



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS – MARCH 1, 2023

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

As of March 1, Colorado growers intend to plant 1.40 million acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2023, up 50,000 acres, or 4 percent, from last year's plantings, according to the March 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. **Sorghum** planting intentions total 510,000 acres, down 35,000 acres from last year. Growers intend to plant 65,000 acres of **barley** in 2023, up 4,000 acres from last year's actual plantings.

Winter wheat seeded last fall for harvest in 2023 is estimated at 2.25 million acres, up 300,000 acres, or 15 percent, from the 2022 crop. **Hay** producers in the State intend to harvest 1.35 million acres this year. This is up 210,000 acres from the acreage cut for hay in 2022. Growers intend to plant 34,000 acres of **sunflowers** this year, down 28,000 acres from what they planted in 2022. If realized, this would represent the lowest sunflower acreage on record. The acreage of oil varieties is expected to total 22,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from last year's plantings. The area for non-oil varieties is expected to be up 2,000 acres to 12,000 acres this year.

The area planted to **sugarbeets** is expected to be down 400 acres from last year's actual plantings to 23,000 acres. **Dry edible bean** acreage is expected to total 38,000 acres, up 3,000 acres, or 9 percent, from the acres planted in 2022. As of March 30, mountain snowpack was 138 percent of median, statewide. Final acreages actually planted for several crops will be determined by irrigation water prospects, soil moisture levels at planting time, and changes in economic conditions between now and actual planting.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn planted area for all purposes in 2023 is estimated at 92.0 million acres, up 4 percent or 3.42 million acres from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage is expected to be up or unchanged in 40 of the 48 estimating States.

Growers intend to plant 5.98 million acres of **sorghum** for all purposes in 2023, down 6 percent from last year.

Producers intend to seed 2.92 million acres of **barley** for the 2023 crop year, down 1 percent from the previous year.

All wheat planted area for 2023 is estimated at 49.9 million acres, up 9 percent from 2022. The 2023 **winter wheat** planted area, at 37.5 million acres, is up 13 percent from last year and up 2 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 26.0 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 7.80 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.71 million acres are White Winter. Area expected to be planted to **other spring wheat** for 2023 is estimated at 10.6 million acres, down 2 percent from 2022. Of this total, about 9.95 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. **Durum** planted area for 2023 is expected to total 1.78 million acres, up 9 percent from the previous year.

Producers intend to harvest 50.6 million acres of **all hay** in 2023, up 2 percent from 2022.

Growers intend to plant 1.36 million acres of **sunflower** in 2023, a decrease of 20 percent from 2022. This will represent the fourth lowest planted area on record for the Nation since 1976, if realized. Area intended for **oil type varieties**, at 1.20 million acres, is down 22 percent from 2022 and will be the fifth lowest since 1976, if realized. Area intended for **non-oil varieties**, at 158,000 acres, is up 10 percent from last year but will still represent the sixth lowest acreage on record for the Nation, if realized. Area expected to be planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2023 crop year is estimated at 1.11 million acres, down 4 percent from 2022. Intended acreages are expected to be the lowest since 2008. Growers intend to plant 1.23 million acres of **dry edible beans** in 2023, down 2 percent from the previous year.

For a full copy of the *Prospective Plantings* report, please visit www.nass.usda.gov.