

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



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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 21, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week’s end, 42 percent of Arizona cotton had been planted, and 13 percent had emerged, up 1, but down 7 percentage points, respectively, from the 5-year average, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Seventy percent of the State’s barley had matured, and 17 percent had been harvested, up 47 and 15 percentage points, respectively, from the previous year’s levels. Arizona barley was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 2 percent of the crop rated fair. Fifty-nine percent of Arizona’s Durum wheat had matured, and 12 percent had been harvested, up 47 and 12 percentage points, respectively, from the previous year’s levels. Durum wheat was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 5 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 7 percent of the crop rated fair. Reports from Apache and Navajo Counties stated that alfalfa fields are showing new growth, and that producers continued to prep fields for planting annual crops. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State deteriorated when compared to that of the previous report. Pasture and range conditions throughout Navajo and Apache Counties were variable, as reporters stated that the nutritive quality of native forages was severely lacking as some vegetation has blackened, whereas other reports have stated that cool-season grasses and spring forbs were becoming vegetatively active. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 13 percent rated very short, 12 percent rated short, 66 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, with high winds prevalent across many eastern counties. However, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), isolated areas of the Mazatzal Mountains, as well as areas along the La Paz-Yuma County line, accumulated approximately 0.10 inch. The drought information statement for southeast Arizona remained in effect as extreme drought conditions persist throughout eastern Cochise County. The seasonal mean temperature and seasonal total precipitation outlooks for May, June, and July were issued by the National Weather Service on April 18. The seasonal mean temperature outlook shows that temperatures are now leaning above normal for much of the State apart from southwest Arizona where there are equal odds for either above, near, or below normal seasonal mean temperatures. The seasonal total precipitation outlook shows equal odds for either above, near, or below normal seasonal total precipitation apart from eastern Arizona where the seasonal outlook is now leaning below normal. Arizona’s seasonal drought outlook now shows that conditions are expected to persist throughout all areas of the State affected by moderate drought (D1) or higher. As of April 16, 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) enveloped 27 percent, severe drought (D2) encompassed 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 much of the State increased according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 1 degree below to 5 degrees above normal and ranged from the mid-fifties in southern Apache County to the low nineties across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 6 degrees below to 8 degrees above normal and ranged from 25 to 55 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas southwestern counties experienced lows of 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Headed.....	96	92	91	93
Mature.....	70	58	23	24
Harvested.....	17	--	2	1
Cotton				
Planted	42	25	30	41
Emerged.....	13	9	9	20
Durum wheat				
Headed.....	97	90	76	87
Mature.....	59	54	12	15
Harvested.....	12	--	--	--

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	6.9	7.0	7.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	13	15	1	8
Short	12	15	14	13
Adequate.....	66	61	85	78
Surplus.....	9	9	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	13	18	1	7
Short	16	14	13	12
Adequate.....	70	67	86	80
Surplus.....	1	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.....	7	11	4	13
Good	32	33	67	46
Excellent.....	61	56	29	40
Barley				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	--	--	--	1
Fair.....	2	11	4	14
Good	34	39	81	64
Excellent.....	64	50	15	21
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	--	--	--	1
Fair.....	5	10	1	4
Good	22	25	38	43
Excellent.....	73	65	61	52
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	27	18	7	21
Poor.....	11	6	13	21
Fair.....	32	28	25	24
Good	25	34	49	31
Excellent.....	5	14	6	3

NA – not available
 (--) – zero