

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 24, 2016

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Measurable precipitation was recorded at 82 of the 106 weather stations located across the State during the week, with the largest accumulation reported at Circle where 0.98 inch fell, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. High temperatures for the week ranged from the mid 80s to well over the century mark, and low temperatures ranged from the upper 20s to the upper 50s. Producers in the northwest were busy irrigating their second cutting of alfalfa hay. Reports from Sanders County indicated winter wheat harvest had yet to begin. Hot, dry, windy weather in northcentral Montana aided rapid small grain ripening. Irrigated barley in Teton County was beginning to turn color, and producers were applying the last round of irrigation before they begin harvest. The corn crop in Valley County benefitted from warmer temperatures, and reports indicated development improved during the week. A severe hail storm struck Judith Basin County, with reports indicating that virtually all crops were damaged – in some cases as much as 100 percent. Most small grain crops in Sweet Grass County were being harvested for forage since moisture supplies were not adequate enough to produce a viable crop. Statewide, topsoil moisture conditions declined slightly from last week but remain above last year with 66 percent of topsoil rated adequate to surplus and 63 percent of subsoil rated adequate to surplus, compared with 43 percent and 48 percent last year, respectively. Dry peas were being harvested at a pace equal to the 5-year average, while lentil harvest remained slightly behind normal. The winter wheat harvest gained speed as optimal weather conditions allowed producers to harvest 18 percent of the crop during the week, advancing progress well ahead of the 5-year average. Winter wheat condition is rated 61 percent good to excellent, compared with 56 percent last year and a 5-year average of 63 percent. Recent rainfall boosted pasture growth in some areas; however, overall condition ratings remain well below normal.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Second cutting	12	4	4	5
Barley				
Coloring.....	82	66	85	52
Harvested.....	1	--	2	2
Camelina				
Blooming.....	80	60	99	97
Coloring.....	5	NA	41	46
Canola				
Coloring.....	51	40	65	37
Dry edible beans				
Harvested.....	1	NA	1	NA
Dry edible peas				
Harvested.....	17	6	40	17
Durum wheat				
Headed.....	93	85	97	79
Coloring.....	23	4	41	17
Flaxseed				
Blooming.....	95	90	93	90
Coloring.....	17	2	42	30
Lentils				
Harvested.....	5	3	16	8
Mustard seed				
Coloring.....	60	49	45	44
Oats				
Coloring.....	59	30	60	33
Other hay				
Second cutting	7	--	1	1
Safflower				
Blooming.....	76	61	35	72
Coloring.....	18	1	NA	NA
Spring wheat				
Headed.....	96	90	99	87
Coloring.....	35	7	70	34
Winter wheat				
Harvested.....	20	2	33	12

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	6.3	4.6	6.4	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	11	10	14	14
Short.....	23	20	43	43
Adequate.....	58	59	36	39
Surplus.....	8	11	7	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	11	10	13	11
Short.....	26	26	39	34
Adequate.....	58	58	39	50
Surplus.....	5	6	9	5

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION¹

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor.....	1	1	3	3
Poor.....	4	4	10	9
Fair.....	32	33	34	34
Good.....	40	40	41	42
Excellent.....	23	22	12	12
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	3	2	5	5
Fair.....	31	31	32	32
Good.....	51	52	50	47
Excellent.....	15	15	12	15
Dry Edible Peas				
Very poor.....	3	2	5	2
Poor.....	5	4	8	5
Fair.....	35	32	34	28
Good.....	45	49	41	49
Excellent.....	12	13	12	16
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	2	2	8	5
Poor.....	3	3	12	7
Fair.....	44	44	50	34
Good.....	47	46	29	49
Excellent.....	4	5	1	5
Lentils				
Very poor.....	4	2	8	4
Poor.....	4	4	9	7
Fair.....	44	38	44	35
Good.....	40	48	38	49
Excellent.....	8	8	1	5
Oats				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	2
Poor.....	5	4	3	7
Fair.....	28	28	31	31
Good.....	60	61	54	52
Excellent.....	6	6	11	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	11	10	8	9
Poor.....	17	16	21	15
Fair.....	35	36	43	31
Good.....	32	33	24	33
Excellent.....	5	5	4	12
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	4	2
Poor.....	4	4	8	7
Fair.....	29	30	34	32
Good.....	51	50	45	48
Excellent.....	15	15	9	11
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	2	2	2	2
Poor.....	7	7	9	9
Fair.....	30	30	33	26
Good.....	38	37	35	46
Excellent.....	23	24	21	17

¹Current conditions for Camelina, Canola, Dry Edible Beans, Flaxseed, Mustard Seed, Potatoes, Safflower, and Sugarbeets are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana's weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2016/MT_Weather_07242016.pdf