

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
 P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969  
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Eric Sommer  
 (800) 392-3202

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 27, 2023

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Montana experienced a week of varying precipitation and temperatures according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Eastern portions of the State remained predominantly dry, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). The exception was in east-central Montana, where higher levels of rain were received. Higher levels of precipitation were also received in the west, with isolated areas receiving 1-2 inches of rain. Temperatures ran mostly at or slightly below normal in much of northern Montana. Conditions were warmer in the central in southern sections of the State. Southeastern Montana experienced temperatures as high as 8 degrees above average. The amount of land rated drought free increased to 52 percent, compared with 47 percent last week, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released August 24, 2023. Abnormal dryness was found in 9 percent of the State, down 7 percentage points. Moderate drought was found in 13 percent of Montana, down from 24 percent last week. Severe drought conditions rose to 23 percent, compared with 13 percent last week. Extreme drought conditions resurfaced in Montana, sitting at 3 percent. The fluctuating weather conditions in Broadwater County this year resulted in slower than usual harvests of grains and the second cutting of hay. Fields and pastures benefitted from much needed rainfall in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties last week. High winds and driving rains impaired crops in southern and eastern portions of Prairie County. Grasshoppers continued to take their toll on crops and ranges in Richland County. Grasshopper damage to rangelands, pastures, and crops was severe in Valley County. Rain showers were spotty. Some areas of the county received as much as ¾ inch of moisture, while other areas received ¼ inch of rain or less.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested .....	62	57	81	79
Barley				
Harvested.....	72	70	73	67
Canola				
Turning color .....	95	88	NA	NA
Harvested.....	52	40	55	42
Corn				
Harvested for silage .....	1	NA	15	8
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested.....	64	40	67	46
Dry edible peas				
Harvested.....	91	87	98	89
Durum wheat				
Turning color .....	97	93	NA	NA
Harvested.....	65	47	58	47
Flaxseed				
Turning color .....	95	94	NA	NA
Harvested.....	60	33	60	37
Lentils				
Harvested.....	86	67	84	79
Mustard seed				
Harvested.....	80	53	53	41
Oats				
Turning color .....	95	94	NA	NA
Harvested.....	66	63	68	60
Other hay				
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested .....	49	35	74	66
Safflower				
Turning color .....	55	41	96	71
Harvested.....	17	13	29	13
Spring wheat				
Turning color .....	96	93	NA	NA
Harvested.....	71	60	72	64
Winter wheat				
Harvested.....	80	78	98	91
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture .....	24	21	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture .....	23	15	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 .....	5.9	6.5	6.0	6.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	42	33	35	24
Short .....	40	46	42	41
Adequate.....	18	21	23	33
Surplus.....	--	--	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	45	38	35	27
Short .....	41	40	47	41
Adequate.....	14	22	18	31
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
Poor .....	6	6	2	6
Fair.....	55	55	45	39
Good.....	30	31	43	38
Excellent .....	8	7	10	14
Corn				
Very poor .....	--	1	3	4
Poor .....	5	6	5	7
Fair.....	19	18	19	24
Good.....	66	64	71	56
Excellent .....	10	11	2	9
Durum Wheat				
Very poor .....	--	--	1	NA
Poor .....	9	14	7	NA
Fair.....	81	76	65	NA
Good.....	9	9	20	NA
Excellent .....	1	1	7	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	11	8	21	20
Poor .....	26	18	25	23
Fair.....	33	42	30	26
Good.....	27	30	24	24
Excellent .....	3	2	--	7
Safflower				
Very poor .....	--	--	--	7
Poor .....	--	--	18	13
Fair.....	43	44	52	37
Good.....	57	56	25	39
Excellent .....	--	--	5	4

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

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick\\_Stats/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/)

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero