

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 20, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Hot, dry, and windy conditions persisted for the week ending August 20, 2023, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures ran more than 8 degrees above normal in western portions of the State according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Only isolated areas in the northeast experienced below average temperatures. Isolated areas in the southwest and east-central Montana received about 0.8 inches of rainfall, but precipitation levels were below normal for the vast majority of the State, also according to the HPRCC. In the face of the hot and dry conditions, the amount of land rated drought free increased to 47 percent according to data from the U.S. Drought Monitor report released August 17, 2023. Abnormal dryness was found in 16 percent of Montana. Moderate drought fell slightly to 24 percent, and severe drought conditions increased to 13 percent. The heat and wind were taking their toll on lands in Hill County. A reporter for Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties stated that in addition to the on-going hot and dry conditions, winds further dehydrated range lands and fields. Grazing lands were stressed in Powder River County with the continued heat and grasshopper infestations. Conditions were reportedly also very dry in Roosevelt County, and supplemental feeding of cattle was underway.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	57	44	75	69
Barley				
Turning color	95	88	NA	NA
Harvested.....	70	51	56	49
Canola				
Turning color	88	79	NA	NA
Harvested.....	40	19	38	29
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested.....	40	29	48	31
Dry edible peas				
Harvested.....	87	62	88	78
Durum wheat				
Turning color	93	81	97	NA
Harvested.....	47	27	35	32
Flaxseed				
Turning color	94	84	97	85
Harvested.....	33	11	39	26
Lentils				
Harvested.....	67	52	73	64
Mustard seed				
Harvested.....	53	37	35	23
Oats				
Turning color	94	86	NA	NA
Harvested.....	63	41	56	42
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	35	18	63	54
Safflower				
Blooming.....	97	92	NA	NA
Turning color	41	30	79	59
Harvested.....	13	2	24	8
Spring wheat				
Turning color	93	87	97	NA
Harvested.....	60	39	48	46
Winter wheat				
Harvested.....	78	70	89	82
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	21	18	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	15	12	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	6.5	6.8	5.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	33	26	42	28
Short	46	44	40	38
Adequate.....	21	30	18	32
Surplus.....	--	--	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	38	33	43	27
Short	40	36	44	38
Adequate.....	22	31	13	34
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)
Canola				
Very poor	1	1	3	6
Poor	6	7	10	7
Fair.....	55	53	44	27
Good.....	31	33	38	44
Excellent	7	6	5	16
Corn				
Very poor	1	--	2	6
Poor	6	2	5	7
Fair.....	18	21	20	20
Good.....	64	67	71	58
Excellent	11	10	2	9
Durum Wheat				
Very poor	-	-	1	9
Poor	14	15	5	11
Fair.....	76	67	64	39
Good.....	9	17	25	35
Excellent	1	1	5	6
Mustard seed				
Very poor	--	--	--	2
Poor	18	12	11	9
Fair.....	49	44	79	52
Good.....	32	41	10	33
Excellent	1	3	--	4
Pasture and range				
Very poor	8	7	23	21
Poor	18	16	20	17
Fair.....	42	36	29	28
Good.....	30	39	28	28
Excellent	2	2	--	6
Safflower				
Very poor	--	--	--	6
Poor	--	--	9	13
Fair.....	44	43	55	35
Good.....	56	57	31	42
Excellent	--	--	5	4
Spring wheat				
Very poor	--	--	1	NA
Poor	18	16	19	NA
Fair.....	54	45	49	NA
Good.....	25	34	30	NA
Excellent	3	5	1	NA

Current 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