



Texas Crop Progress and Condition

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Weekly Summary for February 26 - March 3

Released: March 4, 2024

Wildfires in the Northern High Plains caused devastation to many ranches and communities. The state's largest wildfire has burned over 1 million acres. Rainfall ranged from trace amounts to 1.0 inch with the Trans-Pecos district receiving the most rain. Drought conditions ranged from none to extreme drought with areas in the Trans-Pecos and the South Central districts being the driest. There was an average of 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork.

Small Grains: Small grains across the state need additional rainfall to help the crops progress. Many producers top dressed their winter wheat with fertilizer to help the continued progression in response to warmer temperatures and scattered showers. Winter wheat headed reached 9 percent, down 7 points from the previous year. Oats headed reached 8 percent, down 9 points from the previous year.

Row Crops: Corn planting continued in parts of the state as field conditions allowed. Producers in the Upper Coast and South Texas began planting sorghum and rice. Cotton producers anticipated planting to begin soon in the Upper Coast, South Texas and the Lower Valley as soil temperatures warm up. Corn planted reached 14 percent, down 2 points from the previous year. Sorghum planted reached 9 percent, down 1 point from the previous year.

Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crops: In the Cross Timbers and the Blacklands, fruit trees began blooming. In the Trans-Pecos district, some pecan producers started irrigation to get a head start to the season. In South Texas, spring vegetables were being planted, while strawberry plants were producing fruit and cantaloupe planting was expected to begin soon. In the Lower Valley, cool season vegetable harvest continued while some sugarcane fields were reported being plowed under and onion harvest began.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pasture and range cool season grasses continued to green up in response to warm temperatures and rainfall. Pasture and range conditions were rated fair to poor. Livestock producers continued supplemental feeding. The wildfires in the Northern High Plains have caused catastrophic damage to the area with heavy livestock losses reported and over 1 million acres of pastures and rangeland burned.

Crop Progress by Percent
For Week Ending March 3, 2024

Stage	Percentage of Acreage			
	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5 Year Average
Corn				
Planted	14	3	16	11
Sorghum				
Planted	9	(NA)	10	10
Winter Wheat				
Headed	9	8	16	12
Oats				
Headed	8	6	17	12

(NA) Not available.

Crop Condition by Percent
For Week Ending March 3, 2024

Crop	Percent of Acreage					Index ¹	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2024	2023
Wheat	7	36	33	17	7	65	44
Oats	2	16	46	21	15	50	39
Range and Pasture	2	13	36	32	17	44	32

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
For Week Ending March 3, 2024

