

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 17, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The growing season for Arizona cotton has begun as 2 percent of the crop had been planted by week's end, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Current cotton plantings are equivalent to the previous year's levels, but are 6 percentage points behind the State's 5-year average. Fifty-eight percent of Arizona's barley had headed, up 24 percentage points from the previous year. Arizona barley was rated in mostly good to excellent condition as significant decreases were experienced within the fair category over the past week. Ninety-seven percent of Arizona's Durum wheat had emerged, and 57 percent had headed, up 5 and 27 percentage points, respectively, from the previous year's levels. Durum wheat was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 1 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 good to excellent condition, with only 4 percent of the crop rated fair. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State slightly deteriorated when compared to that of the previous week's report. Twenty-seven percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 5 percent was rated poor, 29 percent was rated fair, 31 percent was rated good, and 8 percent was rated excellent. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 18 percent rated very short, 9 percent rated short, 65 percent rated adequate, and 8 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced across much of the State, however, counties along Arizona's southern border were the exception and remained relatively dry. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Chuska Mountains, as well as areas along the central San Francisco Plateau, received a majority of the precipitation, accumulating approximately 2.50 inches, while other areas in Arizona received anywhere from 0.25 to 1.75 inches of total precipitation. The drought information statements for northern, as well as southeast Arizona, remain in effect. According to the National Weather Service, Arizona 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 Salt 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 Upper Colorado River Basins. As of March 12, 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 32 percent, severe drought (D2) enveloped 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 2 degrees above normal and ranged from the mid-40s in Coconino County to the mid-70s across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 4 degrees below to 4 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.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Headed	58	49	34	34
Cotton				
Planted.....	2	--	2	8
Durum wheat				
Emerged	97	88	92	96
Headed	57	48	30	22

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	6.8	7.0	6.9	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	18	9	1	4
Short	9	9	1	9
Adequate	65	73	91	82
Surplus	8	9	7	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	21	15	1	3
Short	11	9	1	6
Adequate	68	76	92	87
Surplus	--	--	6	4

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	--	--	--	3
Fair.....	4	12	2	10
Good	35	31	66	47
Excellent.....	61	57	32	40
Barley				
Very poor	--	--	--	--
Poor	--	--	--	1
Fair.....	2	40	--	12
Good	43	27	65	61
Excellent.....	55	33	35	26
Durum wheat				
Very poor	--	--	--	--
Poor	--	--	--	1
Fair.....	1	7	--	3
Good	26	24	30	48
Excellent.....	73	69	70	48
Pasture and range				
Very poor	27	18	9	19
Poor	5	4	17	25
Fair.....	29	38	34	28
Good	31	38	29	24
Excellent.....	8	2	11	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero