

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, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: This week brought warm temperatures and mostly dry conditions to Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation totals were low this week. The northern half of the State received 0.1 to 0.3 inches of rainfall, while the southern half of the State was dry, receiving only 0.01 inches of rainfall. Temperatures were above average again this week - ranging from 2 to 4 degrees warmer than average for most of the State. Overall, there was little change in drought conditions; however, rain in the northern portion of the State did bring relief to areas experiencing exceptional drought. According to the United States Drought Monitor for July 19, 2022, 39.0 percent of the State is experiencing drought conditions, a slight decrease from 39.8 percent last week. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 17.8 percent, compared to 13.3 percent last week and moderate drought was present across 5.8 percent of the State, compared to 11.1 percent last week. Severe and extreme drought conditions increased slightly - from 8.9 percent last week to 9.3 percent and from 3.5 percent last week to 5.5 percent, respectively. Exceptional drought conditions decreased by 2.4 percentage points and now covers 0.6 percent of the State, compared to 3.0 percent last week.

Ravalli County reported hot temperatures and minimal moisture. Comments indicated crop yields in the county will likely depend on the availability of irrigation. Roosevelt reported extreme heat this week, with continued reports of grasshoppers. Comments from Sweet Grass County indicated heavy grasshopper presence, with the insects causing severe damage to rangeland. Producers in Richland County continued to report issues with grasshoppers. Hay yields in Judith Basin County are mostly below average. There are reports that some fields are not being cut due to high fuel prices and low expected yields. The warm weather is moving harvest along. Canola, dry edible pea, and mustard seed harvest began this week. Barley harvest was reported at 5 percent complete, compared to 1 percent complete this time last year. The second cutting of alfalfa hay and hay began this week, with harvest reported at 5 percent complete for both crops.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	88	72	92	88
2 nd cutting harvested.....	5	NA	NA	NA
Barley				
Headed.....	95	75	94	93
Turning color.....	49	20	58	54
Harvested.....	5	NA	1	1
Canola				
Blooming.....	99	87	94	90
Turning color.....	50	29	48	46
Harvested.....	2	NA	--	NA
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Blooming.....	99	78	80	NA
Dry edible peas				
Blooming.....	99	93	NA	NA
Harvested.....	9	--	46	19
Durum wheat				
Booted.....	98	94	NA	NA
Headed.....	84	62	85	85
Turning color.....	25	8	25	24
Flaxseed				
Blooming.....	95	70	93	NA
Turning color.....	20	7	27	17
Lentils				
Harvested.....	20	5	18	10
Mustard seed				
Turning color.....	39	20	41	36
Harvested.....	2	NA	NA	NA
Oats				
Headed.....	83	61	81	84
Turning color.....	32	9	41	28
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	88	75	88	84
2 nd cutting harvested.....	5	NA	NA	NA
Safflower				
Blooming.....	60	32	58	46
Turning Color.....	5	NA	19	9
Spring wheat				
Headed.....	88	63	93	91
Turning color.....	30	6	51	36
Winter wheat				
Turning color.....	72	45	93	NA
Harvested.....	18	8	24	17

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work	7.0	6.6	7.0	6.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	25	20	75	32
Short	30	27	22	28
Adequate.....	44	53	2	38
Surplus.....	1	--	1	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	36	31	63	25
Short	37	35	34	32
Adequate.....	26	34	3	41
Surplus.....	1	--	--	2

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor	6	5	24	6
Poor	23	24	46	14
Fair.....	36	32	21	26
Good	30	37	8	38
Excellent	6	2	1	16
Canola				
Very poor	3	--	2	7
Poor	8	2	43	16
Fair.....	35	34	39	25
Good	48	54	15	38
Excellent	6	10	1	14
Corn				
Very poor	3	3	15	4
Poor	4	5	33	11
Fair.....	32	40	37	26
Good	59	51	13	50
Excellent	2	1	2	9
Dry edible peas				
Very poor	6	4	37	13
Poor	16	12	36	16
Fair.....	43	35	25	26
Good	34	41	2	38
Excellent	1	8	--	7
Durum wheat				
Very poor	1	1	45	12
Poor	4	3	44	19
Fair.....	46	37	4	30
Good	49	54	7	31
Excellent	--	5	--	8
Lentils				
Very poor	2	2	37	11
Poor	7	5	37	17
Fair.....	54	48	26	30
Good	36	38	--	36
Excellent	1	7	--	6
Pasture and range				
Very poor	26	17	56	20
Poor	12	19	35	16
Fair.....	19	25	7	20
Good	40	36	2	36
Excellent	3	3	--	8
Spring wheat				
Very poor	4	3	51	18
Poor	19	13	36	17
Fair.....	34	34	9	21
Good	41	47	4	37
Excellent	2	3	--	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	--	--	12	3
Poor	--	--	13	6
Fair.....	51	60	42	27
Good	49	40	33	52
Excellent	--	--	--	12
Winter wheat				
Very poor	9	7	23	7
Poor	28	25	33	14
Fair.....	45	38	43	26
Good	15	22	1	28
Excellent	3	8	--	25

¹Current conditions for Dry Edible Beans, Flaxseed, Mustard Seed, Oats, and Safflower are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/
 NA – not available
 (--) – zero