



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS – MARCH 1, 2024

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

As of March 1, Montana growers intend to plant 140,000 acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2024, up 5,000 acres, or 4 percent, from last year's plantings, according to the March 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. If realized, this would represent the largest area planted to corn since 1958. The area expected to be seeded to **oats**, at 55,000 acres, is down 15 percent from last year. Growers intend to plant 950,000 acres of **barley** in 2024, down 240,000 acres, or 20 percent, from last year's actual plantings.

**All wheat** acreage is expected to total 5.50 million acres for 2024. **Winter wheat** seeded last fall for harvest in 2024 is estimated at 1.95 million acres, up 100,000 acres from the area seeded in 2023. Growers intend to seed 850,000 acres of **Durum wheat** this year, up 145,000 acres, or 21 percent, from last year. Growers intend to seed 2.70 million acres of **spring wheat** this year, unchanged from 2023. **Hay** producers in the State intend to harvest 2.73 million acres this year, an increase of 30,000 acres from the acreage cut for dry hay in 2023. Montana **canola** producers intend to plant 190,000 acres in 2024, up 25,000 acres from last year. If realized, this would represent the largest area planted to canola on record. **Flaxseed** producers intend to plant 50,000 acres in 2024, down 18,000 acres from last year.

The area planted to **sugarbeets** is expected to total 26,000 acres, up 2,300 acres from last year. All **garbanzo beans** (chickpeas) area planted is expected to total 174,000 acres in 2024, unchanged from 2023. Area planted to **small chickpeas** is expected to total 32,000 acres, while the area planted to **large chickpeas** is expected to total 142,000 acres.

Area planted to **lentils** is expected to total 570,000 acres in 2024, up 180,000 acres from last year. All **dry edible pea** area planted is expected to total 570,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Corn** planted area for all purposes in 2024 is estimated at 90.0 million acres, down 5 percent or 4.61 million acres from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage is expected to be down or unchanged in 38 of the 48 estimating States.

Area expected to be seeded to **oats** for the 2024 crop year is estimated at 2.32 million acres, up 1 percent from 2023 for comparable States. If realized, the United States planted area will be the lowest on record.

Producers seeded 2.57 million acres of **barley** for the 2024 crop year, down 17 percent from the previous year.

**All wheat** planted area for 2024 is estimated at 47.5 million acres, down 4 percent from 2023 for comparable States. The 2024 **winter wheat** planted area, at 34.1 million acres, is down 7 percent from last year and down 1 percent from the previous estimate for comparable States. Of this total, about 24.3 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.26 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.59 million acres are White Winter. Area expected to be planted to **other spring wheat** for 2024 is estimated at 11.3 million acres, up 1 percent from 2023. Of this total, about 10.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. **Durum** planted area for 2024 is expected to total 2.03 million acres, up 22 percent from the previous year for comparable States.

Producers intend to harvest 51.6 million acres of **all hay** in 2024, down 2 percent from 2023.

Producers intend to plant a record high 2.37 million acres of **canola** in 2023. Growers intend to plant 105,000 acres of **flaxseed** in 2024, a decrease of 41 percent from 2023. If realized, will represent the lowest total for the Nation since 1996.

Area expected to be planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2024 crop year is estimated at 1.13 million acres, down 1 percent from 2023. Planting intentions are expected to be the lowest since 2018.

Growers intend to plant 429,000 acres of **chickpeas**, up 17 percent from the previous year for comparable States. **Small chickpea** expected planted area is estimated at 107,000 acres. Area expected to be planted for **large chickpeas** in 2024 is estimated at 322,000 acres.

Growers intend to plant 762,000 acres of **lentils** in 2024, up 44 percent from the previous season in comparable states. Planted area is expected to increase in all program States. Growers intend to plant 974,000 acres of **dry edible peas** in 2024, up 2 percent from 2023, in comparable states.

For a full copy of the *Prospective Plantings* report, please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).