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# Texas Crop Weather

CW-43-98

USPS 396-770

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For the week of October 19-25, 1998  
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Cooperating Agencies:  
TX Agricultural Extension Service  
TX Dept. of Agriculture, National Weather Service

## CROP PROGRESS REPORT - OCTOBER 25, 1998

Crop	1998	1997	Average 1993-1997
<b>CORN:</b>		-- Percent --	
Harvested .....	98	97	97
<b>COTTON:</b>			
Bolls opening .....	96	93	90
Harvested .....	60	37	40
<b>PEANUTS:</b>			
Harvested .....	52	49	40
<b>SORGHUM:</b>			
Mature .....	97	96	97
Harvested .....	77	75	83
<b>WHEAT:</b>			
Planted .....	76	81	82
Emerged .....	57	61	66
<b>OTHER FIELD CROPS</b>			
<b>HARVESTED:</b>			
Oats .....	71	59	59
Pecans .....	9	4	12
Soybeans .....	95	83	80
Sunflowers .....	79	70	61

## CROP CONDITIONS - OCTOBER 25, 1998

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	-- Percent --				
Cotton .....	3	24	31	25	17
Peanuts .....	8	21	23	25	23
Sorghum .....	3	21	35	25	16
Wheat .....	1	23	34	35	7
Range & pasture ...	6	22	32	26	14

**Summary:** Rain continued in Central Texas causing additional problems as people were cleaning up after flooding. Producers were beginning to assess damages and to look for livestock that strayed during flooding. Significant soil erosion occurred in plowed fields. Rain also spread into western areas of the state on the backside of a strong cool front and kept field activities to a minimum. Cooler temperatures continued. The additional moisture improved small grains and cool season pasture grasses. Livestock conditions improved with better grazing conditions in most areas.

### Field Crops:

**Small Grains:** Planting operations were stalled in the Plains by rain early in the week. The moisture benefitted dryland fields. Rain across most other areas also should benefit small grains. Cooler temperatures and rain slowed armyworm activity. Statewide winter wheat condition was rated at 51 percent of normal compared with 78 percent last year.

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Corn Harvest operations were stalled much of the week in the High Plains.

**Cotton:** Harvest was in full swing in the Plains until rainfall stalled progress early in the week. Yields continued to vary across the area. Statewide cotton condition was rated at 51 percent of normal compared with 73 percent last year.

**Grain Sorghum:** Later developing fields in the Plains needed warmer temperatures to mature. Rain halted harvest operations much of the week. Statewide grain sorghum condition was rated at 50 percent of normal compared with 81 percent last year.

**Peanuts:** Yields were lower than earlier expected in many fields in the Plains and North Central Texas as wet fields stalled harvest. Harvest was also slowed in South Central Texas. Statewide peanut condition was rated at 49 percent of normal compared with 80 percent last year.

**Rice:** Second crop harvest operations were stalled most of the week along the Upper Coast. Many fields were lodging due to high winds and too much rain.

**Soybeans:** Harvest was winding down in the Plains on a good crop as rain arrived and slowed progress. Harvest was also slowed on later varieties along the Upper Coast.

### Commercial Vegetables, Fruit and Pecans

In the **Rio Grande Valley** scattered showers and wet fields slowed planting operations.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden** area planting was slowed by wet conditions most of the week.

In **East Texas** sweetpotato harvest was slowed and more decline in quality was expected.

In the **High Plains** pepper harvest was slowed early in the week.

In the **Trans Pecos** harvest of chili and bell peppers slowly continued.

**Pecans:** Flood waters washed out many groves along rivers and streams in Central Texas causing both tree and nut loss. Harvest operations were slowed by wet conditions in most areas.

### Range and Livestock

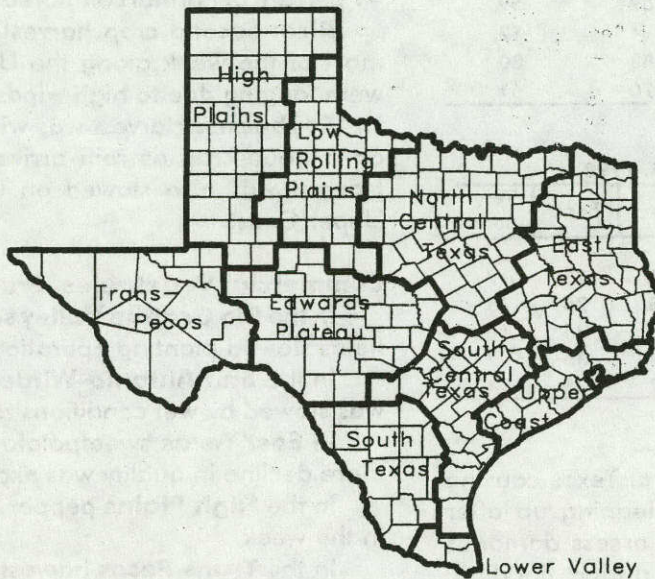
Losses to pastures, fences, buildings, and livestock continued to mount as flood waters began to recede in Central Texas. Cooler temperatures and additional rain in many areas improved cool season grasses and small grains. Livestock conditions improved in many areas with the improved pastures. Prices were up at many auctions with light volumes because of wet conditions.

# PRECIPITATION <sup>1/</sup>

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week's (Oct 19-25) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Oct 1-25) <sup>2/</sup> Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1-Oct 25) <sup>2/</sup> Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (July-Sep) % of Normal
High Plains	0.41	1.48	11.02	18.87	60
Low Rolling Plains	0.46	1.39	11.06	23.78	28
North Central Texas	0.42	4.13	20.59	34.00	52
East Texas	0.86	5.75	31.57	45.69	106
Trans Pecos	1.04	1.12	5.05	12.96	46
Edwards Plateau	0.32	1.86	17.04	24.01	89
South Central Texas	0.69	8.04	27.26	34.48	113
Upper Coast	0.53	5.27	37.04	47.63	124
South Texas	0.19	2.78	15.40	23.49	104
Lower Valley	0.09	0.38	16.40	25.34	115

<sup>1/</sup> Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.  
<sup>2/</sup> Includes late report for preceding week.

Source: National Weather Service.



TEXAS

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