

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MARCH 10, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week's end, 49 percent of Arizona's barley had headed, 22 percentage points above the previous year, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Arizona barley was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, although barley in the fair category increased by 10 percentage points from last week. Eighty-eight percent of Arizona's Durum wheat had emerged, and 48 percent had headed, up 2 and 22 percentage points, respectively, from the previous year's levels. Durum wheat was rated in mostly excellent to good condition, with only 7 percent of the crop rated fair. Alfalfa hay harvest continued to take place on more than 75 percent of the crop's acreage throughout the State. Arizona's alfalfa crop was rated in mostly excellent to good condition, with only 12 percent of the crop rated fair. Upland cotton planting has not started, however, a Greenlee County reporter stated that cotton farmers in the area have begun to pre-irrigate their fields in preparation for this year's crop. Reports from Graham and Greenlee Counties stated that winter precipitation was received over the past week and that this precipitation helped to increase the vegetative activity of native forages throughout the area. Eighteen percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 4 percent was rated poor, 38 percent was rated fair, 38 percent was rated good, and 2 percent was rated excellent. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 9 percent rated very short, 9 percent rated short, 73 percent rated adequate, and 9 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced across much of the State, however, northern areas of Coconino, Navajo, and Apache Counties were the exception and remained relatively dry. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Santa Catalina and Hualpai Mountains received a majority of the precipitation, receiving approximately 1.50 inches while other areas of Arizona received anywhere from trace amounts to 0.50 inch of total precipitation. The drought information statements for northern as well as southeast Arizona continue to remain 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 continues to show equal odds for either above, near, or below normal seasonal mean temperatures and seasonal total precipitation apart from southeast Arizona where the seasonal total precipitation outlook is now leaning below normal. 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 Verde in addition to portions of the Lower San Pedro and Colorado River Basins continues to be well below normal. However, statewide streamflow conditions are expected to improve as snowpack begins to melt throughout areas of higher elevation which is currently being observed within the Gila and Santa Cruz River Basins. As of March 5, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a slight 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 32 percent, severe drought (D2) encompassed 15 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 decreased according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 8 degrees below to 1 degree above normal and ranged from the mid-40s in southwestern Graham County to the mid-70s across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 4 degrees below to 5 degrees above normal and ranged from 20 to 40 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 45 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Headed.....	49	46	27	24
Durum wheat				
Emerged.....	88	85	86	86
Headed.....	48	45	26	14

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	6.8	7.0	6.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	9	12	1	4
Short	9	10	1	11
Adequate.....	73	70	91	82
Surplus.....	9	8	7	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	15	11	1	4
Short	9	10	1	8
Adequate.....	76	78	92	86
Surplus.....	--	1	6	2

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	--	1	--	--
Fair	12	14	6	13
Good	31	37	67	49
Excellent.....	57	48	27	38
Barley				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	--	--	--	--
Fair	40	30	--	13
Good	27	43	74	65
Excellent.....	33	27	26	22
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	--	--	--	--
Fair	7	7	--	3
Good	24	33	39	53
Excellent.....	69	60	61	44
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	18	38	4	17
Poor.....	4	11	9	24
Fair	38	30	31	29
Good	38	18	38	24
Excellent.....	2	3	18	6

NA – not available

(--) – zero