

Crop Progress and Condition



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National Agricultural Statistics Service

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For Week Ending: August 20, 2023

ALASKA: There were **4.8 days suitable for fieldwork** last week. The week started wet and cool in the Matanuska Valley but more favorable conditions moved in before the beginning of the Alaska State Fair. Wet and cool conditions improved soil moisture in the Tanana Valley where much of the grain harvest was expected to begin soon. The Kenai Peninsula received dry conditions later in the week which removed much of the excess moisture from the soil. Temperatures in Kenai and Homer were below average most of the week.

TANANA VALLEY: An average of **5.0 days was suitable for fieldwork.** Rainfall over the past weeks relieved some of the drought stress on crops and pasture. **Crop rate of growth** was 40% slow, 50% moderate, and 10% rapid. **Farm activities** for the week included harvesting barley and hay, preparing for grain harvest, CRP maintenance, fence construction, and general farm maintenance.

MATANUSKA VALLEY: An average of 4.0 days was suitable for fieldwork. Crop rate of growth was 50% moderate and 50% rapid. Farm activities for the week included harvesting vegetables, field preparation, farm maintenance, and preparing for harvest.

Kenai: An average of 7.0 days was suitable for fieldwork. Crop rate of growth was 30% slow, 50% moderate and 20% rapid.

Soil Moisture -- Alaska

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	
Topsoil Moisture – State	0	30	70	0	
Tanana Valley	0	50	50	0	
Matanuska Valley	0	0	100	0	
Kenai	0	20	80	0	
Subsoil Moisture – State	0	30	70	X	
Tanana Valley	0	50	50	0	
Matanuska Valley	0	0	100	0	
Kenai	0	0	100	0	

Soil Temperatures (F º) at 4 inch depth

	Grass		Fallow			Air Temperature		Precipitation	
	2023	2021	2020	2023	2021	2020	High	Low	(inches)
Sawmill Creek	57	50	54	na	na	na	71	42	0.x
UAF - Matanuska Experiment Farm	59	57	60	58	58	59	68	43	0.32

na – not available.

Crop Progress -- Alaska

	Percent completed					
	This week	Last week	2021	5 year Average 1/		
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)		
Barley turning color	>95	80	95	95		
Barley ripe	40	25	0	17		
Oats turning color	>95	75	69	94		
Oats ripe	50	NA	0	3		

1/ excludes 2022

NA – not available.

Crop Condition -- Alaska

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley	0	15	20	55	10
Oats	0	5	30	60	5
Potatoes	0	5	15	75	5
Нау	5	25	20	50	0

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