

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 AUGUST 21, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana experienced another week of hot, dry conditions according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation totals for the week were 0.05 inches or less for much of the State. Isolated areas received around 0.3 inches of rainfall; however, high winds and temperatures dried up the moisture. Temperatures were again well above average for this time of year. Average daily temperatures for most of the State were 4 to 8 degrees warmer than normal. Fire danger is very high throughout the State due to the hot, dry conditions and drought conditions continue to worsen. According to the United States Drought Monitor for August 18, 2022, 62.5 percent of the State is experiencing drought conditions – a 23.5 percent increase from 50.6 percent last week. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry increased to cover 30.9 percent of the State, compared to 22.5 percent last week. Moderate drought was present across 16.1 percent of the State, compared to 12.6 percent last week. Severe drought and extreme drought conditions remained unchanged at 11.9 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively.

Hot and dry conditions were reported in Ravalli, Mineral, and Missoula Counties. Irrigation water supplies are fair, despite the Big Ditch Canal being shut off for a week for repairs. Winds continue to be an issue in Ravalli County and the Bitterroot Valley, with reports of high winds causing crop loss. In Valley County, pasture and range conditions are deteriorating due to the hot, dry conditions. There are reports that grasshoppers are stripping trees, shrubs, and gardens. Producers have reported combine hoppers infested with grasshoppers, forcing producers to clean harvested grain before storing or moving the crop and leading to increased production costs. Grasshoppers continue to be a problem in Richland County, with continued reports of insect damage to crops and rangeland. Conditions in the western half of Roosevelt County are poor due to drought and increased grasshopper activity. Other parts of the county are faring better, with pockets of grasshopper activity reported. Harvest of corn for silage began this week, with harvest reported at 3 percent complete, compared to 1 percent complete this time last year. Winter wheat harvest is nearing completion, with harvest reported at 92 percent complete, compared to 94 percent complete this time last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	78	54	75	73
Barley				
Harvested	59	40	61	55
Canola				
Harvested	40	26	43	36
Corn				
Harvested for silage	3	--	1	1
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	51	30	40	37
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	91	67	89	80
Durum wheat				
Turning color	98	93	NA	NA
Harvested	38	19	48	41
Flaxseed				
Turning color	99	82	94	NA
Harvested	41	27	41	32
Lentils				
Harvested	76	55	79	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested	38	17	38	31
Oats				
Harvested	59	39	56	48
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	67	38	51	56
Safflower				
Turning color	81	67	68	55
Harvested	26	10	9	4
Spring wheat				
Turning color	98	91	NA	NA
Harvested	52	26	67	52
Winter wheat				
Harvested	92	71	94	85

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	6.8	6.8	4.4	5.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	42	33	57	34
Short	40	45	32	35
Adequate	18	22	11	29
Surplus	--	--	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	43	35	68	29
Short	44	51	23	36
Adequate	13	14	9	34
Surplus	--	--	--	1

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION¹

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor	6	--	39	NA
Poor	24	16	33	NA
Fair	40	47	15	NA
Good	29	35	13	NA
Excellent	1	2	--	NA
Canola				
Very poor	3	--	27	NA
Poor	10	3	14	NA
Fair	44	43	25	NA
Good	38	46	26	NA
Excellent	5	8	8	NA
Corn				
Very poor	2	2	29	8
Poor	5	7	21	9
Fair	20	28	32	26
Good	71	62	18	48
Excellent	2	1	--	9
Dry edible beans				
Very poor	--	--	22	NA
Poor	2	2	34	NA
Fair	77	80	44	NA
Good	13	17	--	NA
Excellent	8	1	--	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor	1	1	41	NA
Poor	5	3	38	NA
Fair	64	59	17	NA
Good	25	34	4	NA
Excellent	5	3	--	NA
Flaxseed				
Very poor	4	--	31	NA
Poor	11	10	31	NA
Fair	45	43	30	NA
Good	40	47	8	NA
Excellent	--	--	--	NA
Mustard seed				
Very poor	--	4	11	NA
Poor	11	2	28	NA
Fair	79	79	55	NA
Good	10	15	4	NA
Excellent	--	--	2	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	23	25	63	25
Poor	20	17	34	19
Fair	29	36	3	26
Good	28	21	--	24
Excellent	--	1	--	6
Spring wheat				
Very poor	1	--	NA	NA
Poor	19	14	NA	NA
Fair	49	48	NA	NA
Good	30	38	NA	NA
Excellent	1	--	NA	NA
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	1	1	11	5
Poor	1	1	13	8
Fair	31	40	32	28
Good	65	56	44	49
Excellent	2	2	--	10

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