

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
ARIZONA FIELD OFFICE
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Cooperating with the Arizona Department of Agriculture



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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By month's end, 91 percent of Arizona's barley had emerged, and 27 percent has headed, up 55 and 24 percentage points respectively from the previous year's report, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Arizona barley was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 3 percent of the crop rated fair. Fifty-four percent of Arizona's Durum wheat has emerged, and 26 percent has headed, up 27 and 25 percentage points respectively from the previous year's levels. Durum wheat condition was also rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 2 percent of the crop rated fair. Arizona's alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 5 percent of the crop rated fair. Reports from south-eastern counties stated that precipitation received throughout the month has helped to improve soil moisture levels and annual weeds have become vegetatively active as a result. Twenty-four percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 13 percent was rated poor, 39 percent was rated fair, 22 percent was rated good, and 2 percent was rated excellent. Reports from Apache and Navajo Counties stated that ranchers have reported 0% water storage in tanks, earthen dams, and springs. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 13 percent rated very short, 12 percent rated short, 63 percent rated adequate, and 12 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend. Throughout the month of February, measurable precipitation was received across much of the State. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), almost all areas of Arizona received at least 1 to 2 inches of precipitation excluding areas within the Painted Desert which received anywhere from 0.10 to 0.50 inch. The final drought information statement for northern Arizona was released on February 17 as drought conditions have improved to D2 or better. Water year precipitation throughout the area has reached 70-90% of normal. Although above normal precipitation was received throughout a majority of southeastern Arizona over the last 30 days, the drought information statement was updated on February 22 in response to below normal average precipitation experienced in portions of Graham and Greenlee Counties. According to the National Weather Service, Arizona has experienced several widespread rain events over the last 30 days. Despite recent precipitation, the seasonal outlook for March, April, and May shows equal odds for either above, near, or below normal seasonal mean temperatures and seasonal total precipitation. Subsequently, Arizona's seasonal drought outlook shows that conditions are expected to persist throughout central and eastern regions of the State. Streamflow conditions across Arizona have largely improved throughout the month of February. However, streamflow in the Upper San Pedro in addition to portions of the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins continues to be well below normal. As of February 20, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed an improvement in conditions when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 38 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 30 percent, severe drought (D2) encompassed 16 percent, and extreme drought (D3) fell to 2 percent of the State's total land area. Arizona once again remained free of exceptional (D4) drought. Throughout the month of February, temperatures across much of the State increased or remained near normal according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 3 degrees below to 4 degrees above normal and ranged from the low 40s in Coconino County to the low 70s across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 2 degrees below to 5 degrees above normal and ranged from 20 to 40 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas southwestern counties experienced lows of 45 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

Note: The first weekly report will be released on Monday, March 4, 2024.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	92	65	44	NA
Emerged.....	91	64	36	NA
Headed.....	27	NA	3	NA
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	68	54	63	NA
Emerged.....	54	44	27	NA
Headed.....	26	NA	1	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short	13	9	1	NA
Short	12	9	1	NA
Adequate	63	70	92	NA
Surplus	12	12	6	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	12	8	1	NA
Short	10	8	1	NA
Adequate	71	81	92	NA
Surplus	7	3	6	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP AND PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	1	--	NA
Fair.....	5	16	3	NA
Good.....	30	30	67	NA
Excellent.....	65	53	30	NA
Barley				
Very poor	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Fair.....	3	33	--	NA
Good.....	41	31	53	NA
Excellent.....	56	36	47	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Fair.....	2	8	--	NA
Good.....	24	30	23	NA
Excellent.....	74	62	77	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	24	16	7	NA
Poor.....	13	6	15	NA
Fair.....	39	27	44	NA
Good.....	22	44	28	NA
Excellent.....	2	7	6	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero