

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



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Contact: Dave DeWalt
 (800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 14, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week’s end, 25 percent of Arizona cotton had been planted, 5 percentage points behind the 5-year average, and 9 percent had emerged, on par with the State’s 5-year average, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Cotton progress was ahead of last year. Ninety-two percent of the State’s barley had headed, and 58 percent had matured, up 10 and 49 percentage points, respectively, from the previous year’s levels. Arizona barley was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 11 percent of the crop rated fair. Ninety percent of Arizona’s Durum wheat had headed, and 54 percent had matured, up 24 and 47 percentage points, respectively, from the previous year’s levels. Durum wheat was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 10 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 11 percent of the crop rated fair. Reports from Apache and Navajo Counties have stated that cultivation for new alfalfa fields had started, and that irrigation districts had begun to distribute water. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State slightly improved when compared to that of the previous report. Eighteen percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 6 percent was rated poor, 28 percent was rated fair, 34 percent was rated good, and 14 percent was rated excellent. A report from Navajo and Apache Counties stated that most cattle were now being moved onto spring and summer pastures with significant overgrazing noted on many winter ranges. Reports from these counties also stated that ranchers continued to haul water to and supplement their livestock as native forage growth has been limited. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 15 percent rated very short, 15 percent rated short, 61 percent rated adequate, and 9 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was lacking across much of the State. However, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, isolated areas of higher elevations across northwest and southeast Arizona accumulated approximately 0.10 inch. The drought information statement for southeast Arizona remained in effect as extreme drought conditions persist throughout eastern Cochise County. Arizona’s seasonal drought outlook shows that conditions are expected to improve or end throughout all areas of the State apart from central Navajo, southern Apache, and eastern Greenlee Counties where conditions are expected to persist. 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 continues to melt and precipitation has been relatively steady. Combined, these conditions have allowed Arizona’s remaining river basin’s streamflow conditions to be rated from much above normal to normal. As of April 9, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed no change when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 45 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) encompassed 27 percent, severe drought (D2) enveloped 5 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 northwestern counties increased while temperatures throughout southern and eastern counties decreased according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 6 degrees below to 4 degrees above normal, and ranged from the mid-fifties in Coconino County to the low nineties across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 5 degrees below to 4 degrees above normal and ranged from 20 to 55 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 week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barley | | | | |
| Headed..... | 92 | 91 | 82 | 83 |
| Mature..... | 58 | 57 | 9 | 12 |
| Cotton | | | | |
| Planted | 25 | 16 | 19 | 30 |
| Emerged..... | 9 | NA | 4 | 9 |
| Durum wheat | | | | |
| Headed..... | 90 | 89 | 66 | 74 |
| Mature..... | 54 | 53 | 7 | 7 |

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 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 7.0 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 15 | 11 | -- | 4 |
| Short | 15 | 10 | 6 | 12 |
| Adequate..... | 61 | 70 | 94 | 84 |
| Surplus..... | 9 | 9 | -- | -- |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short..... | 18 | 12 | 1 | 4 |
| Short | 14 | 14 | 4 | 11 |
| Adequate..... | 67 | 73 | 95 | 85 |
| Surplus..... | 1 | 1 | -- | -- |

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..... | 11 | 4 | 5 | 12 |
| Good | 33 | 28 | 66 | 46 |
| Excellent..... | 56 | 68 | 29 | 41 |
| Barley | | | | |
| Very poor..... | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Poor..... | -- | -- | -- | 1 |
| Fair..... | 11 | 2 | 5 | 17 |
| Good | 39 | 33 | 84 | 63 |
| Excellent..... | 50 | 65 | 11 | 19 |
| Durum wheat | | | | |
| Very poor..... | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Poor..... | -- | -- | -- | 1 |
| Fair..... | 10 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Good | 25 | 22 | 40 | 44 |
| Excellent..... | 65 | 77 | 59 | 52 |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 18 | 16 | 5 | 19 |
| Poor..... | 6 | 8 | 8 | 21 |
| Fair..... | 28 | 41 | 29 | 25 |
| Good | 34 | 30 | 43 | 30 |
| Excellent..... | 14 | 5 | 15 | 5 |

NA – not available

(--) – zero