

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
ARIZONA FIELD OFFICE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week’s end, 6 percent of Arizona cotton had been planted, 10 percentage points below the State’s 5-year average, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. A Graham County reporter stated that precipitation delayed cotton planting as producers were unable to complete fieldwork activities due to saturated conditions. Seventy-six percent of Arizona’s barley had headed, and 28 percent had matured, up 25 and 27 percentage points, respectively, from the previous year’s levels. Arizona barley was rated in good to excellent condition. Seventy-five percent of the State’s Durum wheat had headed, and 24 percent had matured, up 37 and 24 percentage points, respectively, from the previous year’s levels. Durum wheat was rated in good to excellent condition. Alfalfa hay harvest continued to take place on more than 75 percent of the crop’s acreage throughout the State. Although Arizona’s alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, reports from Graham and Greenlee Counties stated that weevils had infested fields that were not treated with pesticides. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State slightly deteriorated when compared to that of the previous report. Twenty-seven percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 8 percent was rated poor, 15 percent was rated fair, 37 percent was rated good, and 13 percent was rated excellent. Reports from Graham, Apache, and Navajo Counties stated that recent precipitation has allowed range conditions to improve and that intermittent streams have begun to flow. However, these reports also conveyed that some soils have become hydrophobic. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 15 percent rated very short, 4 percent rated short, and 81 percent rated adequate. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced across much of the State, however, areas of northern Coconino, Navajo, and Apache Counties were the exception and remained relatively dry. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Pinaleno Mountains received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 2.25 inches, while other areas received anywhere from 0.25 to 1.50 inches of precipitation. On March 28, the drought information statement for southeast Arizona was reinstated as extreme drought conditions continue to persist throughout eastern Cochise County. According to the National Weather Service, Arizona experienced several widespread rain events over the last 30 days. Despite recent precipitation, the seasonal outlook for April, May, and June 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 leaning below normal and northeast Arizona where the seasonal mean temperature outlook is leaning above 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 San Pedro in addition to portions of the Lower Colorado River Basins continues to be well below normal. However, conditions throughout the State have improved as snowpack has begun to melt throughout areas of higher elevation resulting in all of Arizona’s remaining river basin’s streamflow conditions to be rated from above normal to normal. As of March 26, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed no change when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 40 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) encompassed 29 percent, severe drought (D2) enveloped 11 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 3 to 12 degrees below normal and ranged from the mid-thirties in southern Apache County to the mid-eighties across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 7 degrees below to 3 degrees above normal and ranged from 25 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.....	76	67	51	55
Mature.....	28	NA	1	1
Cotton				
Planted.....	6	3	6	16
Durum wheat				
Headed.....	75	66	38	28
Mature.....	24	NA	--	--

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	6.4	6.9	7.0	6.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	15	11	1	4
Short	4	9	2	12
Adequate.....	81	72	94	81
Surplus.....	--	8	3	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	21	12	1	3
Short	8	10	6	10
Adequate.....	71	77	91	85
Surplus.....	--	1	2	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.....	7	7	1	12
Good	37	46	64	47
Excellent.....	56	47	35	40
Barley				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	--	--	--	1
Fair.....	--	3	1	14
Good	42	51	75	64
Excellent.....	58	46	24	21
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	--	--	--	1
Fair.....	--	6	--	5
Good	24	30	26	44
Excellent.....	76	64	74	50
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	27	18	7	22
Poor.....	8	7	12	20
Fair.....	15	24	28	24
Good	37	40	40	29
Excellent.....	13	11	13	5

NA – not available

(--) – zero