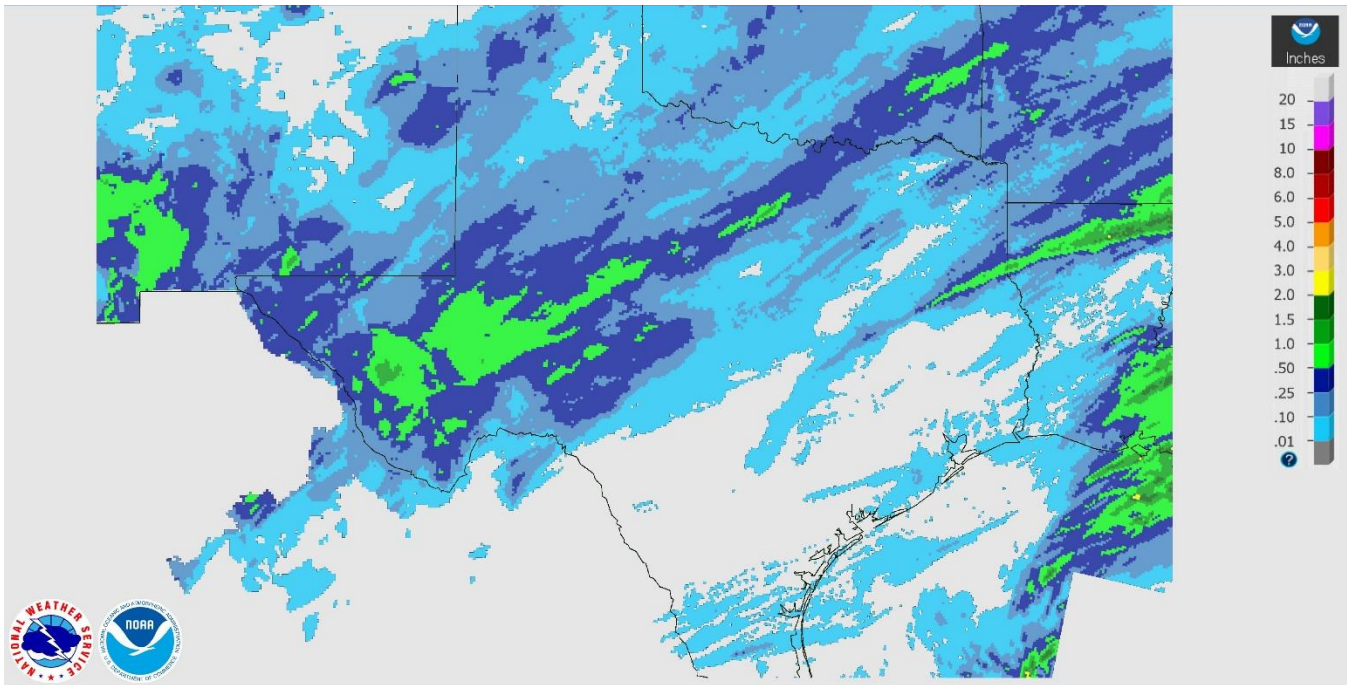
District	Subsoil Moisture Condition by District				Topsoil Moisture Condition by District				Days Suitable for Fieldwork
	Percentage of Acreage				Percentage of Acreage				
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus	
11	4	28	64	4	4	44	48	4	5.7
12	33	52	15	0	38	52	10	0	6.9
21	1	55	44	0	1	40	59	0	6.1
22	2	29	69	0	1	37	60	2	5.8
30	7	39	52	2	3	30	63	4	6.1
40	4	19	66	11	11	22	61	6	6.1
51	0	6	84	10	0	10	85	5	6.7
52	0	19	74	7	0	21	78	1	6.4
60	25	32	39	4	27	32	37	4	5.8
70	18	36	45	1	18	48	33	1	6.7
81	6	39	52	3	7	42	51	0	6.2
82	0	80	20	0	20	80	0	0	7.0
90	0	7	82	11	0	9	80	11	6.6
96	11	39	49	1	15	37	48	0	6.9
97	8	13	74	5	6	21	70	3	7.0
State	10	34	52	4	12	37	48	3	6.3

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

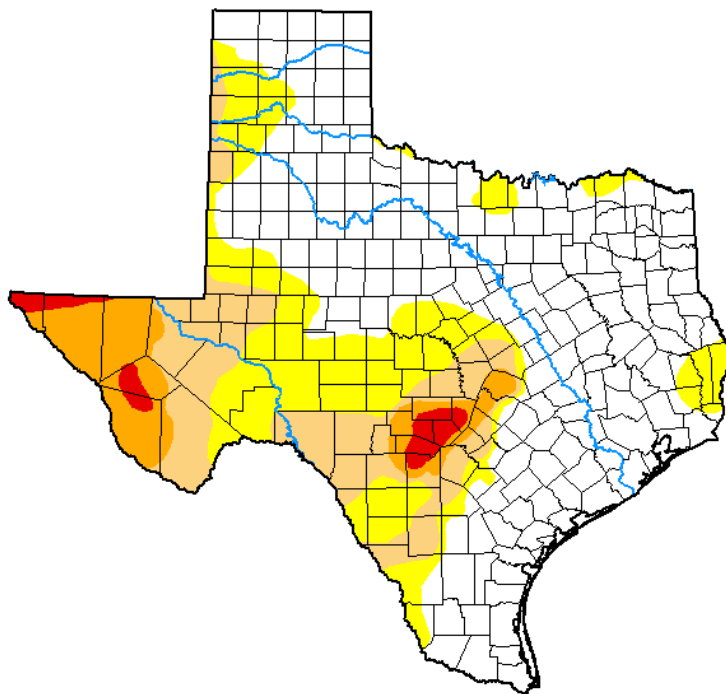


Seven Day Observed Regional Precipitation, March 3, 2024



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

Drought Monitor, Map Released: February 29, 2024



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	57.31	42.69	22.67	8.94	1.97	0.00
Last Week 02-20-2024	60.17	39.83	22.67	8.94	1.97	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-28-2023	31.32	68.68	42.84	18.38	5.94	1.51
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	39.60	60.40	39.47	17.78	5.68	0.68
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	3.03	96.97	80.64	59.66	38.06	12.68
One Year Ago 02-28-2023	21.85	78.15	62.21	32.63	12.27	1.84

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>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

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