

Texas Crop Weather Report

The Texas Field Office released the following report regarding Texas agriculture for the week of May 11 to 17.

Agricultural Summary

Showers swept through most of the state bringing up to 6 inches of rain.

Freeze damaged wheat and oats across the state were being baled for hay.

Wheat harvest has begun in the Edwards Plateau.

In the High Plains, cotton planting was in full swing.

Cotton producers have begun planting in the Edwards Plateau. Corn planting in the Northern High Plains was near completion.

Sorghum was being planted in the Northern High Plains.

In the Southern High Plains, peanut planting was in full swing.

Peaches received cover sprays in North East Texas.

Fall planted onions were bulbing in the Trans-Pecos.

Pecans progressed well in the Blacklands.

Range and pasture conditions improved across the state due to the recent rainfall and warmer temperatures.

Supplemental feeding of livestock continued in parts of the state.

Topsoil moisture was mostly very short to adequate across the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Producers continued to irrigate wheat in the High Plains.

Wheat continued to mature rapidly in the Low Plains due to hot, dry, and windy weather. Freeze damaged wheat and oats across the state were being baled for hay.

Harvest has begun in the Edwards Plateau.

Harvest of wheat and oats continued in South Texas.

Statewide, wheat condition was mostly very poor to poor and oat condition was mostly very poor to fair.

Cotton: In the High Plains, planting was in full swing.

Planting continued on irrigated fields in the Northern Low Plains while producers were in

need of additional rainfall to begin planting on non-irrigated land.

Some cotton was being replanted in the Blacklands.

Producers have begun planting in the Edwards Plateau.

Irrigated cotton progressed well in South Texas.

Corn: Corn planting in the Northern High Plains was near completion.

Recent rainfall has improved growing conditions in the Blacklands.

Irrigated corn in South Central Texas progressed well.

Corn tasseling was near completion in South Texas.

Corn condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Sorghum: Sorghum was being planted in the Northern High Plains.

Irrigated sorghum in South Central Texas progressed well.

In South Texas, sorghum was

browning and in need of rain.

Sorghum condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide.

Peanuts: In the Southern High Plains, planting was in full swing.

Planting was ready to begin in South Texas.

Rice: Rice condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Soybeans: Soybean condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Potatoes progressed well in the Southern High Plains.

The peach crop suffered from freeze damage in the Cross Timbers.

Peaches received cover sprays in North East Texas.

Fall planted onions were bulbing in the Trans-Pecos.

Cabbage harvest continued

this past week in South Texas while producers harvested green beans, potatoes and onions.

Watermelon harvest continued in the Lower Valley.

Pecan: Pecans progressed well in the Blacklands.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding of livestock continued in parts of the state.

Fly populations on cattle were increasing in the Cross Timbers and North East Texas.

In some areas of the Edwards Plateau, ranchers completed shearing sheep and were preparing to work goats.

Range and pasture conditions improved across the state due to the recent rainfall and warmer temperatures.

Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Suntans Come At High Cost

By Texas Health & Human Services Commission

With all due respect to TV lovers' fond memories of bronzed Baywatchers David Hasselhoff and Yasmine Bleeth frolicking in the California surf, today's medical consensus is that there's no such thing as healthy sun tanning.

More than 1.3 million new cases of skin cancer are expected to be diagnosed in the United States this year, including about 60,000 of the most dangerous type, melanoma.

Sun exposure will be a key factor in many of these cases.

Even folks who catch many fewer rays than Hasselhoff and Bleeth may be increasing their chances of not only cancer but also prematurely aged skin and immune system damage.

The good news for sun lovers is these risks can be greatly reduced through several strategies. The bad news, however, is that the most effective strategy is avoiding the sun altogether.

If you just can't imagine staying in the shade all summer long, there are several other good ways to lower your risk of skin damage and cancer.

—Be aware of your genetic risk factors.

A family history of skin cancer can indicate higher risk for you, regardless of how much sun exposure you're getting.

Other risk indicators include

light hair and fair skin, prominent freckling on the upper back and multiple birthmarks.

—Minimize use of tanning beds and sunlamps.

Although some consider the UVA rays emitted by these artificial sources to be safer than the sun's UVB rays because they're less likely to cause sunburn, they pose similar risks for cancer and skin damage.

—Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor of 15 or better.

Added protection comes from choosing a brand that is sweat-proof and water resistant.

Don't forget to cover your ears, neck and any bald spots on your head.

And be sure to re-apply sunscreen every hour or two, even if you haven't gotten wet.

—Choose summer clothes made of tightly woven fabric to avoid sun penetration.

And remember to wear a hat or cap to protect your head.

(Skin cancers often occur on the head, even in areas covered by hair.)

—Time your sun exposure to avoid being out between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. when ultraviolet rays are most intense.

—Don't go on appearances alone.

Reddening of your skin from sunburn lags behind the actual damage done by the sun.

Even damaged skin may not

redden for up to six hours, and the full sunburn may not be apparent for 24 hours or more.

Sunburned as a Kid? Don't Throw in the Beach Towel

Some dermatologists report patients saying, "I hear that the severe sunburns I got as a child may double my risk of skin cancer."

So why should I even bother protecting myself now?"

Accurate though this statistic may be, it's no reason to avoid safety practices today.

In fact, early skin damage should be a powerful motivation to increase your precautions as an adult, not decrease them.

Regardless of whether you've been sun-smart for a couple of years or a lifetime, dermatologists urge you to memorize the ABCD System for spotting skin changes that could indicate melanoma:

—Asymmetry: Half of a mole or other abnormal growth is different from the other half.

—Borders: The growth or spot has irregular edges.

—Color: Color is different from one area of the growth to another.

—Diameter: The spot is the size of a pencil eraser or bigger.

If you notice any of these signs, see your doctors as quickly as possible.

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In April of 2009, Lonny Hutchison, who grew up in Eagle Lake and graduated from RHS in 1992, was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease called Polmyositis. As a result of this disabling disease, has lost the use of muscles in his legs and abdomen and is under going chemotherapy. In addition to the muscle loss, he also suffers from respiratory and cardiac problems. While coping with his disease and complications, Lonny also has an 11-year old son named Chase that has Becker's Muscular Dystrophy.

For the past year, Chase had to rely on an electric wheelchair and his father for mobility. The family is in dire need to help raise funds to cover the costs of outstanding medical bills, and the cost of an electric wheelchair for Lonny, and to help purchase a vehicle that is capable of being equipped to carry two wheelchairs, or any business or individuals that can donate a van.

“Be An Angel” organization will equip the van with a wheelchair lift. Please help the family by donating in person at any Wallis State Bank or by mailing donations to:
Wallis State Bank, c/o donations for Lonny Hutchison, 111 N. McCarty St., Eagle Lake, Texas 77434 or phone 979-234-7303 (bank) or for more information call his mother or step-dad at 979-234-2802.

Thank You,
Lena Johnson (Mom)