

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
ARIZONA FIELD OFFICE
 230 N 1st Ave, Suite 302A, Phoenix, AZ 85003-1723
 Cooperating with the Arizona Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
 March 4, 2024

Contact: Dave DeWalt
 (800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MARCH 3, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week's end, 96 percent of Arizona's barley had emerged, and 46 percent had headed, up 35 and 29 percentage points respectively from the previous year's report, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Although Arizona barley was once again rated in mostly good to excellent condition, significant decreases were experienced in the excellent category over the past week, adding 27 percentage points to the fair category. Eighty-five percent of Arizona's Durum wheat had emerged, and 45 percent had headed, up 22 and 29 percentage points, respectively, from the previous year's levels. Durum wheat condition was also rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 7 percent of the crop rated fair. Alfalfa hay harvest was taking place on more than 75 percent of the crop's acreage across the State. Arizona's alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 15 percent of the crop rated fair to poor. Reports from southeastern counties stated that precipitation received throughout the week helped to increase the vegetative activity of annual forages within low to mid elevations. Thirty-eight percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 11 percent was rated poor, 30 percent was rated fair, 18 percent was rated good, and 3 percent was rated excellent. Reports from Apache and Navajo Counties stated that ranchers reported 0-10 percent water storage in tanks, earthen dams, and springs which is a slight improvement from the previous report's 0 percent estimate. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 12 percent rated very short, 10 percent rated short, 70 percent rated adequate, and 8 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend. Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced throughout much of northern as well as southern Arizona while central and western regions of the State remained relatively dry. A reporter from Pima and Santa Cruz Counties stated that Pima County has received a total of approximately 5 inches of precipitation since January 1st. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, the Pueblo Valley, as well as its surrounding mountains, received a majority of the precipitation, receiving approximately 1 inch while other areas of Arizona received anywhere from 0.10 to 0.50 inch of total precipitation. The drought information statements for northern and southeast Arizona remained in effect. 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 southeastern regions of the State. Streamflow conditions in the Whitewater Draw in addition to portions of the Lower and Little Colorado River Basins continues to be well below normal. However, streamflow conditions are expected to improve as snowpack begins to melt throughout areas of higher elevation. As of February 27, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed no change when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 38 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) encompassed 30 percent, severe drought (D2) enveloped 16 percent, and extreme drought (D3) remained at 2 percent of the State's total land area. Arizona once again remained free of exceptional (D4) drought. Over the past week, temperatures across much of the State increased according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 1 to 8 degrees above normal and ranged from the low 40s in Coconino County to the low 80s across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 4 degrees below to 8 degrees above normal and ranged from 25 to 45 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	97	92	77	82
Emerg'd.....	96	91	61	70
Headed.....	46	27	17	14
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	95	68	83	88
Emerg'd.....	85	54	63	67
Headed.....	45	26	16	7

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.8	NA	7.0	6.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	12	13	1	6
Short	10	12	1	10
Adequate.....	70	63	91	81
Surplus.....	8	12	7	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	11	12	1	5
Short	10	10	1	7
Adequate.....	78	71	92	86
Surplus.....	1	7	6	2

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	1	--	--	1
Fair.....	14	5	8	14
Good	37	30	69	49
Excellent.....	48	65	23	36
Barley				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	--	--	--	3
Fair.....	30	3	--	12
Good	43	41	65	63
Excellent.....	27	56	35	22
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	--	--	--	1
Fair.....	7	2	--	3
Good	33	24	36	57
Excellent.....	60	74	64	39
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	38	24	7	19
Poor.....	11	13	14	28
Fair.....	30	39	38	31
Good	18	22	29	18
Excellent.....	3	2	12	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero