

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 MAY 12, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Temperatures varied, and much of the State experienced relief from the persistent dry conditions, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures ran mostly above normal in northern portions of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Temperatures ran, on average, about 2-5 degrees above normal. Average temperatures were highest in the northeast. Southern areas of the State experienced temperatures running from about normal to as many as 5 degrees below normal. Conditions were coolest in Park County. Precipitation was at, or above normal for much of Montana. Moisture levels were highest in eastern sections of the State. Portions of Philips and Rosebud Counties, and some surrounding areas, received as much as 3.75 inches of moisture above average. Far western, and a few other isolated areas, received moisture that was at or below normal. Drought conditions were unchanged according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on May 9, 2024. The amount of land rated drought free sat still at 14 percent. Abnormal dryness held steady at 43 percent. Moderate, severe, and extreme drought conditions were also unchanged at 31, 11, and almost 2 percent, respectively. Most of Blaine County received over 2 inches of moisture. Wind accompanied the rain and snow. The weather made conditions difficult for field work and for young livestock, but the cold was timely for controlling potential grasshopper populations. Broadwater County missed out on the abundant rains received in other parts of the State. Conditions remained dry. There was rain and snow in the mountains, but moisture received in the valley measured to less than 0.25 inch. A reporter for Hill County stated that some areas received as much as 4 inches of rain. Seven inches were recorded on the Rocky Boy Reservation. There was minor flooding in some parts of the county. Scattered showers fell in Prairie County. Northern and western areas received 1-2 inches above levels received in central Prairie County. The southeastern sections received less than 0.5 inch. Winds were extreme. An agent in Valley County also reported scattered rain. Totals measured from 1.5 to 3 inches. The moisture improved soil conditions substantially, and boosted growth in early seeded crops. Wibaux County also received some much-needed moisture, but showers were spotty. Moisture received ranged from about 0.4 inch to over 1.0 inch in the north. Southern areas received less. Seeding was running late due to the cold days this spring.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	71	45	57	64
Emerged .....	17	6	3	25
Canola				
Planted.....	32	25	18	36
Corn				
Planted.....	5	NA	25	30
Dry edible beans				
Planted.....	35	12	29	35
Emerged .....	3	1	1	NA
Dry peas				
Planted.....	62	49	51	62
Emerged .....	9	3	4	19
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	42	28	32	35
Emerged .....	25	1	3	NA
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	21	16	24	33
Lentils				
Planted.....	67	39	43	52
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	53	33	43	42
Emerged .....	6	--	4	5
Oats				
Planted.....	35	15	29	39
Emerged .....	12	8	6	11
Safflower				
Planted.....	17	16	18	20
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	63	52	48	56
Emerged .....	18	3	11	23
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	10	--	12	44
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy .....	99	94	94	NA
Booted .....	1	--	4	6
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	91	86	93	92
Moved to pasture .....	44	19	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed .....	43	54	43	48
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed .....	89	83	77	85
Moved to pasture .....	41	16	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed .....	42	77	41	48

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 .....	2.4	4.8	4.7	5.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	14	16	1	10
Short .....	46	55	19	26
Adequate.....	37	29	77	62
Surplus.....	3	--	3	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	13	19	3	15
Short .....	52	58	41	28
Adequate.....	32	23	55	56
Surplus.....	3	--	1	1
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 .....	81	85	78	81
Difficult .....	13	6	13	10
Closed.....	6	9	9	9
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	10	15	10	17
Poor .....	20	21	16	17
Fair.....	46	48	54	39
Good .....	22	15	19	23
Excellent .....	2	1	1	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	1	--	1	5
Poor .....	4	5	1	7
Fair.....	49	58	50	38
Good .....	38	35	48	40
Excellent .....	8	2	--	10
NA – not available				
(--) – zero				