

# 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  
 May 6, 2024

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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 5, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** All of Montana experienced below normal temperatures, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Average temperatures ranged from about 2 to 6 degrees below normal for most of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). A few areas recorded average temperatures measuring as many as 8 degrees below normal. Precipitation levels were mixed. Portions of the northeast, far west central Montana, and a few other areas received moisture levels of about 0.4 inch above normal. Portions of Blaine and Philips Counties received as much as 0.8 inch of moisture above normal. For much of the State, however, precipitation levels were in a range of about 0.2 to 0.6 inch below average. Planting continued across the State and many crops were beginning to emerge. There were 4.8 days available for field work. Conditions were dry. A reporter in Broadwater County stated that conditions were very dry. Changes in drought conditions were once again minimal according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on May 2, 2024. The amount of land rated drought free was unchanged at 14 percent. Abnormal dryness was found in 43 percent of the State, a decrease of 3 percentage points from the previous week. Moderate drought was rated 31 percent, up from 27 percent last week. Severe drought conditions were unchanged at 11 percent. Extreme drought was found in just under 2 percent of Montana.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity                         | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|                                   | (percent)    | (percent)     | (percent)     | (percent)      |
| Barley                            |              |               |               |                |
| Planted.....                      | 45           | 30            | 35            | 42             |
| Emerged .....                     | 6            | --            | --            | 9              |
| Canola                            |              |               |               |                |
| Planted.....                      | 25           | 17            | NA            | NA             |
| Dry edible beans                  |              |               |               |                |
| Planted.....                      | 12           | 8             | 5             | 15             |
| Emerged .....                     | 1            | NA            | NA            | NA             |
| Dry peas                          |              |               |               |                |
| Planted.....                      | 49           | 26            | 35            | 43             |
| Emerged .....                     | 3            | --            | NA            | NA             |
| Durum wheat                       |              |               |               |                |
| Planted.....                      | 28           | 22            | 13            | 19             |
| Emerged .....                     | 1            | NA            | NA            | NA             |
| Flaxseed                          |              |               |               |                |
| Planted.....                      | 16           | 11            | 8             | 19             |
| Lentils                           |              |               |               |                |
| Planted.....                      | 39           | 15            | 25            | 32             |
| Mustard seed                      |              |               |               |                |
| Planted.....                      | 33           | 11            | 5             | 20             |
| Oats                              |              |               |               |                |
| Planted.....                      | 15           | 7             | 13            | 20             |
| Emerged .....                     | 8            | 1             | --            | 2              |
| Safflower                         |              |               |               |                |
| Planted.....                      | 16           | 14            | 11            | 10             |
| Spring wheat                      |              |               |               |                |
| Planted.....                      | 52           | 35            | 26            | 36             |
| Emerged .....                     | 3            | --            | 1             | 8              |
| Winter wheat                      |              |               |               |                |
| Breaking dormancy .....           | 94           | 93            | 91            | NA             |
| Cattle and calves                 |              |               |               |                |
| Cows calved.....                  | 86           | 83            | 89            | 87             |
| Moved to pasture .....            | 19           | 12            | NA            | NA             |
| Receiving supplemental feed ..... | 54           | 78            | 62            | 62             |
| Sheep and lambs                   |              |               |               |                |
| Ewes lambled .....                | 83           | 78            | 72            | 79             |
| Moved to pasture .....            | 16           | 13            | NA            | NA             |
| Receiving supplemental feed ..... | 77           | 87            | 58            | 63             |

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 ..... | 4.8          | 6.7           | 5.6           | 5.3            |
| Topsoil moisture                   | (percent)    | (percent)     | (percent)     | (percent)      |
| Very short.....                    | 16           | 14            | 1             | 14             |
| Short .....                        | 55           | 57            | 23            | 23             |
| Adequate.....                      | 29           | 29            | 73            | 59             |
| Surplus.....                       | --           | --            | 3             | 4              |
| Subsoil moisture                   |              |               |               |                |
| Very short.....                    | 19           | 14            | 3             | 18             |
| Short .....                        | 58           | 54            | 46            | 26             |
| Adequate.....                      | 23           | 32            | 48            | 52             |
| Surplus.....                       | --           | --            | 3             | 4              |

NA – not available

(-- ) – zero

**CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

| Commodity             | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|                       | (percent)    | (percent)     | (percent)     | (percent)      |
| Grazing accessibility |              |               |               |                |
| Open .....            | 85           | 84            | 78            | 81             |
| Difficult .....       | 6            | 7             | 15            | 10             |
| Closed.....           | 9            | 9             | 7             | 9              |
| Pasture and range     |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor .....       | 15           | 20            | 17            | 21             |
| Poor .....            | 21           | 24            | 21            | 16             |
| Fair.....             | 48           | 41            | 33            | 33             |
| Good .....            | 15           | 13            | 25            | 25             |
| Excellent .....       | 1            | 2             | 4             | 5              |
| Winter wheat          |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor .....       | --           | --            | 1             | 5              |
| Poor .....            | 5            | 5             | 1             | 9              |
| Fair.....             | 58           | 52            | 44            | 34             |
| Good .....            | 35           | 41            | 49            | 44             |
| Excellent .....       | 2            | 2             | 5             | 8              |

NA – not available

(-- ) – zero