Texas. Weed control in pastures was underway in South East Texas and Edwards Plateau. Producers began culling cows and early weaning calves to reduce herd size in South Texas and the Lower Valley. Pasture and range condition was rated mostly poor to fair, though pasture conditions varied greatly across the state.

Crop Condition

| Crop | Percent of Acreage | | | | | Index ¹ | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------|------|------|-----------|--------------------|------|
| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Very Poor | 2021 | 2020 |
| Wheat | 6 | 21 | 34 | 24 | 15 | 53 | 63 |
| Oats | 1 | 8 | 13 | 30 | 48 | 26 | 75 |
| Range and Pasture | 1 | 14 | 30 | 35 | 20 | 41 | 57 |

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.

Crop Progress

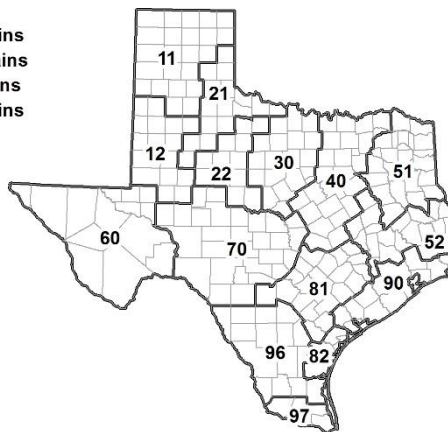
| Stage | Percent of Acreage | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Current Week | Previous Week | Previous Year | 5 Year Average |
| Corn Planted | 26 | 10 | 33 | 26 |
| Sorghum Planted | 20 | 16 | 29 | 20 |
| Winter Wheat Headed | 22 | 21 | 26 | 7 |
| Oats Headed | 13 | 11 | 17 | 7 |

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable by District

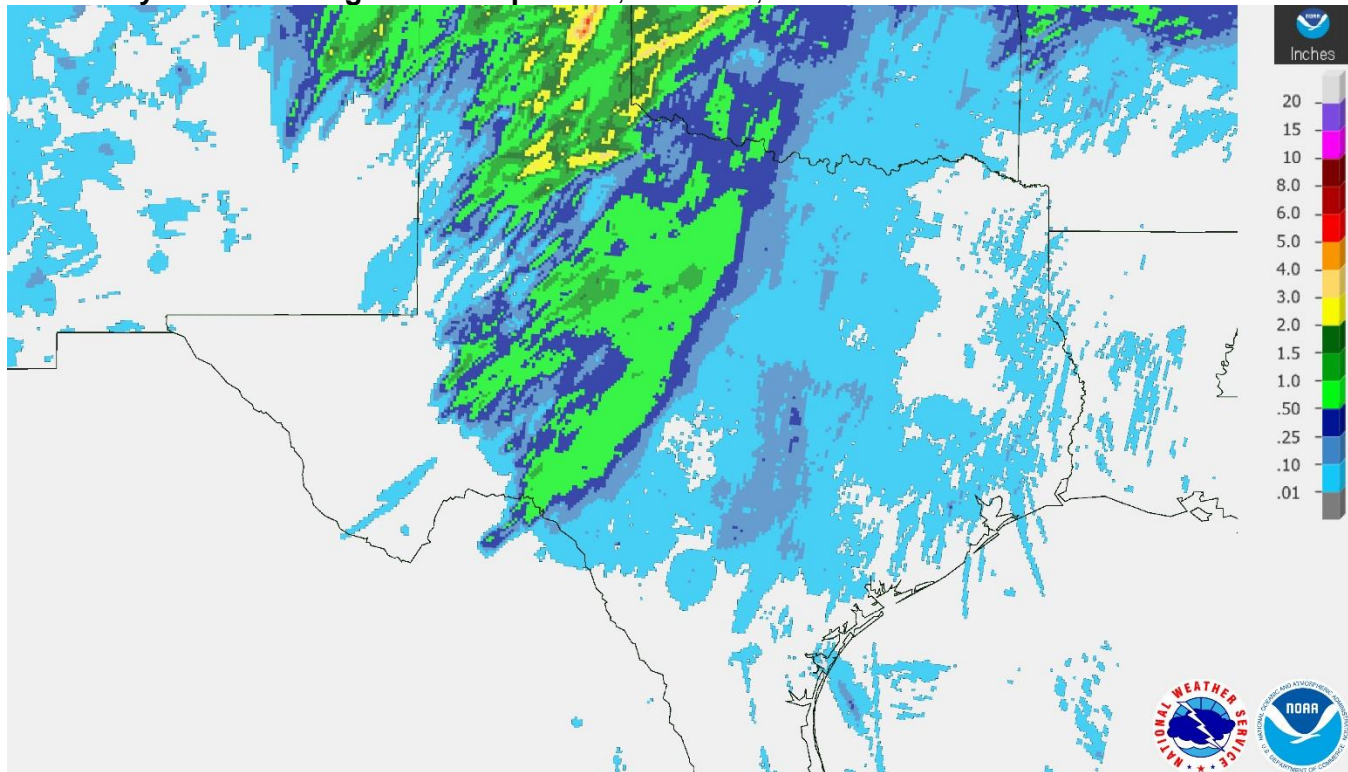
| District | Topsoil Moisture Condition by District | | | | Subsoil Moisture Condition by District | | | | Days Suitable for Fieldwork |
|----------|--|-------|----------|---------|--|-------|----------|---------|-----------------------------|
| | Percentage of Acreage | | | | Percentage of Acreage | | | | |
| | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus | |
| 11 | 39 | 45 | 16 | 0 | 39 | 37 | 24 | 0 | 5.8 |
| 12 | 2 | 41 | 57 | 0 | 2 | 53 | 45 | 0 | 6.4 |
| 21 | 1 | 38 | 61 | 0 | 1 | 33 | 66 | 0 | 6.5 |
| 22 | 0 | 30 | 68 | 2 | 0 | 48 | 27 | 25 | 6.1 |
| 30 | 8 | 40 | 48 | 4 | 9 | 30 | 61 | 0 | 5.9 |
| 40 | 2 | 32 | 58 | 8 | 0 | 12 | 78 | 10 | 6.0 |
| 51 | 0 | 7 | 66 | 27 | 0 | 7 | 62 | 31 | 5.8 |
| 52 | 0 | 12 | 86 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 81 | 7 | 6.1 |
| 60 | 8 | 52 | 40 | 0 | 8 | 49 | 43 | 0 | 6.1 |
| 70 | 20 | 49 | 23 | 8 | 20 | 50 | 24 | 6 | 7.0 |
| 81 | 6 | 50 | 44 | 0 | 6 | 43 | 51 | 0 | 6.1 |
| 82 | 21 | 20 | 59 | 0 | 21 | 12 | 67 | 0 | 7.0 |
| 90 | 1 | 6 | 58 | 35 | 2 | 7 | 42 | 49 | 5.9 |
| 96 | 22 | 49 | 29 | 0 | 20 | 50 | 30 | 0 | 6.8 |
| 97 | 63 | 25 | 11 | 1 | 69 | 30 | 1 | 0 | 4.8 |
| State | 13 | 36 | 46 | 5 | 13 | 34 | 46 | 7 | 6.1 |

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

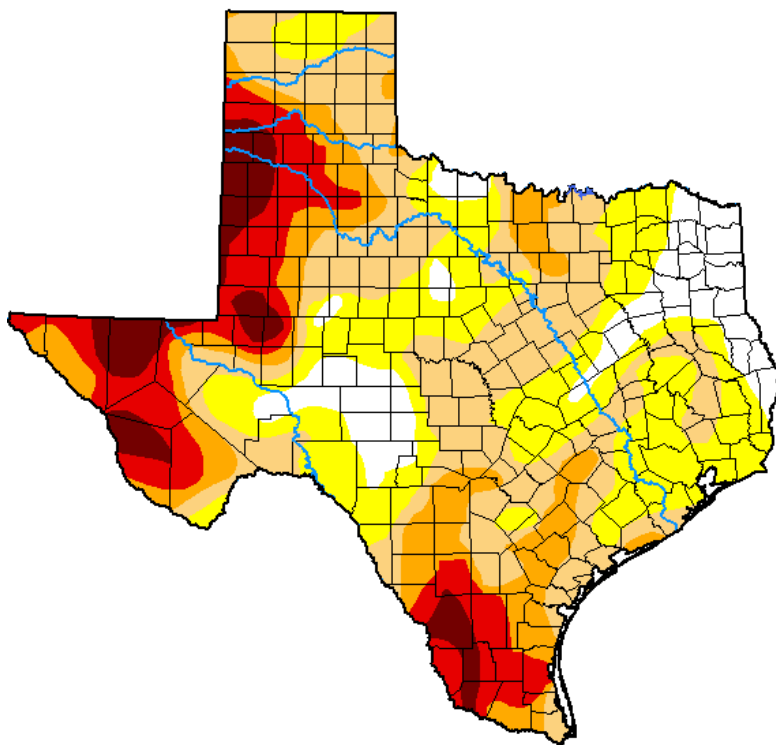


Seven Day Observed Regional Precipitation, March 14, 2021.



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

Drought Monitor, Valid March 9, 2021.



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Current | 10.83 | 89.17 | 62.49 | 32.36 | 18.27 | 6.10 |
| Last Week 03-02-2021 | 19.28 | 80.72 | 54.03 | 30.38 | 17.11 | 5.01 |
| 3 Months Ago 12-08-2020 | 5.23 | 94.77 | 79.18 | 45.18 | 25.16 | 13.03 |
| Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020 | 8.80 | 91.20 | 81.10 | 50.33 | 30.09 | 13.03 |
| Start of Water Year 09-29-2020 | 57.35 | 42.65 | 31.96 | 20.91 | 12.02 | 3.29 |
| One Year Ago 03-10-2020 | 66.09 | 33.91 | 20.84 | 14.94 | 5.87 | 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:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



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