

# ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**ARIZONA FIELD OFFICE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Cotton harvest in Arizona had progressed to 14 percent complete by week's end, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Arizona's current cotton harvest is 4 percentage points ahead of the State's 5-year average, as well as the previous year's report. In contrast, 72 percent of Arizona's cotton crop had advanced to the bolls opening stage, which was again, well behind the State's 5-year average of 90 percent. Arizona's cotton crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 29 percent of the crop being rated as fair to very poor. Following the previous week's trend, Arizona's alfalfa crop was also rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with none of the crop rated as poor or very poor. Alfalfa hay harvest continues to take place throughout Arizona on more than 75 percent of the crop's acreage within the State. The largest portion of the Arizona's pastures and ranges were reported to be in poor condition, with only 12 percent of the State's acreage being rated in good condition and no acreage rated as excellent. Reports from northeastern counties stated that native forage production slowed to a crawl, and that sharp declines in the nutritive value of native forages were experienced over the past week. Additionally, ranchers have reported that water tanks have dried completely highlighting the struggles Arizona livestock producers continue to face as a result of recurrent drought. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 4 percent rated very short, 25 percent rated short, and 71 percent rated adequate. Subsoil moisture levels again followed a similar trend. Measurable precipitation was noted across Arizona, ranging from 0.1 inches received throughout most western regions to 3.0 inches of rain received in isolated east-central areas according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). However, the northeastern corner of Arizona again remained mostly dry. Days suitable for fieldwork throughout the State remained at 7.0 despite the precipitation received. Drought conditions mirrored that of the September 5<sup>th</sup> report. As of September 12, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed that abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 44 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 29 percent of the State, and severe drought (D2) remained at 18 percent. Once again, Arizona remained free of extreme (D3), as well as exceptional (D4) drought. Combined with the precipitation received throughout the week, both daytime and nighttime temperatures have continued to cool throughout northern Arizona. Isolated areas of Apache, Navajo, and Coconino Counties recorded overnight temperatures dropping to the high 30s. Over the past week, daytime highs throughout the State ranged from the mid to high 60s in the White Mountains to over 100 degrees throughout southwestern regions of Arizona according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC).

### CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton				
Bolls opening .....	72	67	76	90
Harvested .....	14	11	10	10

NA – not available  
 (-) – zero

### DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork .....	7.0	7.0	5.6	6.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	4	8	10	5
Short .....	25	16	4	16
Adequate .....	71	75	84	78
Surplus .....	--	1	2	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	8	7	10	5
Short .....	15	6	4	16
Adequate .....	77	86	82	78
Surplus .....	--	1	4	1

NA – not available  
 (-) – zero

**CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
<b>Alfalfa hay</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	7	1
Poor .....	--	--	5	4
Fair.....	16	9	13	14
Good.....	32	41	39	45
Excellent.....	52	50	36	36
<b>Cotton</b>				
Very poor .....	1	1	1	--
Poor .....	1	1	1	3
Fair.....	27	20	12	22
Good.....	38	36	44	49
Excellent.....	33	42	42	26
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor .....	24	17	2	16
Poor .....	33	24	10	24
Fair.....	31	40	41	31
Good.....	12	19	27	21
Excellent.....	--	--	20	8

NA – not available

(--) – zero