

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 13, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cooler temperatures and mixed precipitation across Montana provided no real relief to dry conditions according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Average temperatures ran as many as 5 degrees below normal in parts of the State according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). The majority of the State received at or below normal amounts of precipitation, also according to the HPRCC. Only isolated areas received above average levels of moisture. According to the US Drought Monitor report released August 10, 2023, the amount of land rated drought free fell to 39 percent, compared with 36 percent the previous week. Abnormal dryness was found in 23 percent of the State, a decrease of 13 percentage points from last week. Moderate drought conditions increased to 26 percent, compared with 18 percent last week. Severe drought was found in 11 percent of Wyoming, compared with 10 percent last week. A reporter for Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties stated that conditions remained dry in the face of showers that passed through some areas last week. Conditions were especially drying out quickly in the Potomac area. Irrigation water was not being cut back in the Painted Rocks and Como lakes regions, but water was nonetheless diminishing. Bitterroot river temperatures were rising, but grasses remained mostly green and healthy in the Bitterroot mountain areas. Forest fires bordering Missoula had not yet affected farmers and ranchers. Some Valley County growers were seeing severe sawfly damage to spring wheat which was significantly affecting yields. Dry conditions were worsening in Roosevelt County, and Livestock required supplemental feed. Grasshoppers continued to take their toll on crop and rangelands in Richland County. Hail-storms on the western edge of the county also caused crop loss. Grasshoppers were also damaging range and pasturelands in Sweet Grass County. Barley was being baled for forage.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	44	20	53	52
Barley				
Turning color	88	63	NA	NA
Harvested.....	51	32	37	29
Canola				
Turning color	79	70	96	88
Harvested.....	19	8	25	18
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested.....	29	1	29	16
Dry edible peas				
Harvested.....	62	33	64	61
Durum wheat				
Turning color	81	72	90	84
Harvested.....	27	13	18	17
Flaxseed				
Turning color	84	63	80	71
Harvested.....	11	9	25	13
Lentils				
Harvested.....	52	30	54	44
Mustard seed				
Turning color	95	78	94	90
Harvested.....	37	21	15	9
Oats				
Turning color	86	69	93	87
Harvested.....	41	21	36	25
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	95	92	NA	NA
2 nd cutting harvested.....	18	11	37	37
Safflower				
Blooming.....	92	71	96	86
Turning color	30	1	64	47
Harvested.....	2	NA	10	NA
Spring wheat				
Turning color	87	68	89	NA
Harvested.....	39	22	25	28
Winter wheat				
Harvested.....	70	42	68	65
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	18	3	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	12	1	NA	NA

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	6.5	6.4	6.8	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	26	17	33	28
Short	44	50	45	38
Adequate.....	30	33	22	33
Surplus.....	--	--	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	33	25	35	28
Short	36	41	51	36
Adequate.....	31	34	14	35
Surplus.....	--	--	--	1

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor	--	1	--	9
Poor	7	7	16	12
Fair.....	47	51	47	28
Good.....	37	34	35	40
Excellent	9	7	2	11
Canola				
Very poor	1	1	--	6
Poor	7	6	3	6
Fair.....	53	44	43	29
Good.....	33	42	46	44
Excellent	6	7	8	15
Corn				
Very poor	--	1	2	8
Poor	2	2	7	8
Fair.....	21	19	28	22
Good.....	67	68	62	53
Excellent	10	10	1	9
Dry edible peas				
Very poor	1	1	1	NA
Poor	5	4	11	NA
Fair.....	41	33	54	NA
Good.....	51	60	30	NA
Excellent	2	2	4	NA
Durum Wheat				
Very poor	-	-	1	9
Poor	15	19	3	10
Fair.....	67	58	59	35
Good.....	17	21	34	38
Excellent	1	2	3	8
Lentils				
Very poor	1	1	1	8
Poor	14	23	3	7
Fair.....	54	45	62	38
Good.....	29	29	31	39
Excellent	2	2	3	8
Mustard seed				
Very poor	--	--	4	2
Poor	12	13	2	9
Fair.....	44	35	79	55
Good.....	41	50	15	29
Excellent	3	2	--	5
Pasture and range				
Very poor	7	4	25	21
Poor	16	15	17	17
Fair.....	36	37	36	26
Good.....	39	41	21	30
Excellent	2	3	1	6
Safflower				
Very poor	--	--	--	8
Poor	--	--	4	13
Fair.....	43	43	55	31
Good.....	57	57	40	44
Excellent	--	--	1	4
Spring wheat				
Very poor	--	--	--	8
Poor	16	15	14	16
Fair.....	45	46	48	28
Good.....	34	35	38	40
Excellent	5	4	--	8
Winter wheat				
Very poor	--	--	9	NA
Poor	6	7	27	NA
Fair.....	34	43	42	NA
Good.....	30	29	22	NA
Excellent	30	21	--	NA

¹Current conditions for Dry Edible Beans, Flaxseed, Oats, and Sugarbeets are available using the QuickStats on-line database at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available
 (--) – zero